East Carolina University | Board of Trustees

Health Sciences Committee Meeting | September 18, 2014

Agenda

I. Approval of July 17, 2014 Minutes

II. Health Sciences Division - Dr. Phyllis Horns
   A. College of Allied Health Sciences Update - Dr. Stephen Thomas
   B. Medical Malpractice Insurance Plan - Ms. Jody Cook and Ms. Donna Payne
   C. Brody School of Medicine Update
      1. ECU Physicians Financial Performance Update – Mr. Brian Jowers and Dr. Rick Niswander
      2. Progress on Hospital Relations – Mr. Brian Jowers
      3. Progress on Implementation of Hunter Partner’s Report – Dr. Phyllis Horns

III. Closed Session

VII. Health Sciences Informational Updates
   A. College of Allied Health Sciences
   B. College of Nursing
   C. School of Dental Medicine
   D. Laupus Library
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<th>Session</th>
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<td>Steve Jones, committee chair</td>
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<td>Agenda Item</td>
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Call to Order and Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Jones called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m., and read the conflict of interest statement required by the State Government Ethics Act. No conflicts were identified. The minutes of April 24, 2014 were approved.

Brody School of Medicine Updates:

Dr. Horns gave a legislative update. ECU has met with members of the NC House and Senate members to discuss SODCA and UPL issues. We are hearing that some movement is being made on reinstating SODCA. SODCA is in the House budget, but not addressed in the Senate budget. UPL is still under debate between the House and
Senate regarding the number of physician cap slots and how that will affect our tax assessment. There should be more information that will be known at the end of the legislative session. The reporting requirements are not known at this time.

Dr. Niswander reviewed the financial year-to-date information for 2014 and is cautiously optimistic that ECU Physicians will be financially stable this year. With the addition of funds at year end to cover selected expenses, practice plan performance improved so that the deficit was only $9M.

Dr. Horns outlined the efficiency measures that are underway for ECU Physicians including activities with direct fiscal impact, clinical enterprise transformation activities, and other restructuring efforts.

Dr. Horns discussed the progress in the effort to integrate selective clinical services with VMC. The goal is to look for sustainable models for a better balance of support. The best strategy is to develop sustainable partnerships with collaborative partners.

Division Updates:

- Dr. Chadwick presented a report on the SODM. The announcement of the eighth SODM Clinical Service Learning Center in Brunswick County was held in May and the contract is out for bid. It is scheduled for completion in late spring of 2015. The 4th floor of Ross Hall assigned for research/faculty and staff offices is scheduled to open in spring of 2016. The fourth-year students began rotations at the community service learning centers for the first time in May. The third and final CODA site visit is scheduled for March 2015. ECU’s first DMD Degree should be awarded in May 2015. SODM is in the process of opening a clinical research clinic and faculty practice clinic in the fall of 2014.
- The College of Allied Health Sciences Dean Search is underway. A pool of candidates have been identified and the interview process is beginning with the hopes of having someone in place no later than the first of the year. Baker and Associates search firm has been engaged to assist with the search process.
- The Laupus Library Director search is underway with a joint meeting of the committee with Baker and Associates search firm and Lisa Sutton. The search will be conducted in tandem with the Joyner Library Director search.
- The Division is continuing to work on Interprofessional Education & Practice Activities to engage all faculty activity in education, research, patient care, and service across the colleges and schools. The Research Council is continuing to work on endeavors and operations to advance and grow research.
- Dr. Horns reported that additional informational updates on the College of Allied Health Sciences, College of Nursing, School of Dental Medicine, and the Laupus Library were included in the board packets.

Meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.
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BACKGROUND: In September 2013, a complaint was filed with the N.C. Office of the State Auditor alleging, in part, “ECU Brody School of Medicine has not solicited bids for the School’s malpractice insurance since 2002...” and forwarded to ECU Office of Internal Audit and Management Advisory Services for its review.

A report was sent to the Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences on February 10, 2014 with the conclusion that the “review did not reveal any evidence that the University’s process for engaging an insurance broker and purchasing medical malpractice insurance violates any applicable statutes or policies. [The] review did not reveal any evidence that the University is required to solicit bids for its medical malpractice insurance coverage or insurance brokerage services.” Three recommendations came out of the audit findings:

1. Thoroughly document the University’s process for acquiring medical malpractice insurance and brokerage services, and request that this process be approved by the UNC Board of Governors.
2. Document the approval of annual insurance coverage and premiums by University management, the ECU Physicians board, and/or other applicable groups.
3. Periodically request broker service proposals from medical malpractice insurance brokers, in order to ensure that current and prospective brokers are seeking and obtaining the best coverage and value for the University.

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM AND PLAN

This Program Plan is being presented for recommendation of approval by the ECU Board of Trustees. It has been reviewed and endorsed by University Counsel, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance, Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, Dean for BSOM, ECUP Board, and the Risk Management Committee. Board of Trustee member, Mr. Bob Plybon, has provided advice and suggested inclusion of specific principles in the Program Plan with the goal of meeting expectations at the Board level.

