Date:

From: Secretary (00)

Subj: National Academic Affiliations Council Veterans Health Administration Action Plan Response (VIEWS 245637)

To: Under Secretaries, Assistant Secretaries, and Other Key Officials

1. The National Academic Affiliations Council (NAAC) Federal Advisory Committee held their face-to-face meeting on March 20-21, 2019. The Council provided a variety of insights on matters affecting partnerships between Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and its academic affiliates and have forwarded two recommendations for VA’s consideration.

2. Attached are the Council’s recommendations, as well as VA’s responses to those recommendations, pending your approval.

3. Should you have any questions, please contact the NAAC Designated Federal Official, Ms. Larissa Emory, Office of Academic Affiliations, at (915) 269-0465 or by email at larissa.emory@va.gov.

Richard A. Stone, M.D.

Attachment

Approve/Disapprove

__________________________    ______

Robert L. Wilkie            Date
May 8, 2019

The Honorable Robert L. Wilkie
Secretary, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Wilkie:

In order to further strengthen VA’s national leadership in health professions education, it is with great pleasure that I submit the minutes from the National Academic Affiliations Council’s (NAAC) meeting held in Washington, DC on March 20-21, 2019. The Council respectfully forwards two recommendations, summarized below, for your consideration.

1. The Council recognizes the shared interests between Mr. Harvey Johnson, VA Office of Resolution Management / Diversity and Inclusion Office, and the NAAC’s Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee. The Council recommends continued discussions between Mr. Johnson’s Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (DIVAC), Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) and the NAAC Subcommittee in order to leverage potential synergies.

2. The Council expresses dismay over the loss of revocable licensing agreements in 2018. The Council recommends Sole Source Leasing be promoted under the authority of 38 USC 8153. This permits the VA to share healthcare resources with an academic affiliate as defined in statute. Space is included in the statutory definition and is authorized for acquisition under 38 USC 8153.

We look forward to your feedback.

Sincerely,

John F. Duval, MBA, FACHE (Chair)
VA National Academic Affiliations Council
Recommendation 1: The Council recognizes the shared interests between Mr. Harvey Johnson, VA Office of Resolution Management / Diversity and Inclusion Office, and the NAAC’s Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee. The Council recommends continued discussions between Mr. Johnson’s Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (DIVAC), Office of Academic Affiliations (OAA) and the NAAC Subcommittee in order to leverage potential synergies.

VA Response: Concur in principle. VA is committed to recruiting and maintaining a diverse workforce. Continued discussions between the Office of Resolution Management/Diversity and Inclusion Office, OAA, and the NAAC Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee will be useful in exchanging information and leveraging potential organizational synergies.

Recommendation 2: The Council expresses dismay over the loss of revocable licensing agreements in 2018. The Council recommends Sole Source Leasing be promoted under the authority of 38 USC 8153. This permits the VA to share healthcare resources with an academic affiliate as defined in statute. Space is included in the statutory definition and is authorized for acquisition under 38 USC 8153.

VA Response: Partially concur. VA remains committed to establishing and maintaining robust relationships with academic affiliates. The Office of Academic Affiliations, the Office of Construction and Facilities Management, and the Office of General Counsel will work together and complete Departmental guidance, including a template, for implementing space sharing under the authority of 38 U.S.C. § 8153, Sharing of health-care resources. VA partially concurs because 38 U.S.C. § 8153 is not a sole source leasing authority.
### Actions to Implement:

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<td>Complete a template for, and implement space sharing</td>
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