



**MINUTES**  
**Alumni Society Board of Governors**  
**November 2, 2020**  
**Virtual Meeting**

Ademola Adeosun, Class of 2023  
Rik Austin, MD  
Austin Beason, MD  
Erik Constance, MD  
Mary Jo Davies  
Wendi El-Amin, MD  
Lisa Fowler  
Jason Gillihan, MD  
Jacqueline Harris, MD  
Jesse Hsieh, MD  
Sean Hollonbeck, MD  
Mike Honan, MD  
Breck Jones, MD  
Robert Juranek, MD  
Jerry Kruse, MD, MSPH

Joey Maiocco, Class of 2024  
Elizabeth Montgomery Collins, MD  
Kate Moore  
Susan Reeder, MD  
Julie Robbs  
Rukmini Roy, Class of 2021  
Mark Schmelzel, MD  
Hal Smith  
Christine Todd, MD  
Elek Wellman, Class of 2022  
Tabatha Wells, MD  
Lisa Wichterman, MD  
Matt Winkleman, MD

**Absent:**

Careyana Brenham, MD  
Steve Raben, MD  
David Skillrud, MD

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Winkleman opened the meeting by welcoming new first year class president, Joey Maiocco, and Dr. Sean Hollonbeck, new Board of Governors' member who was unable to attend the July 2020 meeting. Dr. Winkleman introduced and thanked Dr. Wendi El-Amin for presenting this evening.

**2. PRESENTATION BY THE OFFICE OF EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION**

Dr. Wendi El-Amin, Associate Dean of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, provided information regarding the Office of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, and the efforts being made to establish an atmosphere of fairness and security for all medical students at SIU School of Medicine.

Highlights from her presentation included:

- Alliance for Women in Medicine and Science (AWIMS)
- Time's Up Healthcare – 33% of nurses have experienced 'on the job' physical violence and bullying; 50% of female medical students have experienced harassment; and only 11% of healthcare CEOs are female.
- Tools established: Equity Ambassadors, Anti-Bias Curriculum Committee, Anti-racism Taskforce, Conversation of Understanding, and the Annual Dr. Kenniebrew lecture.
- The guiding principles: Collaboration, Cura Personalis (respect for all that makes up each individual), Cultivating Resiliency, Cultural Humility, and Courage Space.
- The 7 C's of Resilience: Competence, Confidence, Connection, Character, Contribution, Coping, and Control.
- Individual Strategies to Defeat Bias: Awareness, Individuate, Perspective-taking, Cultivate common ground, Intergroup Contact and Counter-stereotyping, and Micro-affirmations.

### **3. APPROVAL OF JULY 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the July 13, 2020 virtual meeting were approved with two corrections:

- Dr. Montgomery Collins corrected her name with the removal of the hyphen between Montgomery and Collins. She also noted that COVID should be in capital letters.

### **4. DEANS UPDATE**

Dr. Kruse presented on the following:

- COVID-19 has controlled Illinois for months and it is great that the SIU organization has pulled together. IDPH, IDHFS, and IDHS collaborative effort continues to grow.
- Community Service – infectious disease physicians partnered with area providers to form a plan to combat COVID-19. The Community Health Worker program was developed to provide care out in the communities where needed.
- Contact tracing is providing a tracking system for the virus. Cellular devices and apps are critical to the accuracy of the tracing.
- Telemedicine continues to provide safe healthcare when needed. He is hopeful that telemedicine will remain after COVID-19 and become an insurance benefit. Telehealth visits were as high as 3,200 per week but are now down to 1,400 per week – will push legislature to approve telehealth.
- SIU SOM received one of two Aspire Awards for Lifetime Achievement with the second award being given to Leeds School of Medicine in England.
- Basic science researchers have been actively involved in developing testing, antibody tests, and PCR testing.
- Clinical numbers and dollars increased beginning in July and continue to increase each month.
- The SOM budget is comprised of 52% clinic funding, 24% hospital funding, 10% from government appropriations and 14% contracts and grants. SIU SOM will continue to operate at a severe deficit through July 2021.
- Strategic plan rolled out in January.

### **5. OFFICE OF STUDENT AFFAIRS**

Dr. Constance provided the following update:

- The first and second-year students are doing virtual learning/tutor groups online
- Third and fourth-year students are actively seeing patients but not on front line where there could be COVID-19 exposure.
- USMLE Step 1 and 2 percentages are great at 98%

- Fourth-year students are having a unique year applying for residency during the pandemic; all interviews will be virtual. They have been participating in practice interviews.
- The Coalition for Physician Accountability has provided guidelines/policies since COVID-19 hit when 75% of students had not finished clerkships – pushed back dates for 2020 to finish.
- Admissions – 20% of the class of 2024 is underrepresented in medicine and it is SIU SOM's commitment to make sure those students graduate. Live interviews have been stopped and the process is moving forward with virtual interviews.

Dr. El-Amin commented that the first-year medical students are participating in Listening Pop-Up groups and the alumni are invited to sit in on a session.

