



University of Connecticut
Health Center

Health Affairs Committee

January 8, 2002
Minutes

Ms. Leonardi called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

- I. Public Comment – None
- II. Introductory Business Items
 - A. Approval of Minutes – None.
 - B. Recognition(s) – None.
- III. Consents
 - A. Institutional – None.
 - B. Specific to the Clinical Programs and UCHC Finance Corporation - None
 - C. Specific to Schools
 - The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees – **“That the Board of Trustees approve the School of Medicine and School of Dental Medicine recommendations for tenure, promotion, appointment, reappointment, sabbatics and emeritus appointments.”**

These recommendations include retroactive appointments. These occurred due to an oversight in the administrative processes used to forward such recommendations to the Board. Corrections have been made to prevent these lapses from occurring again.
 - The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees – **“That the Board of Trustees add or delete language or otherwise amend the following sections of the Guidelines for the Operation of the School of Medicine – Article 1-Guidelines.**
- IV. Informational Items
 - A. Regularly Recurring Items
 - Contracts >\$100,000
 - Personnel Actions
 - B. Policy Changes - None
 - C. Other Items - None
- V. Education – None.
- VI. Main Business Items
 - A. Chair’s Remarks and Reports

1. Recommendation for amendment to the University of Connecticut Laws and Bylaws

The Bylaws amendments approved on July 24, 2001 created a Board of Directors for the University of Connecticut Health Center with three members appointed by the Governor for terms concurrent with the Governor's. This creates the potential problem of a loss of experience whenever the governorship changes hands, and also may create difficulties in recruitment of members for unexpired terms where the vacancy occurs in the latter stages of the Governor's term. The proposed amendment provides for staggered three-year terms.

The HAC unanimously approved the following recommendation to the Board of Trustees – **“That the Board of Trustees add or delete language to provide for staggered three-year terms for the governor's appointees to the UCHC Board of Directors”**.

B. Executive Vice President and Deans' Remarks and Reports

- University of Connecticut Health Center
 - Dr. Bruce Liang was successfully recruited as Division Head of Cardiology (Neag Distinguished Chair in Vascular Biology) and starts part-time this week.
 - The CON for the Ambulatory SurgiCenter (part of the Musculoskeletal Institute) has been submitted. Its approval is key to recruitment of Dr. Jay Lieberman.
 - Inaugural issue of the *UConn Cancer Center Dialogue* has been published describing the reorganization of the cancer program and its clinical initiatives as a Type II Cancer Center. It will also be used as a marketing tool for the lay public.
 - Dr. Steven Cole has been recruited as a gero-psychiatrist for the Brain and Human Behavior Signature Program. Dr. Cole specializes in depression of the elderly and the relationship of diagnosis and care by the PCP.
 - Connecticut Health has published its inaugural edition of its newsletter *Connecticut Health* defining its role as collaborating with governmental and private agencies to address the community and public health needs of the state while augmenting the Health Center's mission of *Remarkable Care through Education and Research*. Extramural funding is more than \$3 million ahead of last year. Acknowledgement was made to Dr. Richard Berlin and the faculty for the success of the research enterprise through competitive grant funding.
 - Dr. Gerald Maxwell, Associate Dean for Graduate Education in collaboration with VanScoyoc, federal lobbyists, have developed proposals concerning urban health, prison health, air traffic controller background noise and microbial pathogenesis and were successful in securing \$7.5M in funding.
 - GCRC – leadership recruitment continues in positive mode.
 - Connecticut Poison Control Center submitted its Annual Report for 2000 which included over 30,000 calls.. The Committee recognized CPCC as a unique program at UCHC that should be marketed more broadly.
 - Jim Walter was asked to give a marketing update at the next meeting.
- School of Dental Medicine – P. Robinson
 - UConn's applicant pool is strong despite a 3-4 year trend in a declining national applicant pool
 - Construction is underway for centralized sterilization of instruments used in the clinics.
 - Outreach pediatric programs – Newington and West Haven sites are operational. Planning is underway for a Waterbury site. Measuring tools are being developed in order to determine which pilot program model works best.
 - PEDI dentist recruitment has been positive.

C. Clinical Operations Report (S. Strongwater)

- Annual Medical Staff meeting took place in November electing a new President, Dr. Giles Whalen and Vice President, Dr. David Shafer.
- JDH received approval award from the American College of Surgical Commission on Cancer – 3 year accreditation
- Department of Justice awarded CMHC and UCHC a \$3M a collaborative research grant focusing on chronic diseases, mental health disorders and translational medicine.
- Clinical activity at JDH continues to exceed plan – Nov. and Dec. volumes were up 20% compared to prior year and ahead of budget approximately 10%. Approximately 50% of increase was a result of UCHP admissions.
- Nurse staffing is improving and remains a priority. Appreciation of efforts was extended to Joan Mazzone, Paul Davern and Jeanne Lattanzio. Nursing vacancies compared to other CT hospitals is 6.8% vs. state of 10.3%; turnover rate for JDH is 8.4% vs statewide average of 11.7%.
- CMHC facilities are receiving medications from JDH robotics
- American Hospital Association's request for federal money for bioterrorism was defeated. A \$ 1 billion grant is in the federal budget to help States.
- Safety – Dr. Fuller running statewide task force and participating in bioterrorism drill. Policies have been revised and an incident command structure headed by Susan Whetstone is being developed by the paramedics.
- Medical malpractice – this is an evolving national crisis due to high court settlements; UCHC is self-insured and the fund remains stable Nancy Williams was acknowledged for managing JDH/UMG self insurance trust.
- Medicare new fees schedules show a decrease of 5%

- Marketing Update – J. Walter
 - Clinical marketing via radio ads focusing on education as well as information completed 3 cycles during the past year. Due to mimicking by other institutions it was decided to go in a new direction and Gina Barecca from Storrs has agreed to be our new “voice” for 6 different spots starting in the spring.
 - A new vendor has been chosen for *UConn House Call* giving a more polished, 4-color look. Better mailing techniques will be incorporated with better profiling of UCHC patients and encompass a wider geographic area.
 - West Farms Mall ad panels have been somewhat successful. An educational/speaker program was instituted for the mall walkers – 3 this past Fall and 3 more in the Spring are planned. UConn House Call exclusively placed at seating areas was “good but not great” and a more defined publication is being planned for the future.
 - Committee members encouraged UCHC to work in conjunction with Storrs marketing efforts when possible.

D. CFO's Remarks and Reports (D. Upton)

- Report for period ending November 30, 2001
 - Another general fund rescission was executed for 3rd quarter of \$125,000
 - Activity for month shows a favorable variance of \$83,448
 - Deficiency for first five months was \$291,481 compared to a budgeted deficiency of \$216,385 – an unfavorable variance of \$75,096.
 - SOM is favorable to budget plan by 1.7%
 - SODM is favorable to the budget plan by 2.7%
 - Research activity shows an increase of 23.5% over same period last year but below budget by 3.5%.
 - JDH shows a favorable variance of \$2M
 - Admissions are over budget by 364 cases
 - UMG/UHP show unfavorable variance of \$402K. Although UHP has impacted other business units at the Health Center, i.e. 3466 outpatient visits and 293 new admissions there are still some inefficiencies, i.e. empty office space to be remedied and this activity must still be considered in a “start up” phase. Revenues are 4% lower than expected, but provider productivity is near the 75th percentile of national standards for primary care. Some areas appear to be over sized and correcting this is being considered. There are plans to have UHP to catch up to budgeted projections by years end.
 - Pharmacy losses were due to \$105K in inventory being moved and delay in implementation of system
 - Correctional Managed Health Care – 1199 retroactive settlement won't be realized until 4th quarter

E. Other Business

Executive Session was entered into at 9:50 a.m.

Executive Session concluded at 10:30 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter J. Deckers, M.D.

Attendees

N. Adams, A. Borda, B. Carlson, T. Cawley, J. Comerford, P. Deckers, R. Garibaldi, F. Gifford, E. Grab, H. Hansen, L. Jacobs, W. Kleinman, J. Lattanzio, C. Leonardi, J. Mazzone, P. McManus, P. Robinson, D. Serino, R. Simon, S. Strongwater, R. Trestman, D. Turling, D. Upton, J. Walter, S. Wetstone, S. Whetstone

Documents Distributed During the Meeting

- Actual vs Budget graphs
- Poison Control Center Annual Report