The highlights of the Program Plan description include the following.

- Authority – N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-219 authorizes the UNC Board of Governors to purchase contracts of insurance or to create self-insurance trusts or a combination of the two models to provide individual healthcare providers with coverage against claims of personal tort liability based on the conduct within the course and scope of healthcare functions. The Program Plan is written to provide a delegation of authority for implementation to ECU Board of Trustees, and, in turn, to the Chancellor and through the Chancellor to the Dean, BSOM.

- Confidentiality – N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-222 stipulates that records pertaining to the Program shall not be considered public records although access to documents will be provided to the Chancellor, Internal Auditor, University Counsel, and their respective designees upon request.

- Program Management - The Dean delegates the administrative responsibility for program management to the Director, BSOM Office of Risk Management.
• **Program Oversight** - Committees of the ECUP Board have responsibilities and oversight for the Program.

• **Requests for Proposals for Brokerage Services** - no less than every five years, but more frequently based on annual evaluation findings, RFP’s for brokerage services will be solicited.

• **Requests for Proposals for Professional Liability Insurance** - no less than every five years, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances such as market environment and/or BSOM loss history, RFP’s for professional liability insurance coverage will be solicited.

• **Feasibility Study for Self-Insured Retention Program** - no less than every five years, the broker/brokerage firm will conduct a formal feasibility study of the BSOM Insurance Program and make recommendations as to whether BSOM is poised to retain more financial risk by funding a self-insured retention program.

• **Periodic Reporting** - Office of Risk Management will prepare and submit periodic reports regarding the Program in accordance with this Program Plan.

• **Annual Program Evaluation** – BSOM Office of Risk Management will coordinate no less than annually the evaluation of the Program with guidance and input from BSOM senior leadership and other stakeholders. Based on the findings of the annual evaluation, as well as any other assessments as the Dean, VCAF, or Chancellor may approve, updates and revisions to the Program Plan will be proposed and presented to the oversight Committees and Dean, BSOM for final approval.
OFFICE OF RISK MANAGEMENT

PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM AND PLAN

I. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Brody School of Medicine (BSOM or School) at East Carolina University, a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina, is a community based medical school in eastern North Carolina that provides accredited education programs for medical students, residents and fellows, doctoral students in the basic medical sciences, master’s students in public health, and practicing physicians. ECU Physicians (ECUP), a multi-specialty medical faculty practice plan (N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-40.6), is the division of BSOM that provides medical and other healthcare services in facilities owned or leased by BSOM and inpatient facilities owned and operated by other entities.

In addition to providing healthcare to over 150,000 unique individuals each year through approximately 500,000 outpatient visits and nearly 125,000 inpatient days, ECU Physicians provides the essential education settings for the School’s learners.¹

The BSOM Office of Risk Management (Office) is accountable to the Dean of the School, the ECU Physicians Board of Directors and the Chancellor of ECU. The Office is responsible for the design and implementation of a robust, systematic program that identifies and evaluates risks/exposures to BSOM (its faculty, providers, staff, patients, and/or families). The Office is also responsible for examining, selecting, and implementing appropriate risk management strategies and monitoring those strategies to determine effectiveness.

The Professional Liability Insurance Program (Program) is one element of the BSOM Risk Management Program. This Program Plan document describes the administration of the Program. The document also describes authority, accountability and responsibilities of the Program, as well as the linkages to other insurance programs administered outside of BSOM that provide coverage to BSOM faculty, providers, staff, and patients.

II. SCOPE OF BRODY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

The Brody School of Medicine has approximately 460 students divided among the medical student curriculum in which graduates are awarded a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree (300), basic science doctoral programs (60) and master’s program (100). There are approximately 1900 faculty and employees within BSOM and numerous ECU employees outside BSOM that provide direct support.

In contrast to undergraduate medical education, which is BSOM’s responsibility, BSOM and Vidant Medical Center (VMC) together provide the educational and administrative resources that support ACGME-accredited graduate medical education programs called residency and fellowship. There are twenty-nine residency, combined residency, and subspecialty fellowship programs. Residency programs include family medicine, emergency medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, pathology and laboratory medicine, psychiatric medicine, surgery, and physical medicine and rehabilitation. There are combined programs in internal medicine/pediatrics, internal medicine/psychiatry, internal medicine/emergency medicine, and internal medicine/physical medicine and rehabilitation. There are both accredited and non-accredited fellowship programs.

¹ Volume data for service encounters, number of faculty and employees, and the list of provided services reflected in this document are current as of June 12, 2014 and are subject to change.
In keeping with the School’s mission of service, many research programs focus on issues of special significance to eastern North Carolina. Major multidisciplinary efforts are underway in diabetes, cancer, allergic disease, cardiovascular disease, obesity, transplant immunology and biotechnology.