## **6. STUDENT COMMENTS PERTAINING TO THEIR CLASS**

- Mr. Maiocco, Class of 2024 - In response to Dr. Winkleman's question "How well do you know your classmates?" Mr. Maiocco reported at this time, he feels that he knows 35% of his classmates. Because of the use of Webex for training, it has been a challenge to meet his classmates. However, all are moving forward to create a sense of community and take care of their mental health. He reported that his class held a team trivia night that was attended by about 45 students.
- Mr. Adeoshun, Class of 2023 - No class updates at this time. He reminded the Board and guests that the class clothing drive has been finalized and that joggers and an additional color have been added.
- Mr. Wellman, Class of 2022 - Reported that clerkships are going smoothly and providing the opportunity to grow. Two negatives from COVID-19 are that the students feel they are missing out on smaller exposures in clerkships such as forensic psychiatry and that they cannot see patients with a fever or COVID-19 symptoms. However, the students see a positive in that some physicians have mixed up how they see and treat patients allowing for the medical students to adapt due to the restrictions.
- Ms. Roy, Class of 2021 - Ms. Roy reported that the interview season is just beginning. Her classmates are accepting more virtual interviews due to the lack of traveling. They are relying on virtual meet and greets with alumni to scope out programs and locations. Ms. Robbs encouraged Ms. Roy to remind her class that the alumni HOSTS program, this year, will provide virtual connections. Students will be instructed to register online to request an alumni HOST and her office will match alumni and students. It was asked if there are any fourth-year students going in the military and Dr. Constance responded that there are and those students can interview in person. He stated the SIU military contingent is very loyal.

## **7. 2021 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS**

Dr. Winkleman reported that the Committee met via WebEx on September 22 and reviewed the nominees for the Achievement Award, the Service Award, and the newly added Early Career Achievement Award. After deliberation, the Board approved Dr. Ron Romanelli '83 as the Achievement Award recipient; Dr. Constance Shabazz '86 as the Service Award recipient; and Dr. Andrew Miller '05 as the recipient of the first Early Career Achievement Award.

Ms. Robbs informed the board that candidates remain on the list for one additional year; after that, they must be re-nominated. She will make the award notifications, notify the nominators of those nominees who weren't selected and work with marketing to publicize.

## **8. NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

Dr. Austin reported that the Nominating Committee met via WebEx on September 30. The following two candidates were recommended for appointments to the BOG to begin in the spring 2021: Nicole Florence '96 and Stephen Soltys '80. The recommendations were approved. They will serve a three-year term with the option to renew their terms for one additional three-year term in succession. Ms. Robbs will welcome and notify the new members and also those who weren't selected in anticipation that we can keep them on the list for the next cycle.

## **9. INCLUSION OF LSP STUDENT REP TO BOARD**

Dr. Winkleman reminded the Board that Dr. Jim Daniels '83 presented on the new Lincoln Scholars Program in Carbondale at the July 2020 meeting. The question arose after as to whether a student representative from the program should be appointed to the Board like the traditional School of Medicine class representatives. Using current wording in Section II-Members of the Board of Governors of ARTICLE IV in the Bylaws and not requiring any changes:

Proposal: *Add student rep with the current wording in the Bylaws: "other members as deemed necessary by the Board. Ex-officio Members shall not have voting rights."*

Dr. Austin moved to accept, seconded by Dr. Reeder to approve the motion as submitted. Motion passed.

## **10. PHYSICIAN WELLNESS COMMITTEE**

Dr. Wichterman reported that the Committee has been unable to hold events that were planned for the summer. Dr. Jim Daniels '83 offers a popular wellness elective for fourth-year students in rural Quincy area and is willing to provide a similar program for alumni. He invited the committee/board to attend the elective in April. Dr. Wichterman, Dr. Gordon Grado and Ms. Robbs are currently interested in attending the event to get ideas for a smaller type of event for alumni.

## **11. FOUNDATION REPORT**

Mr. Smith reported that virtual fundraising is something new and the foundation staff is still getting accustomed to that method. The Foundation is also transitioning to a new database program. He reported:

- The AAMC reports that schools of medicine across the country are raising almost the same amount of money with fewer donors.
- The Class of 1976 continues to be the graduating class with the highest level of participation for FY20 Alumni Giving at 23%.
- SIU SOM has reached 48.9% of its campaign goal of \$21,000,000.
- 60 scholarships were awarded totaling \$187,941 for FY20 as compared to 51 scholarships totaling \$159,230 for FY19 and 46 scholarships totaling \$128,551 for FY18.
- The Forward Funder online donation tool saw an incredible increase of 434% for online giving from March 2020-September 2020 as compared to the same timeframe in 2019.
- Dr. Constance thanked the Foundation for their work with donors for the scholarships awarded to medical students.
- Provided a list of upcoming events schedule for 2021.

## **12. ALUMNI ACTIVITIES**

Ms. Robbs provided a report noting that the Alumni Affairs Office continues to be very busy even during the time of COVID:

- She is hopeful that participation in the virtual HOSTS program will be greater than in-person interviewing.
- The Class of '80 recently hosted a virtual event and the comments were very positive.
- The reunion alumni for 2021 were surveyed regarding a virtual reunion. The majority of responses is that a virtual reunion will not be their choice. Consideration will be given for this pending the status of COVID as arrangements will have to be made after the first of the year. Ms. Robbs and Ms. Davies will meet with Dr. Kruse to discuss issues relating to Reunion 2021.
- We have reached out to alumni during this time of COVID-19, natural disasters, and more to have learned of personal joys and sorrows.
- Snacks for students were again sent in the fall of 2020 to medical students in Springfield and Carbondale as they prepare for exams.
- Foundation and Alumni Affairs continue to move forward with the new Blackbaud Razors Edge database. Ms. Moore continues to stay current with alumni information making sure all data converts correctly.

### **13. RECOGNITION**

In recognition for Dr. Honan's service on the board, Dr. Winkleman thanked him and virtually presented Dr. Honan with a certificate and plaque for his service to the Board and Alumni Society. We thank Dr. Honan for continuing to serve on the Advocacy Committee.

### **14. OTHER**

Dr. Wichterman, as Student Resource Fund committee chair, noted that since the 2021 Winter Ball is canceled, there is the possibility to utilize part of the \$5000 allocated for the ball. Should the committee choose to do so, a recommendation will be brought forth to the Executive Officers. The Board previously approved \$1500 emergency money for the committee to use at its discretion.

### **15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm.