

Minutes
SUNY Downstate Medical Center
Council Meeting
President's Board Room
July 8, 2015

Council Members Present

Dr. Monica Sweeney, Chair
Dr. Philip Abramowitz
Michael Connors, Esq.
Johnson Ho
Dr. Garry Sklar
Dr. Constance Shames
Rev. Elgin Watkins
Dr. Mirian Zavala

Council Members Absent

Mark Denesha

Downstate Administration in Attendance

Dr. John F. Williams
Astra Bain-Dowell
Melanie Gehen
Michael French
Dorothy Fyfe
Margaret Jackson
Anthony Jones
Richard Miller
Kevin O'Mara
Carlos Pato
Patricia Winston
Will Versfelt
Ellen Watson
Michael Harrell

Minutes from the May 2015 meeting were accepted and approved.

President's Report:

President John F. Williams brought the Council up-to-date on campus events, accreditation reviews, and new appointments. Commencement went well, and the next classes of students in Nursing and Health Related Professions have begun. Dr. Carlos Pato, the new dean for the College of Medicine began his term of service effective the beginning of July; an offer has been made to a dean for the College of Health Related Professions. We are in second-round interviews for a new hospital executive, and a search has just commenced for a vice president for research. Dr. Williams also announced that the LCME officially informed us that the College of Medicine

received a full eight-year accreditation with no citations. Nursing also received full accreditation for ten-years with no citations. We have been working diligently in preparation for self-study visits by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education and the Council on Education for Public Health. The ACGME has fully accredited our residency programs. Downstate is working diligently with HHC on its DSRIP program; HHC and Downstate were granted \$1.2 billion over a five-year period toward the transformation of the medical system in New York State, and we hope to receive an additional \$400 million. President Williams and SUNY Board of Trustees Chair H. Carl McCall met to discuss the parking garage and how we might develop funding through DASNY to build a new structure.

Hospital Report

Anthony Jones, interim UHB chief executive officer, introduced several members of the senior leadership team, reviewed the working framework for University Hospital, and revisited the strategic direction of the hospital, including organizational priorities. His report included an update on strategic priorities for clinical services, IT projects, and facility plans.

Mr. Jones noted that it is important that University Hospital of Brooklyn operate in concert with the schools and the research enterprise as an integrated enterprise. To be successful, UHB has to be market-focused, and it cannot be insular in terms of its thought processes. The Brooklyn market, with 12 hospitals, is extremely competitive. Downstate must become the partner of choice and the practice site of choice for physicians, the employer of choice for employees, the hospital of choice for patients, and the educational institution of choice.

In most academic medical centers, the hospitals serve as an economic engine that moves the clinically-integrated enterprise forward. The hospital basically works with the medical school, and the partnership benefits both parties, under the leadership of the president. Downstate has prioritized several clinical programs for the upcoming year, including neuroscience, neurological services, primary care, and cardiovascular and cancer services. In IT, the highest priority is conversion of the ICD 9 billing codes to ICD10, since the federally-mandated launch date for this change is October 1, 2015. This is a massive project that will impact systems throughout the campus. In terms of facilities, priorities include the pediatric intensive care unit; workflow improvements for the Women's Center, and improvement in MRI and linear accelerator units.

Hospital statistics continue to demonstrate positive trends. Length of Stay is down. While volume is down (in alignment with national trends) revenue losses have flattened, meaning that the revenue stream is improving through improved revenue capture processes. Part of the decline in hospital volume reflects the strategic closure of the Psychiatric Unit as part of the sustainability plan.

In the discussion that followed Mr. Jones report, Dr. Pato expanded on opportunities for partnerships with the community, especially in the realm of precision medicine, including looking at genomic risks and the factors that lead to health resilience. Downstate's engaged population can become a differentiator between Downstate and the health systems that we compete with. By coupling our mission with the services we provide, we can become a unique academic medical center well-positioned to partner with the public sectors.

Follow-Up on “No Means No” Initiative

Dr. Jeffrey Putman, who had presented the Governor’s new regulations on preventing sexual violence on college campuses, and Kevin O’Mara, Downstate Counsel, followed up on the Council’s vote to approve the changes in the Student Code of Conduct reflecting this initiative. They addressed concerns that had been raised relative to due process and the right to counsel. The new process provides access to advisors throughout the fact finding and conduct/disciplinary process, and requires a codified appeals process. Either side of a sexual violence dispute can appeal a ruling. Dr. Putman explained that the new law also mandates that findings consistent with a Type I Clery violation must now be carried in students’ transcripts.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded.