

Dean's Statement
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Introduction

I feel extremely grateful for the privilege of being Dean of the College of Osteopathic Medicine for the past six years. I believe that the function of the dean is to work closely with faculty in providing direction for the college and removing obstacles impeding faculty and student success. The achievements of the college that I will outline have occurred because of the extraordinary efforts of our faculty, staff and students.

The past year has been a time of significant change and achievement for OU-COM. The rate of change will undoubtedly continue to accelerate in response to a changing educational environment. The unique quality of our institution was documented this year by the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA), who after a detailed three-day accreditation visit delivered a report with no requirements or recommendations. Four commendations for excellence were given. Such a report is extremely unusual, and is a tribute to the College's faculty, staff and students. In addition, the COCA subsequently provided authority for a significant future class size increase.

As the quality of our students and our curriculum has grown, so too has the external reputation of our college. This rapid rise in OU-COM's academic standing has created both opportunities and challenges. A growing number of health care organizations wish to become part of our CORE system. This has already created many new opportunities for our students, and other new affiliations are in process. These new affiliations, however, require creative ways of dealing with a flat budget and an increasing administrative load.

Our students are now sought by virtually every post-graduate program in the United States. While this is a tribute to the college, it has created challenges in keeping graduates within our CORE Hospital System, in Primary Care, and in Ohio. We will need to ensure that our post-graduate programs are of the highest quality if we are to attract our graduates who have unprecedented access to both osteopathic and allopathic residencies.

OU-COM Accomplishments in 2007-2008

Academic Achievements

This year OU-COM students ranked second nationally in pass rate for Part 1 of COMLEX, and third nationally in mean score on COMLEX Part 2 (CE). In addition, we continue to be among the most successful schools in the nation in pass rate of the COMLEX PE.

Under the leadership of the Curriculum Advisory Committee and Curriculum Directors Drs. Nancy Stevens and Richard Klabunde, our curricula continue to evolve and excel. PCC cases began being presented digitally this year. Significant curricular changes were instituted that will allow restructuring of the Summer Quarter Phase 3 and earlier transition to clinical rotations. Patient safety modules were added to the curriculum.

This year we started a new program in professionalism in conjunction with the Ohio State Medical Board. This is the first program of its kind and is being viewed by the Medical Board as a template for other medical schools in the State.

Admissions:

Despite an increasingly competitive admissions environment, OU-COM had a 15.9% increase in applications. This results in a 36% increase in applications over the past five years. Not surprisingly, the quality of students matriculating at OU-COM continues to increase. The average science GPA of the 2007 entering class was 3.51 and non-science GPA was 3.66. Both the total GPA and the science GPA were the highest in OU-COM's history. This is despite a dramatic increase in class-sizes at other osteopathic schools and an equally dramatic increase in the number of osteopathic medical schools.

Research and Grants

This has been a very successful year in the development of OU-COM's research program and the year was punctuated by the groundbreaking for the new Academic and Research Center (ARC) and an accreditation commendation from the AOA COCA for research support. The new building is projected to be operational in 2009.

Other highlights of research and grant activity for 2007 include:

- 2006-2007 grant revenue totaled \$3,202,345
- 41 active external research grants totaling \$6,729,393, with 2006-2007 funding of \$1,831,054
- 50 new research grant proposals submitted during 2006-2007 totaling \$20,706,977
- 38 active external program grants totaling \$5,979,178, with 2006-2007 funding of \$1,238,569
- 41 new program grant proposals submitted during 2006-2007 totaling \$7,249,400

This year we hired several new faculty members who are primarily research oriented and have tremendous potential for obtaining NIH and other large grants.

Diversity

The percentage of minority students in the 2007 entering class was 23%. We are working with the Ohio University President to initiate programs with historically black colleges and universities that will increase the pipeline of minority students to the college. While the percentage of entering minority students was slightly lower this year, the college maintains its position as the most diverse student body at Ohio University.

Alumni

Thanks to the hard work of Sharon Zimmerman and Jill Harman in our Alumni Office, the Association of Alumni and Friends has been energized and activated to a new level. They have been heavily involved in fund-raising, and have assumed an advisory role to the administration. Alumni were significant supporters of the new Academic and Research Building.

Development

Thanks in large part to the efforts of Development Director Sharon Zimmerman, this year we set many OU-COM records for fundraising. Working with Ms. Zimmerman, I have been very active in these fundraising efforts, including many special events meetings with alumni and friends, interactions with foundations and granting agencies, travel, and personal appeals. Our alumni and friends have provided substantial funding towards the new Academic and Research Center and other initiatives.

