

UTHSC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

DATE:	January 12, 2024	Mooney Library
DAY:	Friday	875 Monroe Avenue
TIME:	11:30 AM	Memphis, TN

UTHSC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING Friday August 11, 2023

MINUTES

Present:

Board Members:

Dr. Philip Wenk, *Chair*
Dr. Natalie Tate
Ms. Corinne Gibson (Student)
Dr. Richard Smith (Faculty)
Dr. Randall Davis
Dr. Michael Ugwueke

Staff:

Dr. Peter Buckley
Mr. Anthony Ferrara
Dr. Cynthia Russell
Dr. Wesley Byler
Mr. Paul Wesolowski
Ms. Brigitte Grant

Deans:

Dr. Nick Verne (Interim)
Dr. Reggie Fryer
Dr. Wendy Likes
Dr. Jay Ragain
Dr. Stephen Alway
Dr. Donald Thomason

Guests: Members of the HSC community and the public were invited to participate either in person or via webcast.

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Dr. Wenk called the meeting to order at 9:57 am, and Mr. Ferrara confirmed that Dr. Wayman was absent and all other board members were present.

2. Approval of Minutes from January 13, 2023 Meeting

The motion for approval of the meeting minutes was moved by Dr. Davis and seconded by Dr. Tate with unanimous approval.

3. Clinical Workforce Pipelines, Dr. Rosenthal

Dr. Rosenthal is a graduate from UTHSC Dentistry (2005), holding a DDS degree as well as a MPH degree. Dr. Rosenthal is the founder of the program, Determined to be a Doctor Someday (DDS). Dr. Rosenthal took the time to share with the board the “why” behind DDS, the initiatives, the ways the program has been supported, the impacts that have been made with this program and the challenges the program has faced. Overall, Dr. Rosenthal shared the importance behind pipeline programs such as her DDS program, Determined to be a Doctor Someday. Dr. Rosenthal was a part of the American Dental Association Institute for Diversity in Leadership and through that the program Determined to be a Doctor Someday (DDS) was born. This program teaches a toddler’s course, ages 2 to 5 and a teen’s course, ages 14 to 18 from historically marginalized populations about the different types of careers that are available in health care. Dr. Rosenthal stated, “It would not be possible without the support of the University of Tennessee Health

Science Center.” Other major contributors to this program are what has kept this program going, such as Delta Dental, Memphis Grizzlies, Sharon Jackson, Anonymous donors from New York, local and national politicians and many more. The impact that is hoped to be made from this program is improved ACT scores, college enrollment, enrollment in professional schools and trade schools, but the main impact is keeping the participants in the program determined. Some of the challenges the program faces include that of data tracking, limited staff and the need for volunteers as well as other factors. Lastly, Dr. Rosenthal took the time to paint a picture of the economic impact that pipeline programs like hers have. Dr. Rosenthal ended her presentation by sharing thanks to the many people who helped her through a pipeline program and the help being shared to her pipeline program and the individuals in the program. Dr. Rosenthal presented a plaque of appreciation to UTHSC and Dr. Buckley. Overall, the board members emphasized the need for the University of Tennessee Health Science Center to help advance pipeline programs.

- **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk asked, “how can we take this same message into a rural area when there is no person for these individuals to look up to”. Dr. Rosenthal stated that it’s important for people in any area rural, urban, intercity to have individuals engaged with one another to share the impact that each is having on their community so they can return to do the same. Dr. Wenk stated that Dr. Rosenthal has done a great job on creating such a great program, and that we are lucky to have her as a graduate and community leader here at UTHSC. Dr. Ugwueke expressed to Dr. Rosenthal that the work she has been doing is wonderful and it’s a pleasure to meet Dr. Rosenthal. Dr. Ugwueke asked how we can scale this up not in just Memphis but across the entire state of Tennessee. Dr. Ugwueke shared he would like to discuss this later. Dr. Davis asked the question of, how much functionality is there in having your program discussed with the school boards across the state, to bring individuals into the school system. Dr. Rosenthal stated that this has not been approached yet but there is a developed curriculum.

