

**U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)
Federal Advisory Committee
National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC)
Meeting Minutes for September 12, 2017
Meeting Conducted by Conference Call**

Welcome and Introductions

Mrs. Clary, the Council's Alternate Designated Federal Officer, called the meeting to order at 11AM EST. Dr. Cox welcomed those on the line and noted that Ms. Leslie Wiggins, Veterans Integrated Service Network (VISN) 7 Network Director, will become the newest ex-officio member of the Council effective October 1, 2017. He thanked her for her willingness to serve on the Council and subsequently recognized Dr. Michael Mayo-Smith, the VISN 1 Network Director, for his many years of dedication and service to the NAAC.

Council Remembrances of Dr. Robert L. Jesse

Dr. Cox and the other Council members noted the recent passing of Dr. Robert Jesse on September 2, 2017. Several members discussed Dr. Jesse's considerable and lasting influence on VA, the Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA), and the NAAC, as well as on the personal and professional lives of countless individuals.

Update: VACAA Graduate Medical Education (GME) Expansion Initiative

Dr. Klink updated the NAAC on the VACAA/GME Expansion authorized by Public Law 113-146. OAA recently completed the fourth of ten rounds of GME expansion. Under Round Four, OAA added 226 positions to the previously awarded 547 positions for a grand total of 773 of the 1500 authorized new positions. Among these 226 positions 80 were in family medicine and 11 were in rural areas. OAA continues to provide infrastructure grants to help facilities accommodate new GME programs. This year, in Round 3 of the infrastructure grants, OAA awarded more than \$5 million to several sites. Two success stories that were showcased were the new family medicine residents at the Altoona, PA VA Medical Center and GME expansion with a new medical school in Harlingen, TX. Dr. Cox noted that the VACAA GME expansion is a key aspect of VA's ongoing educational efforts in rural areas.

Update: Selected VA Health Professions Education Expansion Initiatives

Dr. Kenneth Jones, OAA Director, Associated Health Education, discussed an August 2017 site visit to the Oscar Johnson VAMC in Iron Mountain, MI. The Iron Mountain VAMC has 10 inpatient beds, 60 Without Compensation (WOC) trainees, approximately 26,000 unique patients annually, and serves a highly rural catchment area. Representative Jack Bergman from Michigan's 1st district hosted a roundtable at the Iron Mountain VAMC under the aegis of his position as Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs (HVAC) Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee. The roundtable topic was VA's clinical education expansion efforts in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. The Iron Mountain VAMC's Chief of Staff outlined some of the geographic and institutional challenges that GME-naïve sites face. Dr. Lybson, OAA Director of Medical Education, also observed the difficulty of creating a robust clinical education culture at rural VA sites such as Iron Mountain, emphasizing the vital importance of local leadership understanding and support.

Update: NAAC Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee and Ongoing VHA Diversity Initiatives

Dr. Jeannette South-Paul provided a recap of the discussions that took place during VA's inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Summit, held in June 2017 on the campus of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN. She also discussed the ongoing work of the NAAC's subcommittee on diversity and inclusion. Dr. South-Paul noted the different levels of participation by Historically Black Colleges and Universities in VA clinical education initiatives. She asked assembled OAA participants what demographic data on VA trainees was available. In response, OAA noted the lack of individual data on its trainees—the closest they have is aggregate data. A future meeting will be scheduled between OAA and Dr. South-Paul to determine the possibility of collecting additional trainee demographic data. To continue the momentum created by the VA Diversity and Inclusion Summit, Dr. Klink noted that the VA Chief of Staff had personally convened meetings between the leadership at Meharry Medical College, Morehouse School of Medicine, the Office of Academic Affiliations, VISN 9, and VISN 7, to discuss concrete ways to enhance educational relationships. In the upcoming weeks OAA will contact leadership at the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science to determine ways to better support their newly established medical residencies. Dr. Cox noted that it will be important for VA to create measurable outcomes for these efforts.

Update: OAA Emerging Issues

Office of Personnel Management (OPM) Proposed Rule to Limit Administrative Leave for Federal Employees

Dr. Sanders discussed OPM's new proposed rule to restrict the availability of administrative leave. This rule was directed by legislation promulgated in response to a perception arising in Congress during the course of employee investigations that administrative leave was being abused by some agencies. While VA did not formally respond to the OPM rule change proposal, the rule's implementation may have an adverse impact on VA educational activities such as teaching, research, attendance at scientific meetings, and sabbaticals. Once the OPM rule is finalized, agencies will have 270 days to implement it. Dr. Breslin made a motion for the Council to endorse sending a letter, co-written by Dr. Cox and Dr. John Feussner, Chair of the National Research Advisory Council (attached), to the Secretary on the potential adverse impacts of OPM's proposal. The council endorsed sending the letter and also requested a further update on the issue at its December meeting.

Recommendation 1: The NAAC recommends that VA oppose the OPM Proposed Rule to Limit Administrative Leave because of its disastrous implications for academic relationships and Veterans' health care. The Council unanimously endorsed sending a joint letter from the NAAC and NRAC to Secretary Shulkin outlining the foreseeable consequences of the OPM proposed rule as currently written (see attached). The NAAC also requests an update on the issue at its December meeting in Washington, DC.



