University of South Carolina
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Health Affairs Committee
November 9, 2007

The Health Affairs Committee of the University of South Carolina Board of Trustees met on Friday, November 9, 2007, at 1:30 p.m. in the 1600 Hampton Street Board Room.

Members present were: Mr. Toney J. Lister, Chairman; Mr. Arthur S. Bahnmuller; Mr. John W. Fields; Dr. C. Edward Floyd; Mr. William W. Jones, Jr.; Mr. M. Wayne Staton; Mr. John C. von Lehe, Jr.; Mr. Herbert C. Adams, Board Chairman; and Mr. Miles Loadholt, Board Vice Chairman. Mr. William L. Bethea, Jr. was absent. Other Trustees present were: Mr. James Bradley; Mr. William C. Hubbard; Mr. Othniel H. Wenges, Jr.; and Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr.

Others present were: President Andrew A. Sorensen; Secretary Thomas L. Stepp; Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost Mark P. Becker; Vice President for Research and Health Sciences Harris Pastides; Vice President for University Advancement Brad Choate; Vice President for Human Resources Jane M. Jameson; Associate Vice President for Office of Research and Health Sciences Russell R. Pate; General Counsel Walter (Terry) H. Parham; Vice Provost and Executive Dean for System Affairs and Extended University Chris P. Plyler; Vice Provost for Faculty Development Christine Curtis; Chancellor of USC Aiken Thomas L. Hallman; Chancellor of USC Upstate John C. Stockwell; Dean of the School of Medicine Donald J. DiPette, M.D.; University of South Carolina Campus Dean for the South Carolina College of Pharmacy Randall C. Rowen; Assistant Vice Provost for Academic Affairs William T. Moore; Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, Arnold School of Public Health, Gregory A. Hand; Interim Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health G. Thomas (Tom) Chandler; Associate Professor, College of Social Work Miriam Johnson; Director of Government Affairs and Legislative Liaison John D. Gregory; Associate Director of Government Affairs and Legislative Liaison Casey Martin; Public Information Officer, USC Lancaster, Shana Funderburk; Board staff members Terri Saxon, Vera Stone, Brandi Pope; and members of the media.

Chairman Lister called the meeting to order, welcomed those present, and asked everyone to introduce themselves. Mr. McKinney introduced members of the media who were in attendance.
Chairman Lister stated that the agenda had been posted and the press had been notified as required by the Freedom of Information Act; the agenda had been circulated to the Committee members; and a quorum was present to conduct business.

Chairman Lister directed the attention of the Committee to the agenda and called on Vice President Harris Pastides.

Open Session

I. South Carolina College of Pharmacy Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):

Dr. Pastides reported that he was pleased to endorse and recommend to this committee the adoption of a Memorandum of Understanding that clarified and documented the joint venture that is the South Carolina College of Pharmacy. Dr. Pastides stated that Dean Randall “Randy” Rowen was the Dean of the USC Campus of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy. He stated that USC representatives to the oversight committee were Dean Rowen, Mr. Lister, Mr. Adams, Dr. DiPiro and himself. He stated that the oversight committee had been working for quite some time in crafting this MOU and it had been approved by the faculty of both campuses of the South Carolina College of Pharmacy. Also, the MOU had been reviewed by General Counsel.

Dr. Pastides stated that the MOU specified the organization of the college, the appointment of faculty, the budgetary operations process and logistics relative to future accreditation. Dr. Pastides stated that the MOU had received a comprehensive review and the college was doing well at the present time.

Chairman Lister called for a motion to approve the South Carolina College of Pharmacy Memorandum of Understanding as presented. Mr. Fields so moved. Mr. von Lehe seconded the motion. The vote was taken, and the motion carried.

President Sorensen expressed his profound gratitude to Chairman Lister and to all members of the oversight committee, especially Dr. Pastides, Dr. DiPiro, Dr. Rowen and their counterparts at MUSC for their efforts in this project. He stated that the faculty of MUSC and USC should be commended. President Sorensen stated that many people were skeptical of this project when he and President Greenburg began discussion of this type of proposal. He stated that to his knowledge, no one had ever done this before. No one had seen two accredited colleges of Pharmacy from two distinct institutions integrated into one College of Pharmacy. President Sorensen stated that every year, in his budget message, Governor Sanford cited the integration of these two colleges of pharmacy as an example of the benefits of synergy and the importance of combining resources so that the whole was greater than the parts.

II. Report on Department Name Change Requests:
A. Department of Clinical Pharmacy and Outcome Sciences, South Carolina College of Pharmacy: Chairman Lister called on Dr. Pastides who stated that this recommendation and the one to follow had two bases for his recommending them to the committee. First, it would allow the College of Pharmacy to keep up with model changes in the field of pharmacy education. These names were more contemporary and the merging of these two formerly independent disciplines into one department with this name change was “keeping up with the field.” Secondly, in order to harmonize the name with the Medical University of South Carolina, this name change would create two parallel departments, one on our campus and one on MUSC’s campus, and the faculty and students would not be confused about the scope of any department.