Medical and other healthcare services are provided through ECU Physicians in 24 clinical sites in and around Greenville. Approximately 42,000 patients are seen monthly throughout the various ECU Physicians’ locations.²

III. AUTHORITY

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-219 authorize the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina (UNC) to purchase contracts of insurance or to create self-insurance trusts, or a combination of the two insurance models, to provide individual healthcare providers with coverage against claims of personal tort liability based on conduct within the course and scope of healthcare functions undertaken by such individuals as employees, agents, or officers of ECU as a constituent institution of UNC. In addition, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-40.6 provides for statutory purchasing flexibility for supplies, materials, equipment, and services which are necessary and appropriate to fulfill the clinical and educational mission of BSOM.

Approval of this Plan by the UNC Board of Governors is in accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-219 and ratifies and confirms delegation of the authority to the ECU Board of Trustees to purchase insurance or create a self-insurance trust or combination thereof for ECU.

In turn, approval of this Plan by the ECU Board of Trustees ratifies and confirms delegation of the authority it receives from the UNC Board of Governors to purchase professional liability insurance to the Chancellor and, through the Chancellor, to the Dean of BSOM.

Any claim or potential claim that alleges actions that would fall within the scope of insurance coverage obtained under the Program, if made against an individual participant in the Program, will be handled consistent with this Plan regardless of whether those alleged actions are also the basis of a claim brought pursuant to the North Carolina Tort Claims Act, N.C. Gen. Statute §143-291 et seq., except that settlement of the Tort Claims shall be governed by UNC policies regarding litigation, including limited delegations of authority to settle.

IV. CONFIDENTIALITY

In accordance with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 116-222, records pertaining to the Program, including all information, correspondence, investigations, or interviews concerning or pertaining to claims or potential claims against participants in the Program or to the Program or applications for participation in the Program, shall not be considered public records under N.C. Gen. Stat. § 132 and shall not be subject to discovery under the North Carolina Rules of Civil Procedure, N.C. Gen. Stat. § 1A. The Chancellor, Internal Auditor, University Counsel and their respective designees shall have access to any and all Program records.

² Care and services provided by ECU Physicians include: Bariatric Surgery, Cardiac Surgery, Cancer Services, Children’s Health, Dermatology, Diabetes Services, Digestive Disease Services, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Heart Disease Services, Infectious Disease, Internal Medicine, Nephrology, Neurology, Neurosurgery, Pathology Services, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Plastic Surgery, Psychiatry, Pulmonary Medicine, Radiation Oncology, Renal Transplant Surgery, Rheumatology, Sports Medicine, Surgical Oncology, Trauma Care Services and Women’s Health, to include high risk obstetrics.
V. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM AUTHORITY, STRUCTURE, LINKAGES, AND REPORTING

A. Administrative Responsibility

The Dean of BSOM has delegated the administrative responsibility for management of the Program to the Director, BSOM Office of Risk Management.

B. Structure

Dean of BSOM: Actively directs the BSOM Risk Management Program, including the Professional Liability Insurance Program. The Dean receives and considers recommendations made by the ECU Physicians Board of Directors regarding the Program such as, but not limited to, marketing and selection of brokerage services, increasing or decreasing coverage limits, marketing the various levels of insurance and/or approval of the proposed insurance policy for the coming year. In addition to the periodic reports presented to other structures within BSOM, the Dean receives individual reports of issues requiring immediate consideration and provides consultation to the Director, Office of Risk Management on the management of those issues. To the extent that the School has the right to approve or disapprove the settlement of claims covered by insurance purchased under the Program, the authority to grant such approval or disapproval rests with the Chancellor of East Carolina University and is delegated to the Dean of the School.

ECU Physicians Board of Directors (ECUP Board): Receives periodic, but no less than semi-annual, reports from the Director, BSOM Office of Risk Management, or designee, regarding the Professional Liability Insurance Program, to include trend analysis of identified risks, claims, and lawsuits. At least annually, the ECUP Board receives a report detailing the evaluation of brokerage services and an evaluation of insurance company(ies) performance and claims management services. Annually, the ECUP Board considers the proposal(s) for professional liability insurance for the next fiscal year and makes recommendations to the Dean of BSOM.

Finance Committee of the ECUP Board (ECUP Finance Committee): Receives periodic, but no less than semi-annual, reports from the Director, BSOM Office of Risk Management, or designee, regarding the Program, to include trend analysis of identified risks, claims and lawsuits. At least annually, the ECUP Finance Committee receives a report detailing the evaluation of brokerage services and an evaluation of insurance company(ies) performance and claims management services. ECUP Finance Committee recommends to the ECUP Board approval of proposed insurance quotes prior to expiration of current policy(ies).