Feussner - Cox
Memo re Administrati

Legal Status of VA Employees Engaged in Activities with For-Profit Institutions (Attending, Teaching or other Relationships)

Dr. Sanders next discussed the current state of a VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) follow-up on a long-standing Federal law that prohibits VA employees from teaching at, receiving services at, or "having an interest in" for-profit educational institutions unless they have received a waiver for the specified

activity. While this law has not been closely enforced within VA in recent decades, the VA General Counsel determined that a waiver process must be implemented in order to comply with statutory requirements. Mr. Duval noted that the term “educational institutions” contained in the statute was no longer clearly defined given the sweeping changes in higher education since the waiver requirement was put into law over five decades ago. Development of a concrete plan for responding to this long-standing statute is in progress. The Council requested a further update on the issue at its December meeting.

Council Open Discussion on Future Priorities

Dr. Cox discussed the ongoing project to distill the Council’s 63 previous recommendations into key priorities and themes. He requested input from NAAC members in determining these themes and top action items. He also requested a review of the OAA budget, staffing, and educational financing during the December meeting.

Dr. Prescott reemphasized his desire to learn more about OAA’s nearly \$1 billion budget and how it is spent. He also suggested inviting the newly confirmed VA Deputy Secretary, Mr. Tom Bowman, to a future NAAC meeting.

Dr. Cox asked Dr. Sanders for an update on the revision of VHA Directive 1663 that addresses sole source contracting between VA and academic affiliates. Dr. Sanders reported that there are internal issues that needed to be resolved before it can be finalized, namely, the role of the VA OIG in the revised pre-award price analysis process. The Council expressed concern that Directive 1663 had yet to be signed given Mr. Scott Blackburn’s assurances at the July NAAC meeting that signatures were imminent.

Given many common issues, the Council noted a desire for greater outreach and collaboration with the National Research Advisory Council (NRAC) and the Office of Research and Development (ORD).

Also noted was the importance of expanded scholarship and loan repayment initiatives to ensure a robust pipeline of health professionals. Dr. Sanders stated that these programs fall mostly in the purview of Workforce Management and Consulting (WMC); however, OAA plays an important consultative role in these efforts. The Council requested further discussion at the December meeting.

Public Comments and Closing Remarks

There were no public comments. NAAC Members and the general public were reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 6 and Thursday, December 7, 2017 in the Sonny Montgomery Conference Room, 810 Vermont Avenue NW, Washington, DC.

Dr. Cox adjourned the meeting at 12:48pm EST.

Appendix A: Attendance Records

Council members present: Malcolm Cox, MD, (Chair), Retired Federal Executive, Department of Veterans Affairs; Eileen Breslin PhD, RN, FAAN, President, American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN); Edgar Colon Negron, MD, FACR, Dean, School of Medicine, University of Puerto Rico; Thomas A. Cavalieri, DO, FACOI, FACP, AGSF, Dean, Rowan University School of Osteopathic Medicine; John Duval, Senior Scholar in Residence, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education; John Prescott, MD, Chief Academic Officer, Association of American Medical Colleges; Jeanette E. South-Paul, MD, Chair, Department of Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh; Richard W. Valachovic, DMD, MPH, President and Chief Executive Officer, American Dental Education Association; Jacqueline Maffucci, PhD, Research Director, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America; Leslie Wiggins, Ex-Officio Member, Network Director, Veterans Integrated Service Network .

Council members unable to attend: Doreen Harper, PhD, RN, Dean, School of Nursing, University of Alabama at Birmingham; Lucinda Maine, PhD, RPh, Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP); Candice Chen, MD, MPH, (Ex-Officio), Director, Division of Medicine and Dentistry, Bureau of Health Workforce, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; Paul Cunningham, MD, Dean Emeritus, East Carolina University School of Medicine; Arthur Kellermann, MD, MPH (Ex-Officio), Dean, F. Edward Hebert School of Medicine, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), U.S. Department of Defense.

VHA Office of Academic Affiliations staff attending: Karen M. Sanders, MD, Deputy Chief Academic Affiliations Officer; Kenneth Jones, PhD, Director, Associated Health Education; Tiana Brown, MHA, Management Analyst; Kathleen Klink, MD, FAAFP, Director, Health Professions Education; Christy Clary, MSW, (Alternate Designated Federal Officer for the NAAC) Medical & Dental Education; Stuart Gilman, MD, MPH, Director, Advanced Fellowships and Centers of Excellence in Primary Care Education; Edward Bope, MD, FAAFP, GME Expansion VACAA Team Lead; Monica Lybson, MD, MHPE, Director Medical & Dental Education; Ramona Joyce, Acting Executive Assistant; Tara Hotaling, MPP, Management Analyst.

VA and VHA staff attending: Rebecca Shunk, MD, Associate Chief of Staff for Education, Co-Director, Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education

Court Reporter: Michael Farkas, Capital Recording Company