Chairman Lister stated that this report was received for information and would be acted on formally by the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee later this afternoon.

B. Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, South Carolina College of Pharmacy: Chairman Lister called on Dr. Pastides who stated that the same reasons stated in the previous agenda item for the recommended name change applied to this item as well.


Dr. Pastides stated that there had been an abbreviated degree program which was mainly for medical students and for the medical community. The program was for a “generalist track.” The faculty believed that there was an opportunity to improve the program by making the curriculum more rigorous and renaming it.

Dr. Pastides stated that Interim Dean Tom Chandler was available to answer questions.

Chairman Lister stated that this report was received for information and would be acted on formally by the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee later this afternoon.

IV. Report on Program Proposal: Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science with a major in Public Health, Arnold School of Public Health, USC Columbia: Chairman Lister called on Dr. Pastides who stated that this proposal represented a very exiting development for the Arnold School of Public Health and for the University. This proposal would create, for the first time, two Bachelor’s degrees in Public Health at the University of South Carolina. He stated
that our University was the only accredited School of Public Health in South Carolina. The school had heretofore been only a graduate degree granting School of Public Health. He stated that there was a large demand throughout South Carolina and nationally for undergraduate education in public health. Dr. Pastides stated two reasons for this demand. First, an undergraduate program would better prepare students to seek entry not only into public health programs but into medicine, pharmacy, nursing and others. Secondly, there was a demand for these young people for employment, whether it was at DHEC or the private healthcare sector.

He stated that there was a health science Bachelor’s degree program at Clemson University; however, it did not offer the comprehensive array of educational opportunities that this degree would offer.

Dr. Pastides stated that there were two program tracks, a BA in Public Health and a BS in Public Health. The BA was primarily for students who were more interested in the business and the behavioral aspect of public health education and the BS for students who were more interested in environmental health sciences, exercise science, epidemiology and biostatics. Dr. Pastides stated that USC would be the first school in the southeast to have Bachelor’s degrees in public health and one of only several in the United States.

Chairman Lister stated that this report was received for information and would be acted on formally by the Academic Affairs and Faculty Liaison Committee later this afternoon.

V. Health Sciences Research Update: Chairman Lister called on Dr. Pastides who introduced Dr. Russ Pate, the Associate Vice President for Health Sciences. Dr. Pastides highlighted important facts relative to health and research and health sciences. Dr. Pastides stated, back in 2003, he asked Dr. Pate and Dr. Baynes, two senior health scientists, to develop a series of recommendations for how the University could capitalize on the presence of five distinct health colleges at the University of South Carolina and how to grow our research enterprise in a major way. Dr. Pastides stated that the following strategies were developed:

- Increase the research focus,
- Add new faculties,
- Create new research facilities, and
- Improve service to the faculty.

Dr. Pastides stated that Dr. Pate, Dr. Baynes and a broad committee from within the University had identified five areas that they felt would be great opportunities for increasing the research productivity of the USC faculty. The three existing research areas were in cancer, health disparities and neurosciences.
The two new emerging opportunities for research funding at the NIH, CDC, and private health care community were in bioengineering and clinical research.

Dr. Pastides stated that the Biomedical Research Initiative Steering Committee had made the following recommendations for enhancing Biomedical Research:

- Increase the pool of research faculty;
- Target investments in new buildings, equipment, infrastructure, computing and lab space; and
- Update USC’s proposal development and grant accounting management systems.

Dr. Pastides stated that there was a new computer electronic research support program called “USC Electronic Research Administration.” This system would help expedite the submission of grant proposals. It would allow faculty to submit proposals from a desktop computer anywhere on campus or from a professor’s home in a timely manner to the appropriate review authority. Most importantly, this system had brought the faculty together to create interdisciplinary clusters of faculty.

Dr. Pastides reported that other recommendations were as follows:

- Develop incentives and support to encourage cross-disciplinary research and;
- Implement accountability standards.

Dr. Pastides stated that regular meetings were held with the deans of the health sciences colleges and the associate deans for research on specific targets and metrics to see if they were on track with respect to research growth on an annual basis.

Dr. Pastides gave statistics on the funding across all five health science units. He stated that from FY 2002 to FY 2007, research funding had increased by 78 percent. He stated that this fiscal year, the University had received one hundred eighty-five million dollars in funding; health sciences represented forty-two percent of that total. Dr. Pastides attributed this outstanding record of performance to the faculty.