Risk Management Committee: The Risk Management Committee provides oversight to the proactive, comprehensive Risk Management Program, including the Professional Liability Insurance Program, that identifies, reduces and/or controls potential risks and exposures to the organization. In connection with its responsibilities relating to the Program, the Committee is expected to periodically receive and analyze clinical and operational data, including whenever appropriate, specific case and event information, for the purposes of identifying trends, opportunities to improve care and services, educational needs and maximizing effectiveness and efficiency of the Program; and making policy-setting recommendations to the ECU Physicians Board and Dean of BSOM. The Committee also receives and considers other Program information, to include evaluations of brokerage services and insurance company(ies)/claims management services, and makes related recommendations to the ECUP Board and the Dean. The Risk Management Committee may appoint one or more subcommittees to assist in carrying out its duties.

Director, Risk Management: The Director provides overall leadership and oversight of the Program for BSOM. The Director is accountable to the Dean and the ECU Physicians Board for implementing and managing the day-to-day operations of Program. The responsibility includes, but is not necessarily limited to: the ongoing evaluation of the cost of risk to
BSOM/ECU Physicians; assessing current risk financing models to ensure that there is an acceptable balance of retaining and transferring the risk; collaborating with the broker of record to evaluate the adequacy of professional liability insurance; advising the Dean of BSOM, ECUP Board, and ECUP Finance Committee of the emerging trends of risk and risk financing models and recommending alternative models, as appropriate; periodically reporting incurred losses; evaluating brokerage services and reporting that evaluation to senior BSOM leadership; evaluating the services of the insurance company(ies) and reporting those evaluations to senior BSOM leadership; and managing the insurance application and/or renewal process.

C. Linkages to Other ECU Offices/Services

The BSOM Office of Risk Management is responsible for the administration of the Program. It coordinates with other ECU offices to answer questions related to other risks and/or exposures that are covered by other insurance programs.

**ECU Office of Risk Management and Insurance**

This Office is responsible for maintaining insurance coverage for University’s buildings, contents, and University-owned vehicles. The scope of the ECU Office of Risk Management and Insurance’s operations encompasses the entire University population, as well as University operations and real property across the State, including purchased, leased and rental properties.

This Office facilitates procurement of various insurance coverage for ECU entities, except for professional liability insurance for BSOM, generally through the North Carolina Department of Insurance and its agent of record, North Carolina Association of Insurance Agents.

**ECU Office of Environmental Health and Safety – Workers’ Compensation Coverage**

The Workers’ Compensation Program for East Carolina University is administered by the Office of Environmental Health and Safety in accordance with the provisions of the North Carolina Workers’ Compensation Act, the North Carolina Industrial Commission Rules and Regulations, and the North Carolina State Government Workers’ Compensation Manual. Workers’ Compensation benefits are available to any full-time, part-time, or temporary employee who suffers an accidental injury or contracts an occupational disease within the meaning of the Workers’ Compensation Act.

**ECU Office of University Counsel**

University Counsel for ECU monitors all civil litigation and tort claims in which ECU, its officers or employees are a party. Civil claims filed against BSOM employees or agents for medical negligence and claims filed against ECU under the North Carolina Tort Claims Act relating to BSOM delivery of healthcare and related services are monitored and/or coordinated by the BSOM Office of Risk Management in cooperation with the North Carolina Attorney General’s Office, with involvement of University Counsel as he or she determines necessary in the best interest of the institution. BSOM Office of Risk Management provides regular updates to University Counsel, no less than quarterly and more often upon request, regarding pending and threatened civil litigation and tort claims.

D. Linkages to Outside Services

*Brokerage Firm/Services:* BSOM places its professional liability insurance through a professional brokerage firm/service that has a specialty in professional liability. Professional liability brokerage services are not singularly limited to the periodic placement of professional liability insurance. There is a separate and distinct, yet complementary, relationship between the broker/brokerage firm and insurance companies. The relationship and communication between BSOM and the broker/brokerage firm is ongoing and more frequent throughout the
year than is necessarily with the insurance company(ies). The broker/brokerage service becomes intimately knowledgeable about ECU Physicians’ practices in eastern North Carolina, the ECU environment, the healthcare environment of eastern North Carolina, as well as the state and federal environment, and uses that knowledge to affect appropriate risk mitigation and reduction strategies, to include procuring insurance and re-insurance. The brokerage firm also provides additional services through a multidisciplinary team of healthcare experts who are knowledgeable of emerging healthcare issues that BSOM may need to address. The broker/brokerage firm advises and advocates from the time it is engaged by BSOM until the relationship is terminated. This includes advising on such topics as: the professional liability landscape; when/where to market coverage; alternatives to the current policy; criteria to evaluate coverage proposals; and, when to consider additional coverage. The broker/brokerage firm is the liaison between BSOM and its professional liability insurance company, and advocates for ECU Physicians if disputes arise throughout the policy year or at the time of the annual renewal.

Annually, or prior to the end of the coverage period, the broker/brokerage firm prepares and submits a formal proposal for the coming coverage period. The proposal will include, but not necessarily be limited to, an analysis of the level of current coverage, to include BSOM’s financial responsibility per claim (deductible), and/or whether alternative risk structure(s) such as self-insurance should be contemplated. The services of a person with expertise in the field of medical malpractice insurance from outside the Brody School of Medicine, other than the broker/brokerage firm currently retained to procure insurance, will be secured to review the analysis as needed, but no less than every three years.

