

**Minutes  
Special Meeting of the  
Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing  
November 20, 2009**

**Members Present**

Dr. Bettie Rose Horne, Chair  
Mr. Bill Scarborough  
Mr. Hood Temple  
Cynthia Mosteller (via teleconference)

**Other Commissioners Present**

Dr. Charles Thomas

**Members Absent**

Mr. Neal Workman

**Staff Present**

Dr. Tini Anderson  
Ms. Camille Brown  
Ms. Julie Carullo  
Ms. Renea Eshleman  
Mr. Gary Glenn  
Ms. Lane Goodwin  
Dr. Paula Gregg  
Ms. Trena Houpp  
Dr. Gail Morrison  
Dr. Mike Raley  
Ms. Beth Rogers  
Dr. Garry Walters

**Guests**

Dr. Ingo Angermeier, Spartanburg Co.  
Regional Hospital System  
Ms. Stacy Day, SC Office of Rural Health  
Dr. Don DiPette, USC School of Medicine  
Dr. Helen Doerpinghaus, USC-Columbia  
Mr. Byron Kirby, Budget and Control Board  
Dr. Layton McCurdy, MUSC  
Dr. Jay Moskowitz, Health Sciences South  
Carolina  
Ms. Ann Peyton, National Center for  
Healthcare Data  
Mr. John Rocovich, Jr., VCOM  
Mr. Mark Sweatman, MUSC  
Ms. Susan Sweet, VCOM  
Dr. Dixie Tooke-Rawlins, VCOM  
Dr. Jim Wolfe, VCOM

**Handouts:**

South Carolina Physician Workforce and Healthcare Workforce Needs  
Edward Via Virginia College of Osteopathic Medicine 2009 Annual Report  
AACOM Osteopathic Medical College Information Book  
AOA Osteopathic Medical Profession Report  
Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine Carolinas Campus PowerPoint slides

A special meeting of the Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing was called to discuss an application from the Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine (VCOM) of Blacksburg, VA to establish a branch campus in Spartanburg, SC. The meeting was for discussion only and no action was to be taken.

Dr. Horne called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and stated that the meeting was being held in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act. Dr. Horne then asked that introductions be made.

Dr. Ingo Angermeier, president of the Spartanburg County Regional Hospital System, provided to the Committee a presentation about osteopathic medical training and residency options. Dr. Angermeier stated that all of the hospitals in the upstate are interested in hosting VCOM students in clinical rotations and acknowledged that there could be competition between USC School of Medicine and MUSC for clinical rotations.

Dr. Tooke-Rawlins provided to the Committee information about VCOM's history, mission, student body, curriculum, and economic impact. According to Dr. Tooke-Rawlins, VCOM is 10<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the number of primary care physicians that it produces; 49% of its graduates enter the field of primary care.

Dr. Horne introduced Dr. McCurdy and the Commissioners in attendance and inquired about clinical rotation placements for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year VCOM students. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins described the rotation options, including those located outside of hospital systems. Stacy Day explained the relationship between the Office of Rural Health and the SC Area Health Education Consortium (AHEC) and asked how VCOM would interface with the SC AHEC. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins responded that each state's AHEC is different, and VCOM wishes to support the SC AHEC in whatever capacity the AHEC needs. Ms. Day stated that she had spoken to individuals with the Rural Physicians Program who expressed interested in working with VCOM. Ms. Day also suggested to Dr. Tooke-Rawlins that VCOM contact Candace Luciano at the upstate AHEC.

Dr. Thomas stated that there is a shortage of physicians, but the larger issue is the maldistribution of physicians in the state. Dr. Thomas asked Dr. Tooke-Rawlins how the Commissioners could be sure that VCOM would produce graduates who would go into practice in rural areas and primary care. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins responded that the majority of VCOM students at the Blacksburg campus enter into family medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, and obstetric rotations. VCOM also encourages practice in rural areas by recruiting students and instructors from rural areas and providing mission trip rotations. Dr. Thomas noted that, according to information distributed by VCOM at the meeting, the number of osteopathic physicians practicing in rural areas increases when a school of osteopathic medicine is present.