Dr. Pastides stated that with respect to NIH funding, this was the “bread and butter” of health sciences. From 1990 to 2002, funding performance was relatively flat. However, as a result of the recommendations and other actions taken by the University, there had been a nearly 200 percent increase in NIH funding between FY 2002 and FY 2006. Dr. Pastides stated that because of the faculty excellence initiative and faculty hiring programs, the University looked for continued growth in research funding in the future.

Mr. Whittle made an inquiry as to the research funding goals in comparison to our peers. Dr. Pastides responded that the University as a whole was in the third tier of Health Science NIH performance. Currently, the University was targeting 15 percent growth a year in health sciences research from the NIH. He stated that if
the University sustained 15 percent growth per year, then within five years the University would be in the second tier.

Dr. Pastides highlighted some of the health sciences departments’ accomplishments in the past year. He stated that Dr. Frank Berger and his colleagues in the South Carolina Cancer Center had received a renewal of the colon cancer COBRE for $21.8 million. Approximately five years ago, Dr. Berger received the first COBRE allocation and under competitive renewal he had gotten his second allocation.

Secondly, the University was developing Biomedical Centers of Economic Excellence. Dr. Berger had submitted two proposals to the CoEE program relative to the basic science research that he does in cancer. The University had been awarded four CoEEs valued at $20 million. In addition, the University was also a collaborator on another six CoEEs valued at $29.5 million with MUSC as the lead. Dr. Pastides recommended that at a future meeting as an agenda item he would report on those CoEEs and indicate the caliber of people who were being recruited into the University with those positions.

Dr. Pastides reported that Dean Donna Richter, former Dean of the Arnold School of Public Health, had stepped down to return to her research. She had received a $1.9 million award in HIV Prevention Leadership from the (CDC) Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

Dr. Pastides stated that recently President Sorensen had announced that the School of Medicine had received a $6 million award. Dr. Prakash Nagarkatti, Associate Dean for Research in the Basic Sciences at the School of Medicine would be the principal investigator of this grant. The grant was from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) which created a Center of Excellence for Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research on Autoimmune and Inflammatory Disease. Dr. Pastides stated that the Center was one of only three created to study similar therapies and one of only eleven in the nation. Moreover, this was the largest award made by the Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. The centers established by NIH would focus on the biological effects of specific compounds from plants and how they affect the treatment of specific diseases.

Dr. Pastides stated that Complementary and Alternative Medicine Research Centers previously established by NIH were at Harvard Medical School, Massachusetts General Hospital, Oregon State and Temple universities, as well as the universities of Maryland, North Carolina and California at San Francisco.

Dr. Pastides made comments regarding the University’s collaborative efforts and partnership with the Greenville Hospital System (GHS). He stated that Health Sciences South Carolina continued to offer a great opportunity for the University.
He stressed the importance of USC’s partnership with GHS for the University’s progress. Dr. Pastides stated that GHS was a growing enterprise and a USC affiliate; the entities were working together toward branding their cooperative work.

In addition, Dr. Pastides reported that GHS was working toward completing a new building and that USC would have a major research and educational presence in that building. The capstone of the relationship was a new institute which was called the “Institute for the Advancement of Healthcare.” This Institute would attract regional and national attention. He stated the reason for this was not only because of the health problems in South Carolina but because managed care had never penetrated South Carolina to the degree that it had penetrated other regions of the country. Dr. Pastides stated that the University had opportunities to do experimentation with respect to reimbursement and access to care; this was important to the country in the future.

With respect to leadership, Dr. Pastides stated that the University had hired four new deans in the health care science colleges. The newest deans were as follows: School of Medicine, Dean Donald DiPette; College of Nursing, Dean Peggy Hewlett; USC Campus Dean of the South Carolina School of Pharmacy, Dean Randall “Randy” Rowen; College of Social Work and Dean Dennis Poole. He stated that the University was actively seeking a dean for the Arnold School of Public Health.

Dr. Pastides closed his presentation by sharing photos of a sampling of faculty in the health sciences colleges at USC. He expressed his gratitude to the faculty for their many accomplishments and stated that he looked forward to the continuation of bringing this type of positive report to the committee.

Mr. Wienges made an inquiry as to whether this was primarily basic research funding. Dr. Pastides responded that this was a combination, approximately half was funding in the basic sciences and the other half was in the community or public health sciences which provided a great opportunity for research in the clinical domain.

Mr. Whittle made reference to the $38 million in research funding and inquired if those funds were generated as a result of the relatively newly hired scientists or the senior scientists on faculty. Dr. Pastides responded that there were three “first time” NIH funded investigators in this fiscal year who had been at the University for three years; two of them were Faculty Excellence Initiative (FEI) faculty and one was a Centenary Plan (CP) faculty member.

Chairman Lister stated that this report was received for information.

There were no other matters to come before the Committee. Chairman Lister declared the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,

Thomas L. Stepp
Secretary