4. Chancellor’s Report

- **Recognitions:** Chancellor Buckley started by showing recognition to the Board Chair, Phil Wenk. Dr. Buckley expressed that Dr. Wenk is a remarkable individual and a true philanthropist. Delta Dental held an event with St. Jude recently where over a million dollars was raised for St. Jude, such a spectacular event. Chancellor Buckley took a moment to recognize a few retiring board members. First, Chancellor Buckley recognized Anthony Ferrara the Senior Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer for the Office of Finance at UTHSC and Board secretary for his dedication and service over the years. Mr. Ferrara, thanked Chancellor Buckley, Dr. Wenk, and all the Board members. Chancellor Buckley then recognized Terry Cooper for his remarkable career and dedication to UTHSC and the Advisory Board. Dr. Cooper came to UTHSC in 1985 and he stated this institution means a lot to him and he thanked everyone for the interactions he has had. Lastly, Chancellor Buckley recognized previous student board representative Elizabeth Evans for her dedication to the Advisory Board. Ms. Evans was unable to attend the meeting; therefore, Ms. Gibson accepted the plaque on her behalf. After five years of remarkable service, Dean Strome has stepped down as the College of Medicine Dean and has left the institution. Chancellor Buckley shared recognitions to his service while at UTHSC.
- **New Leadership/Recruitment:** Chancellor Buckley shared that Dr. Reggie Frye has taken over as the College of Pharmacy Dean. Dean Frye stated the past two months have gone by quick, but everyone has been very welcoming, and he is settling in well. Dean Frye is from Florida where he was a Department Chair in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Florida. Dr. Frye threw out the first pitch at a Memphis Redbirds game within the first couple

months of being a part of the Memphis community. Chancellor Buckley shared that Ms. Brigitte Grant has taken over as the Vice Chancellor for Advancement and started May 1st. Ms. Grant said she is thrilled to be back in Memphis, and it feels like she's been here for years. Ms. Grant says she is excited to engage with our supporters and thrilled to get to know everyone and work alongside the board members. Chancellor Buckley shared that Mr. Paul Wesolowski has been named Vice Chancellor for Strategic Partnerships and started on May 1st. Mr. Wesolowski shared he has over 30 years of experience in health care and his passion has been the work he has completed in the academic setting. Mr. Wesolowski stated Memphis and Tennessee have been very welcoming, and he is very excited to be here. With the change in the College of Medicine, Nicholas Verne has taken the role of interim Executive Dean for the College of Medicine. Dr. Verne has been with UTHSC for four years now and he is looking forward to taking on this new role of interim Executive Dean. Chancellor Buckley shared that Mr. Raaj Kurapati has been named the Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer and will start September 1st. Mr. Kurapati shared it's an honor to be able to join UTHSC. Mr. Kurapati has spent the last twenty years in higher education with the last five years at the University of Memphis. Regarding recruitment, Chancellor Buckley spoke about the three current and proposed recruitments that are or will be taking place. Currently, the recruitment for a Vice Chancellor for Research is underway with three candidates that will be visiting campus. Dean Ragain announced his intent to retire, so a national search for a Dean for the College of Dentistry will be conducted with the leadership of Paul Wesolowski and James Hayes. We have a great interim for the College of Medicine there is no need to rush to start a national search for the Executive Dean but will be addressed in February 2024.

- **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk welcomed all new leaders and looks forward to great things from all. A round of applause was given to Dean Ragain on his work completed and his intent to retire.
- **College Updates**
 - **Dentistry:** Dean Ragain spoke on the Healthy Smiles Initiative which is being used to expand clinical presence throughout the state of Tennessee. The college has started another academic school year with 121 D1 DDS students and 30 DH1 students. The sublease agreement with the Kingsport Clinic is nearing finalization and we hope to start the renovations in the fall. Fundraising has brought in \$1.75M toward phase I and plan to have student rotations starting in July 2024. A trip is planned to visit the Kingsport Clinic in August to start planning phase II. In phase II we hope to host 20-30 D3 and D4 students full-time. Dean Ragain emphasized that the planning of this major training site is essential for the overall goal of increasing the DDS program to 130 students. This semester, two new clinical sites were added to the rotations for students, those included Knoxville, TN and Crossville, TN. Regarding identifying new clinical sites throughout the state, COD is exploring the possibility of clinics in Pulaski, TN and Savannah, TN with the hopes of adding an AEGD program in Jackson, TN. Each of these clinics are supported by a large coalition of stakeholders, both state and county agencies, private donors, and philanthropies.
 - **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk stated this is an opportunity to get out in the communities and looking at Savannah and Pulaski, they have no dentist or soon to be retiring dentist. Thanked Dean Ragain for his report.
 - **Graduate Health Sciences:** Dean Thomason first spoke on the incoming classes in the college's programs. The incoming class totaled 107 students with 56 PhD students, 46 MS/MDS students, and 5 Certificate students. Dean Thomason also spoke on the demographics of the incoming class, please see the PowerPoint slide for specific details. Dean Thomason shared that the Summer Research Scholars' Program