Periodically, but no less than every five years, the broker/brokerage firm will conduct a formal feasibility study of the BSOM Insurance Program and make recommendations as to whether BSOM is poised to retain more financial risk by funding a self-insured retention program. The services of a person with expertise in the field of medical malpractice insurance from outside the Brody School of Medicine, other than the broker/brokerage firm currently retained to procure insurance, will be secured to review the analysis.

In the absence of any statutory requirement that BSOM/ECU Physicians solicit Requests for Proposals for brokerage services and/or professional liability insurance, this Program/Plan document establishes that BSOM/ECU Physicians will solicit Requests for Proposals for brokerage services no less often than every five years. Additionally, in the absence of extraordinary circumstances, BSOM/ECU Physicians will solicit Requests for Proposals for professional liability insurance no less often than every five years. In the event that BSOM/ECU Physicians determines that it would not be prudent to solicit Requests for Proposals for professional liability insurance due to extraordinary circumstances, then the Dean of BSOM shall make a report to the Chancellor and the ECU Board of Trustees regarding such determination.

Professional Liability Insurance Companies/Claims Management: Communication, collaboration, and consultation with professional liability insurance company(ies) are guided by the provisions of the insurance policy. Provided, however, the ECU Internal Auditor shall have access to any documents related to the Program directly from the professional liability insurance company(ies) as provided by N.C. General Statutes § 147-64.7.

Outside Consulting Firms/Individual Experts: As necessary, when and if determined appropriate by the Dean, the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance (VCAF), or the Chancellor, the services of one or more expert persons or firms may be retained to assist with, and/or participate in, the evaluation and selection of brokers/brokerage services, the annual evaluation of the Professional Liability Insurance Program, or to conduct an independent assessment of the Program.
E. Activity Reporting

Risk Management prepares and submits periodic reports regarding the Program to the Risk Management Committee, ECUP Board, the Chancellor, and East Carolina University Board of Trustees. As appropriate and applicable, reports may also be provided to the ECUP Finance Committee, Brody Council, Compliance Committee, Credentialing Committee, Safety Committee, ECU Physicians Administration, Pharmacy Services, University Counsel, and ECU Office of Internal Audits and Management Advisory Services.

VI. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE PROGRAM EVALUATION

BSOM Office of Risk Management will coordinate no less than annually the evaluation of the Professional Liability Insurance Program with guidance and input from BSOM senior leadership (Dean, Vice Dean, ECUP Executive Director, Chair of the ECUP Finance Committee or designee), Office of University Counsel, broker/brokerage services, current liability insurance company(ies), medical malpractice defense attorney(s), etc. Based on the findings of the annual evaluation, as well as any other such assessments as the Dean, VCAF, or Chancellor may approve, the BSOM Office of Risk Management will propose updates and revisions to the Program Plan. The Program evaluation and any recommendations will be presented to the Risk Management Committee, the ECUP Finance Committee, and to the ECUP Board for comment and a request for recommendation, and then presented to BSOM Dean for final approval.

VII. APPROVALS

____________________________________  ________________
UNC Board of Governors  Date

____________________________________  ________________
ECU Board of Trustees  Date

____________________________________  ________________
Chancellor, ECU  Date

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Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences, ECU  Date

[Signature]  8/28/14
Dean, Brody School of Medicine, ECU  Date

August 28, 2014
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Health Sciences Committee of the ECU Board of Trustees

September 18, 2014

CLOSED SESSION MOTION

I move that we go into Closed Session:

1. To consult with our attorney and to preserve the attorney-client privilege; and

2. To prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to law or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, specifically:

To prevent the disclosure of financial terms and/or other competitive health care information related to competitive health care activities by or on behalf of hospitals and public hospital authorities, as provided under NC General Statutes § 113E-97.3.
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Following is the Health Sciences Division Board of Trustees update from the College of Allied Health Sciences (CAHS) since the June 19, 2014 meeting.

Dr. Thomas Honored with Navy Employer Support Certificate of Appreciation

Dean Stephen Thomas, on behalf of East Carolina University, received a Navy Employer Support Certificate of Appreciation from Chief of Navy Reserve Vice Adm. Robin Braun during a ceremony at Joint Expeditionary Base (JEB) Little Creek in Norfolk, Va. on June 20.

The certificate is presented by the Chief of Navy Reserve annually to recognize selected civilian employers of Navy Reserve Sailors, as nominated by their own citizen-Sailor employees. Selected employers were nominated by their Navy Reserve Sailor employees. Dr. Thomas was nominated by CAHS Director of Development and proud Navy Reservist, Pat Frede.

Throughout the one-day event employers had the opportunity to get a close up and personal look at the Naval Expeditionary Combat Command, a fast-attack submarine at Submarine Force Atlantic, the USS Iwo Jima (LHD-7) at Naval Station Norfolk, a static display of aircraft from Naval Air Force Reserve, and witness a demonstration by Reserve SEAL Team 18.

