

Minutes
Meeting of Tuesday, June 20, 2017
LGC Advisory Board in Healthcare Management and Community Wellness

The Lowcountry Graduate Center held the scheduled meeting of its Advisory Board in Healthcare Management and Community Wellness on its campus on June 20, 2017, opening the meeting shortly after 4:30 p.m. In attendance in person or by teleconference were: Guest speaker Jim Zoller, Rachel Levkowitz, Paul Wieters, Andrea Clements, Emily Cedzo, Sharon Goss, Chris Duncan, and Nancy Muller. Cedzo replaces Katie Zimmerman who has left the Coastal Conservation League (CCL) and joined Charleston Moves! but is remaining on the board in her new capacity promoting alternative ground transportation locally.

Following brief self-introductions and after welcoming Sharon Goss as the board's newest advisory council member representing the Berkeley-Charleston-Dorchester Council of Governments, a federally funded workforce development initiative, Muller turned the meeting over to Jim Zoller, Professor and Interim Dean at the College of Health Professions (CHP) at the Medical University of South Carolina.

In his self-introduction, Zoller explained that he is serving as interim dean for a year until he retires next year. The role is interim because the former dean, Lisa Saladin, was promoted to the position of provost at MUSC. (Saladin began serving on the LGC's board of directors last summer upon the retirement of Mark Sothmann. She remains on the LGC's Supervisory Council which has replaced the LGC's board of directors.) A PhD in statistics, Zoller teaches in the College, which celebrated its 50th birthday in 2016, in addition to his responsibilities as interim dean.

By way of background, MUSC is comprised of three separate entities: 1) the hospital authority, 2) the academic institution of which the CHP is a part, and 3) the physician practice plan. Over 3,000 students are enrolled at MUSC. While the youngest college in the academic institution, it is the largest based on enrollments of 780-800/year. Building A is the main building housing classroom and is the renovated former High School of Charleston. Building B is a newer building next door for faculty offices. Building C by the Department of Psychiatry is CHP's research center.

Its newest program, beginning with five students in the Fall 2016, is the Bachelor's degree in Healthcare Studies, a degree completion program for students entering with an associate of science degree from a technical college. Its classes follow a hybrid format, each meeting one long weekend in a semester. Admitted for Fall 2017 are 15 students and the goal at maturity is 30 in a cohort. There are two full-time faculty members. It is now accepting applicants with an associate's degree in applied sciences who still have to obtain some general education credits to complete the 4-year degree. There are two concentrations: 1) health promotion; and 2) pre-health professions for those wishing to continue into nursing, medicine, pharmacy, or one of the allied health fields. It is one of only two bachelor programs on the MUSC campus. It is a program especially designed to enable individuals to finish a 4-year degree at minimal costs, as

the tuition at a technical college is a fraction of the tuition charged by a public state college or university in SC. The hybrid format also provides greater flexibility for students to work at least part-time while continuing in school. The program, when first conceived, was also one envisioned to help attract more minority students especially those willing to work eventually as a healthcare professional in more rural, underserved areas of SC.

The master's degree in health administration (MHA) was originally focused on hospital administration but has since broadened to provide graduate education for administrators in outpatient clinics, long term care, and other non-acute care settings. It has two tracks: 1) a traditional F2F instructional track, or "residential" program whose only pre-requisites are macroeconomics and statistics; and 2) an asynchronous, distance "executive" education track in which all classes are online, except for one long weekend each semester. Recently, the CHP partnered with Clemson in which its undergraduates can in their third year enroll and in five semesters complete a MHA from MUSC and their BS/BA from Clemson. This saves half a year of tuition costs and accelerates entry into the job market.

The master's degree in health informatics is enjoying its third cohort, having just graduated in May its first cohort of 25 students. Zoller explained that virtually of the CHP's programs are cohort-based.

The CHP receives 600-800 applications each year for its 60 places for its Physician's Assistant program, whose initial focus was primary care but has since expanded to areas such as emergency medicine. A concentration in surgery, accomplished through clinical rotations, is being added by MUSC. Competition in higher education is growing because of the popularity of the degree. South Carolina now has five PA programs statewide, including Charleston Southern University.

MUSC just received approval to transition its master's degree program in occupational therapy to a doctorate program, a national trend in nursing and other clinical areas. In answer to a question, Zoller explained that the doctorate level degree is a change in accreditation, not licensure which dictates scope of practice, remaining unchanged. This is a three-year program, if one enters with a bachelor's degree. An alternative, post-professional doctorate degree is being established for those primarily interested in clinical research in the field, with the addition of one extra year of study, or a total of four. Separately, the CHP offers a PhD in Health & Rehabilitation Science, which is research-intense with a dissertation.

Similarly, the nurse anesthesia practice degree used to be a master's degree program but has also been transitioned to a doctoral degree. Over 60% of all anesthesia performed in surgery is administered by a nurse anesthetist rather than a full MD, although in SC a physician has to still be present or in proximity to the patient.

Lastly, the CHP has a 3-year DHA program for senior administrators. Much of the instruction is provided by full-time faculty on campus, although some courses continue to be taught by remote adjuncts, such as health informatics.

A brief discussion followed of how to best acquaint young people with the various professions in healthcare and the required education and training required for each. The 40+ career academies promoted by the Charleston Metro Chamber, including those in the health sciences, were mentioned. Wieters shared plans for two area public high schools that are adding a new “tier” of study for career enrichment and preparation, especially in STEM. One is West Ashley High School.

Muller thanked Zoller for his presentation, commenting that advisory board member John Vena, head of public health at MUSC, will be presenting at the next board meeting on its growth and recently awarded nationwide, clinical research on the effects of urban environments on community health. The next meeting is November 7th at the LGC. Emily Cedzo, Program Director for Land, Water & Wildlife at the CCL, will be presenting at the following meeting, likely in February or March 2018.

With no further discussion or announcements, the meeting adjourned shortly after 5:30 p.m.

NJM

June 21, 2017