has paired with an NSF-funded program at Colorado State University. Through philanthropic support, more than \$35k has been raised for student and postdoc independent research projects. Upcoming application submissions for the new round of students will start soon.

- **Remarks:** Dr. Ugeweked asked, “of the incoming students, how many are from the Memphis area”. Dean Thomason stated generally students are from the Memphis and surrounding area, but they do have some out of state students.
- **Health Professions:** Dean Alway started his report with the exciting news of the ribbon cutting and open house of the new Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy Center which is set for August 24th. Additionally, the 7th Annual RKSTC Art Show and Auction is set for August 25th – 27th. Dean Alway also spoke on the ASP program in Knoxville, TN. The ASP program is currently in phase II of renovations at the UT Conference Center in Knoxville. The ASP program’s incoming class consists of 122 new students in the BS program which is an increase of more than 25% from last year. The Pathologist’s Assistant Program in the Department of Diagnostic and Health Sciences has been given the official initial approval from the National Accreditation Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. The Clinical Laboratory Sciences program has been ranked 13th nationally by the US News and World Report with ASP 26th, SLP 36th, OT 42nd, and PT 49th. Dean Alway also spoke on the research presentations from the OT and ASP programs. FY23 continued to show an increase in grant awards, a 115% increase from the previous year.
 - **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk expressed congratulations on all the grant awards received thus far.
- **Medicine:** Interim Dean Verne spoke on the new leadership changes in the college. Dr. Verne was recently appointed Interim Dean until a national search is conducted for a permanent Dean. Robert Craft has been named the Dean of the Graduate School of Medicine in Knoxville, TN. James Haynes has been named the Dean of the College of Medicine in Chattanooga, TN. Lastly, Brian Wilcox has been named the Associate Dean of Clinical Affairs and Graduate Medical Education, College of Medicine in Nashville, TN. Interim Dean Verne took a moment to speak about the college’s LCME Accreditation. The LCME limited Accreditation site visit is scheduled for October 16th through the 18th. Lastly, Interim Dean Verne spoke about the recent results from the medical student satisfaction survey. Interim Dean Verne was happy to share that the results from the survey were outstanding.
 - **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk thanked Dr. Verne for his report.
- **Nursing:** Dean Likes spoke on the Baptist OR scholars a new program that is starting in the college of Nursing with Baptist Hospital. Students in this program will spend a minimum of two years working in the Baptist Hospital ORs post-graduation in exchange for pay as an extern and last year of tuition paid. The college has three active HRSA Grants and one was recently up for renewal which was granted, \$2.6 million renewal and will provide stipends for students who are participating on the grant. A part of this grant, is these students will go out and work in underserved area when they graduate. Regarding grants in the College of Nursing, submissions of almost \$30million, \$14 million in grants in July alone have been submitted this calendar year. We’ve had a lot of faculty achievements, with promotion and tenure and the onboarding of six new faculty members. Dean Likes shared that THEC will meet next week and the UTHSC-UTS joint BSN program will go before them for approval. The College of Nursing has been selected to receive the 2023 AACN Exemplary Academic-Practice Partnership Award. Lastly Dean Likes shared that the nursing program now

has 10 programs in their partnership enrollment program across the state, with three being with community colleges and 3 from HBCUs.

