

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

January 25, 2021

Online Meeting - 5:00 pm

Present via call-in (in alphabetic order): Collins, Jay; Daniel, Dianne; Flaherty, J.; Holt, Nicole (A); Hosseini, Alireza; Ikonne, Uzona (A); Lappinen, Eric; Lattanzio, Frank; Morris, Shannon; Musto, Alberto; Pant, Mohan; Rubino, Mary; Smith, Robert; Strunc, Michael; Sun, K. Invited guests: Drs. Richard Homan, Elza Mylona and Alfred Abuhamad

1. The Faculty Senate was called to order at 5:03 by Dr. Hosseini.
2. The minutes of the December 2020 Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.
3. Dr. Hosseini introduced Dr. Homan who would update the Faculty Senate on the Path Forward progress. Dr. Mylona would later address the addition of the four Task Forces comments to the Path Forward Plan and Dr. Abuhamad would inform the Faculty Senate about developments in the new Center for Maternal and Child Health Equity and Advocacy.
4. Dr. Homan congratulated the members of the four Task Forces and the Faculty Senate for their prompt comments on the Path Forward. Dr. Homan described the development of the Path Forward Plan, an acutely formulated tactical plan that was designed to deflect the Manatt proposal. The EVMS BOV had previously withdrawn any support from the Manatt proposal, giving it a vote of no confidence. The Path Forward was created to give a new contextual framework to engage the community and was presented to all EVMS stakeholders, who would then give feedback to further refine the Path Forward Plan. The plan had four Task Forces (Research, Education, Clinical, Legal/Administrative), each composed of members from the faculty, learners and staff. The task forces examined their individual areas to delineate strengths and weaknesses, how to develop additional areas, then submitted their comments last week to create a roadmap for their development. Their comments were received by Dr. Rhoads and Brant Cox for editing and then merging into the Path Forward document. This document gives a high level view of the discussion, with the initial 6-8 months of the Plan concerned with the development of financial support. If financial support is achieved and the Plan approved by the EVMS BOV, these

actions would then permit advancement into the due diligence portion of the Plan. The due diligence section would concern itself with the finer details of integrating and administering the various new entities described in the Path Forward Plan.

In evaluating the Manatt proposal, it was apparent that Sentara would benefit by obtaining control of the EVMS medical speciality groups. ODU would benefit by obtaining Medical and Health Professions Schools, as well as a merger with EVMS research assets that would make ODU a Carnegie tier 1 school and add additional Federal support. In contradistinction, EVMS would be placed at high risk with little benefit and loss of both autonomy and potentially SACS and LCME accreditations. A bill was introduced into the Virginia Legislature without EVMS input or consent to implement the Manatt proposal with \$5 million for a Health Services Center. Fortunately, there currently is no similar bill in the Virginia Senate, so the House bill may not go forward. It is understood that donations can affect the submission and progress of legislative bills but EVMS does not have funding to influence these decisions.

There has been a 30 year interaction between EVMS and ODU regarding the development of a joint School of Public Health. SCHEV wanted completely independent resources from both schools to run this program, which made its development difficult. EVMS is the only Virginia school below base adequacy (by about \$1.8 million) while the other schools are at or above base adequacy. ODU backed out 3 years ago on a joint ODU-EVMS program to go ahead with an independent program, but Dr. Homan still wants to collaborate with ODU and NSU on such a program.

Dr. Derkay asked about the proposed bill and the potential for offloading transitional costs to the state. Dr. Homan noted that the bill was specifically to support the Manatt proposal's Health Science Center. However, available state funds are going to be too limited to affect an effective and equitable transition, which is why Sentara should contribute funds to the process. Dr. Derkay speculated about finding a state legislator to champion the EVMS Path Forward Plan. Dr. Homan stated that EVMS could not proceed with using these state funds or merging the School of Public Health, as this would lock

EVMS into the Manatt scheme. Instead, EVMS will refine the Path Forward and then engage Sentara to support the plan. Completing the Path Forward Plan, engaging all the EVMS stakeholders and then getting approval from the EVMS BOV was to be the first milestone, with interaction with the state legislature later, a view also affirmed by Dr. Hosseini.

Dr. Abuhamad was one of the faculty that had met with the Manatt group. His view was that the timing required to facilitate a functional interaction of the parties might take 3-7 years to complete and that there needed to be sufficient funds supplied to protect both EVMS and the EVMS Medical group. The Manatt proposal instead had a very short (2 year) timeline coupled with little actual EVMS funding but the proposal's assumption of large cost savings that would support the process. These cost savings could only occur through high attrition within the EVMS and EVMS Medical Group.