The Navy Employer Recognition Event is an annual Navy familiarization day sponsored by the Chief of Navy Reserve to recognize employers who provide their Reserve Sailors with superior support, and provide them an opportunity to see first-hand what Reserve Sailors do every day. Selected employers are chosen from nominations submitted by their Reserve Sailor employees.

Military and Trauma Counseling Network Established

Dr. Mark Stebnicki, professor and coordinator of the new Military and Trauma Counseling (MTC) certificate program in the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies, has developed the Military and Trauma Counseling Network (MTCN) to provide an online resource for active duty service members, veterans, veterans with disabilities, and their family members. This online material also serves as a resource for military counseling professionals. Updates will be posted on a regular basis and will include a future blog.
Navigate Group Raises Awareness and Walks for NAMI

Faculty, students, and friends of the Department of Addictions and Rehabilitation Studies/Navigate Counseling Clinic formed the team 'DARS Navigators' and participated in the 2014 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) North Carolina Walk in May. The NAMI Walk NC is an annual fundraising event to raise awareness and fight the stigma associated with mental illness.

The DARS Navigators team raised $3565.00 in support of NAMI North Carolina, making them the 4th highest fundraising team out of 72 total teams. The team captain, Dr. Leigh Atherton, said, "We are so grateful for the overwhelming support of family, friends, and colleagues that allowed us to reach this fundraising goal and help make a difference in the lives of those we serve."

CAHS Strengthens Research Enterprise

The College of Allied Health Science is strengthening its focus on research through the development of a new Office of Research webpage and newsletter, as well as improving existing research lab websites. Under the direction of Dr. Heather Harris-Wright, the associate dean of research for the College, the research website underwent a face lift to allow for a more user-friendly look.

The new site will feature a monthly interview with a research faculty member from the College. Each faculty member will answer the same five questions regarding their research, their experience at East Carolina University, and their passion for teaching.

The site also provides links to useful resources for both faculty and students along with links to important research-related sites within the University.

Faculty, staff and students can stay up to date about happenings in the “research world” by not only visiting the Office of Research site, but also through the monthly research update e-newsletter. The newsletter will provide vital information about funding opportunities, upcoming deadlines, resources and highlights from CAHS research developments.

Dr. Anne Dickerson Selected as 2014 Fellow by GSA

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) — the nation’s largest interdisciplinary organization devoted to the field of aging — has named 61 exemplary professionals as its newest fellows. Dr. Anne Dickerson, professor in the Department of Occupational Therapy has been chosen as one of those fellows in the Behavioral and Social Sciences section. The status of fellow — the highest class of membership within the Society — is an acknowledgment of outstanding and continuing work in gerontology. This recognition can come at varying points in an individual’s career and can acknowledge a broad scope of activity. This includes research, teaching, administration, public service, practice, and notable participation within the organization. Fellows are chosen from each of GSA’s four membership sections.
The new fellows will be formally recognized during GSA’s 67th Annual Scientific Meeting, which will be held from November 5 to 9 in Washington, DC.

'LIGHT BULB' MOMENTS: Summer camp helps children improve communication, social skills

Children with communication delays related to autism and other disorders are learning about making friends while improving their verbal skills at East Carolina University's Pirate Speech Camp.

Allyson Turnage, a clinical instructor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in the College of Allied Health Sciences, directs the summer camp. She brings in special guests such as Anna Pridgen, who goes by the name “The Puppet Lady” and teaches life skills to children using puppets, stories and songs.

The enrichment camp expands on what the students learned during the school year by providing a variety of activities which promote communication, social interactions and language development.

The eight campers, whose ages range from four to seven, meet three times a week in space provided by Covenant Church in Greenville. The five-week camp started June 23 and ends July 28.

This is the sixth summer that ECU has offered the camp. Though there were a couple of years that the camp was not held, Turnage said the camp will now be offered every summer.

ECU OT Student Chosen for Megan Cornog Memorial Highway Safety Scholarship

ECU occupational therapy student Lauren Cochran has been named the winner of the 2014 Megan Cornog Memorial Highway Safety Scholarship by the University of North Carolina Highway Safety Research Center (HSRC). Cochran works under the guidance of Dr. Anne Dickerson on studies to evaluate and improve the mobility of the older adult community. Her thesis will center on wayfinding, ways in which people orient themselves in physical space and navigate from place to place. Cochran's study focuses specifically on driving performance of adults while wayfinding using electronic navigation systems versus printed directions.

This work will serve as a pilot study and baseline data for future research by Dunlap and Associates, Inc. and Dr. Dickerson, sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, investigating the wayfinding performance of older adults who are either familiar or unfamiliar with electronic navigation systems.