- **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk shared that Dean Likes has done great work and has brought some great opportunities. Dr. Wenk expressed congratulations on the recent Award. Chancellor Buckley also shared the news that Deann Likes has been inducted into the American Academy of Nursing.
- **Pharmacy:** Dean Frye started the college report by first speaking on enrollment; 107 first year students started on August 1st with P1 students being on the Knoxville and Nashville campuses for the first time. Dean Frye shared the great news that the college has risen to number six in funding from the National Institute of Health. Dean Frye also spoke on the recent faculty and staff news. The 2023 UT President's Award, Bold and Impactful Staff Award was awarded to Melissa Smith the Student Affairs Coordinator at the Knoxville COP campus. Additionally, Wei Li in COP and Tiffany Seagroves in COM were awarded \$3.1M to study novel tubulin inhibitors to fight metastatic breast cancer. Lastly in regard to news, Brad Boucher has announced his retirement. Dean Frye also expressed that this year marks the college's 125th anniversary.
 - **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk, expressed to Dr. Frye that he has a great college and knows he will do a great job.
- **UTHSC Video:** Chancellor Buckley took a moment to share with the board the unfinalized home page video that is being developed by the Office of Communication and Marketing. Ms. Badoud, Vice Chancellor for Communications and Marketing took a moment to share additional details about the video as well as share kudos to her team for working hard on this video.
 - **Remarks:** Dr. Wenk expressed that he thought the video was nicely done. Dr. Davis asked an additional question to the video in regard to health care department and our interactions with them. Chancellor Buckley states that this video has the goal to engage all of our healthcare providers as it is rolled out. Dr. Wenk stated the goal is to show and share that UTHSC is able to provide healthcare to all areas across the state of Tennessee.

5. Strategic Plan Update/ Access and Engagement

Chancellor Buckley and Dr. Russell gave an update on the Strategic Planning process. As you remember we did not change our mission statement, but we did change our vision to one that is easily remembered, "Healthy Tennesseans, Thriving Communities". With the BE ONE UT values, we added HSC to those. With the signature pillars we improved those to include, engaging communities, educational excellence, expanding research, advancing health, and developing talent. Each of these pillars have been assigned a pillar champion who will oversee and take charge in these pillars. In terms of implantation, the pillar champions have had a meeting to develop the implementation of the strategic plan. Developing a dashboard to monitor the progress and complete modifications if needed, planning for the evolution of the strategic plan and even considering a retreat for the cabinet to collaborate. Dr. Russell took a moment to speak on the access and engagement. Please see the presentation slides to view the charts. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion are still represented in our values and in our work and foundational in our UTHSC Strategic Plan. Regarding engagement, broadening the emphasis on access and pipelines is at the topic of discussion as well as untapped philanthropic potential.

- Remarks: Dr. Tate, thanked Dr. Russell for all her work and stated to please share any challenges that may be experienced throughout this entire process. Dr. Wenk thanked Dr. Russell and stated this is excellent work.

6. Other Business

Dr. Wenk took a moment to share the recent changes to the board. The board has two new members and one returning member. Corinne Gibson is the new student representative board member. Ms. Gibson is a 4th year medical student in the College of Medicine who is getting ready to apply for anesthesia residency. Ms. Gibson told the board she also serves as the president of the Medical Student Executive Council and the Student Government Association Executive Council. Ms. Gibson was born and raised in Memphis, TN but her family is currently residing in Nashville, TN. Ms. Gibson stated, “she’s been a Tennessean a long time and is happy to be here”. Richard Smith is the new faculty representative board member. Dr. Smith is the Graduate Program Director in the Department of Orthopedic Surgery and Biomedical Engineering and an Associate Professor in the College of Medicine. Dr. Smith expressed to the board that he has been a part of The University of Tennessee Health Science Center for about forty years and it’s an honor to serve. Dr. Smith stated, “he will do his best in representing the faculty”. Returning to the board is Michael Ugwueke, the President, and Chief Executive Office of Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare.

7. Meeting Schedule

All meetings scheduled for 9:00 am to 2:00 pm, including breakfast and lunch.

2023 Meeting Schedule

- a. November 10th

Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

- a. January 12th
- b. May 10th
- c. August 9th
- d. November 8th

8. Adjournment

The meeting concluded at 11:57 AM.