Dr. Thomas asked Dr. Tooke Rawlins if upstate hospitals would be able to accommodate the need for additional residencies. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins responded that VCOM currently has affiliations with hospitals in the surrounding area, including York, Anderson, and Florence, as well as clinical affiliations in nearby areas of North Carolina such as Morganton, Gaston, Asheville, and Hickory. In Virginia, VCOM established four new residency programs at area hospitals to accommodate its students.

Dr. Walters asked how many basic doctoral science faculty will be required for the branch campus of VCOM. Dr. Tooke replied that VCOM would need over 20 FTE faculty. Dr. McCurdy inquired about research funding, and Dr. Tooke-Rawlins stated that most of VCOM's research funding, about \$1.8 million annually, is received from the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. Kirby stated that with the addition of a VCOM branch in SC his office would be concerned with availability of clinical and residency placements. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins stated that VCOM will need to begin one or two primary care residencies in underserved areas of the upstate. Mr. Kirby asked how many graduates of osteopathic medical schools continue to

Agenda Item 1b

practice in rural areas after one year or after the amount of time required by loan forgiveness programs. Ms. Peyton replied that nationally 50% of osteopathic medical school graduates are practicing in rural areas.

Ms. Mosteller asked how osteopathic doctors (D.O.'s) fit into the traditional hospital system. Dr. McCurdy replied that in his experience working in teaching hospitals, there is no apparent difference between M.D.'s and D.O.'s. Ms. Mosteller inquired about the history and philosophy of osteopathic medicine, and Dr. Tooke-Rawlins provided a summary of the founder's philosophy and how it has transformed over the years. Dr. Thomas and Dr. Tooke-Rawlins then discussed the cost of educating VCOM students.

In response to a question from Mr. Scarborough a discussion ensued about the type of student VCOM recruits and how it determines which students will be admitted. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins reiterated that VCOM is committed to recruiting students from rural areas and stated that a student's Medical College Admissions Test (MCAT) score is generally a better predictor of success than the student's undergraduate GPA. VCOM takes into consideration in the admissions process an applicant's MCAT score, GPA, and prior volunteer experience and strives to admit students with an appropriate balance of strengths.

In response to an inquiry from Mr. Scarborough, Dr. Tooke-Rawlins clarified that students at the Spartanburg branch campus will not be required to travel to Blacksburg for any part of their coursework. However, VCOM does maintain a virtual classroom which will allow students at both campuses to view a speaker or seminar simultaneously.

Mr. Scarborough asked if VCOM officials had met with administrators from USC School of Medicine or MUSC. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins stated that she had just received an invitation to speak with MUSC and had not received negative feedback from either school. Dr. Angermeier spoke on behalf of Dr. DiPette and stated that the USC School of Medicine and MUSC were supportive of VCOM's proposed branch campus. Dr. Morrison stated that she was not aware of opposition but concerns had been expressed regarding space for clinical rotation placements. Dr. Morrison referenced an e-mail from Dr. John Raymond at MUSC that expressed concern over clinical availability. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins emphasized that many of VCOM's students will be placed in community hospitals and private settings rather than hospital systems; for this reason VCOM has not approached the Greenville Hospital System regarding clinical placements. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins stated that VCOM officials have spoken with representatives at Converse, USC-Upstate, Wofford, and two area technical colleges about collaboration and sharing resources (e.g., basic science faculty).

Further discussion was held concerning physician need and VCOM recruitment. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins again emphasized that VCOM recruits students from rural areas, and these students are well aware of VCOM's mission to train physicians who will work in rural areas. Dr. McCurdy asked Dr. Tooke-Rawlins to respond to potential allegations that VCOM is a trade or career school. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins described the school's academic faculty, research, and other scholarly activity but stated that the school does focus on hiring teaching faculty rather than research faculty. Mr. Kirby suggested that VCOM officials consider partnering in some way with the USC School of Public Health. Mr. Kirby and Ms. Day named Dr. Jan Probst and Dr. Annie Brock Martin as appropriate contacts.

In response to Dr. Horne's question, Dr. Tooke-Rawlins discussed the board exams that VCOM graduates will take and the option for graduates to sit for osteopathic or allopathic

Agenda Item 1b

(M.D.) board exams. Dr. Tooke-Rawlins explained that D.O.'s may practice the same medical specialties as M.D.'s but tend to generalize because they practice in less urban areas.

Dr. Horne thanked those in attendance for their participation. Hearing no further business, Dr. Horne adjourned the meeting at 12:13 p.m.