The scholarship is named in memory of a former HSRC staff member, Megan Cornog, who died Nov. 7, 2010, at her home in Carrboro, N.C., after a courageous battle with cancer. After earning her master's degree from UNC-Chapel Hill in May 2009, Megan began her career working as a project coordinator for HSRC, focusing on pedestrian and bicycle issues.

CAHS offers new Registered Health Information Administrator certificate

The Department of Health Services and Information Management at the College of Allied Health Sciences has created a new opportunity for students with its Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) graduate certificate program.

The RHIA graduate certificate program will provide students that already have a bachelor's degree with the knowledge and skills needed in order to serve as a critical link between health care providers,
payers, and patients. The curriculum is designed to help students develop characteristics associated with an effective leader in health information management: critical thinking skills, problem solving abilities, communication and interpersonal skills, and ethical values.

The objective of this certificate program is to expand upon the students’ current knowledge and skills in order to qualify them to register for the national Registered Health Information Administrators (RHIA) credential examination offered by the American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA).

ELECTIVE EXPERIENCE: PA students learn in immersive, international setting

Two students in East Carolina University’s physician assistant studies program traveled to Belize this summer to volunteer and immerse themselves in a medical atmosphere quite different from eastern North Carolina.

Amy Petticrew and Cara Bailey, both seniors in the PA program who will graduate in December, spent a month working in Punta Gorda – a small rural town located in the Toledo district of Belize. The two worked mostly at Hillside Health Clinic there, treating East Indian and Mayan Belizean patients from newborns to senior citizens, with on-site doctors approving their assessments and plans.

PA students are required to complete two elective practicums during the clinical year that may consist of two stateside electives, one stateside and one international elective, or two international electives. International clinics screen applicants and accept a predetermined number of students per rotation.

Dr. Beth Velde Invited to Join Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship

The Academy of Community Engagement Scholarship (ACES) board of directors has invited Dr. Beth Velde, Director of Strategic Planning & the Mills Symposium for the College of Allied Health Sciences, to become an inaugural member of the Academy. Dr. Velde was nominated and selected by peers because of her practice and model of excellence in collaboration with communities and the university while addressing critical issues of mutual benefit.

The mission of the Academy of Engaged Scholarship (ACES) is to assist in improving the physical, social, civic and economic wellbeing of communities by advancing scholarship based on collaborative discovery by communities and their higher education partners. To do so, ACES selects as members persons in communities and higher education institutions who have been recognized by their peers as exceptional in their accomplishments in engagement. Members then draw on that expertise to further the application of engagement for addressing the challenges and opportunities of community and higher education partners.
The College is applying for re-accreditation of its BSN, MSN, and post-master’s certificates, and accreditation of the doctor of nursing practice (DNP) program to the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. A self-study will be submitted by September 24, and an on-site evaluation is scheduled for Nov. 5-7, 2014.

In addition to the self-study, faculty and staff have undertaken a variety of activities in preparation for the college’s accreditation. Examples include: Our IT team and communications department are collaborating with ECU Creative Services and ITCS to redesign and reorganize the college’s website to make it more user friendly. Estimated launch date for the new site is September 14.

Dr. Patricia Crane was named associate dean for research and creative activities, effective July 1. She also serves as the Richard R. Eakin Distinguished Professor of Nursing. More about Dr. Crane at: http://bit.ly/1r35xFx.

The College of Nursing (CON) had 494 graduates from our programs during the past academic year (BSN-216; RN/BSN-95; MSN-165; Post-MSN Certificates-14; and PhD-4).

Thirteen nursing majors and one women studies major, with two nursing faculty, spent 3 weeks learning Spanish and providing community health service with the CON Study Abroad Program in Guatemala. A major focus in 2014 was enhancing our initial partnership with La Union Centro Linguistico, with another international non-profit organization that supplies water filter systems for home use. The CON faculty and students raised over $2500 to purchase, instruct and distribute these water filter systems in a remote Mayan village to over 70 families. In addition, a community-university partnership with Wells Elementary School in Wilson collected over 2,000 supplies for hand-washing and dental care for Mayan children in four public schools, serving over 200 children.

We began our accelerated second-degree BSN option during second summer session with 19 students in our first cohort. This option is designed for students who have earned a baccalaureate or higher degree in another subject area other than nursing and are interested in pursuing a BSN degree with eligibility to obtain licensure as a registered nurse at the end of the 12-month program of study.

The college is launching an online BSN to doctor of nursing practice (BSN to DNP) option this fall. This program is for students who earned a BSN but want to pursue a DNP, which is a practice-focused terminal degree earned by specialists in advanced nursing practice. There are 68 new students enrolled in the BSN to DNP and post-master’s DNP options.

Our third cohort of Regionally Increasing Baccalaureate Students (RIBN) began with students from Lenoir, Pitt, Beaufort and Craven community colleges. RIBN provides a four-year nursing option that concurrently enrolls students in a community college –
where students obtain their associate degree in nursing – and later, ECU – where they complete their bachelor's degree in nursing.