Dr. Homan noted that of the \$30 million mentioned by Sentara, the amounts going to partners was unclear. In addition, the \$15 million mentioned would be from Sentara's designation as a teaching hospital and would be a tax rebate, rather than a direct outlay of funds. The need to find financial support of both EVMS and the EVMS Medical Group is of paramount importance, but the school should not accept state funds tied to the Manatt proposal as this would pre-empt any possibility of internal control of the process. The new governing board for this process needs to be explicit and transparent. Dr. Derkay questioned whether the Path Forward Plan needs to bring the other players to the table, but that involvement is proposed to occur after the financial plan is solidified. It was noted that the Public Forum scheduled on January 28, 2021 with EVMS, Sentara and other parties is designed to discuss how to meet community health needs, and is not about the Path Forward Plan. Dr. Homan noted that there will be a second meeting in February about the benefits of developing an academic health center and recognizing the potential of EVMS to create this center. Participants in that meeting will include the MedtronicTM CEO, a former director of the NIH and the President of the National Academy of Medicine.

5. Dr. Hosseini then asked Dr. Homan about the recently completed LCME visit and the upcoming SACS accreditation visit in February, 2021. Dr. Homan mentioned that the LCME

exit interview appeared very favorable, a positive assessment supported by minimal additional queries and requiring only a few, rapid corrections of factual errors. The final report would then go to the LCME board at the end of February, 2021 with results expected in March, 2021. For the SACS accreditation there was an administrative audit of the over 3000 page report, with only a few corrections and clarifications requested. One point of discussion was Dr. Homan serving as Dean, Provost and President and the administrative load that was placed on one individual, but Dr. Homan's experiences both prior to and continuing with his EVMS tenure confirmed his ability to perform well in all of his positions. The Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) for SACS was then discussed. This EVMS four year "Live Humble" curriculum describes how EVMS Medical School learners and faculty will interact with and support patients with differing backgrounds in diverse communities. This curriculum will initially roll out to the Medical Students and then migrate into the School of Health Professions. It was mentioned that various EVMS stakeholders may receive cold calls from SACS visitors during this virtual visit, so stakeholders should be familiar with the tenet of this curriculum. Dr. Derkay asked about addressing any SACS related queries about the Path Forward Plan. Dr. Homan noted that the SACS reviewers would be made aware of the Path Forward Plan. Beneficially, the Path Forward Plan would allow re-engagement of EVMS as an independent entity while the Manatt proposal's structure could create problems due to the perceived presence of a third party capable of exerting undue influence in the process of medical education and accreditation. Dr. Mylona noted that the SACS interviewers' questions will likely be specific, with most of the discussion centering around the QEP.

6. Dr. Hosseini mentioned that the four Path Forward taskforces had met in the past weeks and generated their comments and corrections for their documents. Dr. Mylona thanked the members of the task forces and the Faculty senate for their input. These submissions were passed to Dr. Rhoads and Mr. Cox, a process that started the first step of refinement for the Path Forward. These submissions would be merged into the main document and that document refocused and condensed. Dr. Mylona noted that some of the finer details

described in these taskforce submissions would be saved and reserved for later use, since the revised document was designed to have broad coverage in the four taskforce areas. Once the revised document was formulated, it would undergo further general review and then be finalized, these actions taken during meetings to be held in early February. Dr. Homan mentioned a Town Hall meeting next week and Dr. Mylona noted that a virtual General Faculty meeting was scheduled for February 9 at 5PM.

7. Dr. Hosseini brought up the item of approval of the new Center with the request that Dr. Abuhamad address with some questions raised by Faculty Senators, specifically the level of involvement of Pediatrics with the Center. Dr. Abuhamad said that since the last Faculty Senate meeting there had been several meetings about the Center, which included Pediatrics, Minus 9-5 and other groups. One of the major points was to find the right persons to be involved with the Center. There was a potential for 20% of funding for an individual from Pediatrics, with 10% support for Dr. Amy Poulson. Due to vacation scheduling, meetings had to be reset and there would be the creation of an advisory board that would include Pediatrics Ob/Gyn and community members. Dr. Hosseini mentioned the advocacy policies described in the Center document. Dr. Abuhamad mentioned the recruitment of a Biostatistician, with an additional plan to have a strategic retreat for the Center (possibly in May, 2021). There was also to be an assessment of existing resources, as to not duplicate what already exists. For the policy aspects of the Center, there would be a search for policy makers for the board, including former/current legislators or those with experience working with legislators. Progress in these areas is on track. Dr. Abuhamad mentioned that he would provide the Faculty Senate with the name of the second individual and that Dr Gowen knows this person
8. Dr. Homan thanked the Faculty Senate for their input. As there were no more questions from any of the participants, Dr. Hosseini then then asked for a vote to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at about 6:03PM.

Next Meeting: February 15, 2021