- This fall the Beta Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing will celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. An energetic organization with more than 500 active members, Beta Nu is one of only two chapters worldwide to have earned 11 Sigma Theta Tau Chapter Key Awards. The awards recognize chapters that successfully recruit and retain members, generate publicity and programming, provide leadership development, and foster international collaboration.

- The CON inducted 132 members into its Golden Lamp Society, which honors contributors who gave $100 or more two years in a row.

- The college plans to honor donors and scholarship recipients at its annual scholarship dinner on September 5. This event represents an excellent opportunity for donors and the more than 100 students who received scholarships to connect.

- The CON will be hosting our annual homecoming reception on October 3, 2014. We will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first graduates of our BSN program and the 40th anniversary of Beta Nu Chapter of Sigma Theta Tau.
Milestones in 2014-2015
The School of Dental Medicine anticipates more “firsts” this academic year.
- This is the first year that the student body includes all four predoctoral classes.
- Three more Community Service Learning Centers (CSLCs) will open this fall to serve rural and underserved North Carolinians across the state.
- This is the first full year that fourth-year students will serve patients at CSLCs.
- In spring 2015, the school will undergo its third and final site visit by the Commission on Dental Accreditation (CODA).
- Also in spring 2015, the school will graduate its first class of Doctors of Dental Medicine, and ECU will award its first DMD degrees.

Class of 2018
The entering Class of 2018 includes 26 males and 26 females—all North Carolina residents—representing 25 counties. The new class participated in Orientation Week beginning August 18. Activities included a pirate treasure hunt, service learning activities across Greenville, and a ropes course. The class holds undergraduate degrees from sixteen different universities.

Patient Care Fund Established
Mr. Eddie Smith, Jr., CEO of Grady-White Boats in Greenville, has made an endowed gift to the school in memory of his father. The Edward C. Smith, Sr. Patient Care Fund is intended for the Community Service Learning Center-Davidson County and will help “bridge the gap” between the cost of dental procedures and what the patients can pay out-of-pocket. The CSLC-Davidson County is scheduled to open this fall.

Community Service Learning Centers
The CSLC-Ahoskie was the first to open in June 2012. Since that time, CSLCs in Ahoskie, Elizabeth City, Lillington, and Sylva have served 5,370 unique patients from 59 NC counties. Centers in Spruce Pine, Davidson County, and Robeson County will open this fall.
ECU School of Dental Medicine Community Service Learning Centers scheduled to open in the fall of 2014

CSLC-Spruce Pine

CSLC-Davidson County

CSLC-Robeson County
Systematic Review Service—Beginning Fall 2014, Laupus intends to offer this service primarily to upper level graduate students & faculty users. A Systematic Review is the highest level of review of the best medical evidence. The library staff will support faculty and upper level graduate students who intend to perform systematic reviews to be published.

Nursing: Finding the Best Evidence—Experience at Carteret Gen. Hospital (CGH) showcases how our staff can do this training and offer it to the region. Had 5 attendees on May 1 and 8 attendees on Aug. 19. Jeff Coghill, Gina Firnhaber (Nurse & Research Associate) & Kerry Browder (Nursing Liaison) made presentations. With this success, Laupus will expand this service in the region and to hospitals. Laupus intends to request that EAHEC rate this course to grant contact hours credit for nurses who take the course. This will be the first Laupus Library class given for Eastern AHEC contact hours. Laupus has also been asked to teach database searching at Onslow Memorial Hospital in Jacksonville on Sept. 17 to medical staff there.

“Healthier U” classes (consumer health class)—Since Spring 2013, Laupus has offered a 1 hr. class for the general public on searching for the best websites to use to find up-to-date health care information. Since last summer, we have offered the sessions at Sheppard Memorial Library (Greenville), Aurora Public Library (Aurora), Martin County Memorial (Williamston) and Albemarle Hospital, Elizabeth City. This class has been offered in public libraries and hospitals in the region. This is Laupus’s first attempt at consumer health information sessions for the general public.

Health Dept. Project and the AHEC Digital Library—in coordination with Public Health Dept. @ ECU currently have 90 users enrolled to assess public health department staff resource needs. The concept is to train all health department users about our resources and how to use the AHEC Digital Library in a 1 hr. session. We are offering this trial to 19 counties from Jackson County to New Hanover County.

Public Health Multi-disciplinary Research Group—this group began meeting in May to discuss potentially putting projects together with a multi-disciplinary approach. Laupus had representatives from Public Health, Communications, Informatics (Allied Health), Allied Health and the Library discuss ways to collaborate on research projects. They were very interested in our kiosk project from 2012. We
discussed ways to make this project bigger and to include other places where kiosks could be sent to so that we can provide more outreach and consumer health information throughout the region. Talked about placing kiosks in the following locations: FQHCs, Pharmacies, public libraries, public health departments, churches, malls, hospitals and restaurants. Librarian Jeff Coghill is the research contact and intends to put together info from literature review in the upcoming weeks. This group intends to combine public health practice and research to improve a community.