Awards and Honors

This year OU-COM personnel received awards from the Ohio Department of Health for Rural Administrator of the Year and Rural Program of the Year. OU-COM faculty members were honored in San Diego for writing the AOA Scientific Article of the Year. Our students ranked in the top five osteopathic colleges on both Parts 1 and 2 of the National Boards.

Seven Year Accreditation

This year OU-COM went through its seven-year accreditation visit by the AOA Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation. As noted previously, we had a flawless evaluation with no requirements and no recommendations. Four commendations were given that included Research Support, Student Services (2), and College Administration (particularly the OU-COM Executive Committee). Having served on the AOA COCA, I am not aware of any other osteopathic college receiving such a positive evaluation. This is a tribute not only to the faculty, staff and students of the college, but to Dr. Doug Mann and other dedicated personnel who carried out our “mock” accreditation last year (Dr. Keith Watson, Deborah Blackwell and Patricia Burnett) and prepared the tremendous number of documents for the accreditation visit.

In addition, following my testimony to COCA with Associate Dean Peter Dane, OU-COM was granted authority to increase our entering class size up to 140 students (from 100). While it will be a number of years until we reach that size (assuming increases in faculty and facilities), this new authorization provides new latitude to our admissions office that will continue to increase the quality of our classes.

Ohio Council of Medical School Deans

This year I completed my third and final year as Chair of the Ohio Council of Medical School Deans. I was honored to be the first medical school dean to hold the position for that long. As a result, we enjoy close working relationships with the legislature, other Ohio medical schools, and the Board of Regents.

In a number of presentations to the Legislature and the Board of Regents, I made the case for increasing medical school funding and including medical schools in State STEM incentive programs. I am told that this had a significant effect on the subsequent inclusion of medical schools in STEM initiatives. Also, for the first time in my tenure as dean, State funding was increased this biennium to the medical schools. There were many times during budget deliberations that this appeared unlikely, and I believe that the collective efforts of the Ohio medical school deans had a significant impact on the outcome.

OU-COM received a large amount of positive feedback this year from the legislature and Board of Regents for the 62% of our graduates who practice in Ohio. This is substantially larger than any other medical school in the State, and has been repeatedly noted by the legislature, Governor, and Chancellor of the Board of Regents.

University

I have been actively working with the President, Provost, V.P.s and Deans to establish a five-year financial plan for the University. Similarly, we have developed a five-year financial plan in the medical school that will guide OU-COM's monetary decisions in the future. In addition, I have represented the College and University Medical Associates in discussions with senior administration regarding a future plan for Student Health Services.

Facility Upgrades

This year marked the opening of the new PCC classroom addition to Irvine Hall. Each room is equipped with state-of-the-art technology to support the PCC learning process. This equipment has supported the conversion of cases to digital format. Similarly, the CPC small-group area on the fourth floor of Grosvenor was completed this year and is in use with similar technology.

The main lecture hall was wired with microphones available to every student allowing distance lecturing by experts at distant places and more effective recording of presentations. New sound systems and other technological improvements were also installed. New seating provides a better learning environment.

A totally new video system is currently being installed in our simulated patient laboratory.

CORE Growth

Thanks in large measure to the leadership at our CORE hospitals and the efforts of our Associate and Assistant Deans, the CORE continues to grow in both size and quality. The CORE currently has 88 GME programs and 537 filled positions.

This was a sentinel year for the CORE. OU-COM successfully proposed a change in the CORE bylaws stipulating that new CORE members would be admitted on the basis of academic excellence rather than political considerations. The proposal won the

unanimous support of CORE members, some of whom had been previously opposed to such a change.

This change in bylaws allowed a new participating member, Mount Carmel Medical Center, to join the CORE. Students in our second year class had this new site available in the CHAP selection process. With a strengthened relationship with OhioHealth and our new collaboration with Mount Carmel, we have an extremely strong training site in Columbus.

In addition, Fairview Hospital in Cleveland (a member of the Cleveland Clinic System) and New Albany Surgical Hospital in Columbus (owned by Mount Carmel) joined the CORE as Associate Members. Fairfield Medical Center, which joined the CORE last year, became a vibrant and growing clinical training site. Negotiations with potential new partners wishing to join the CORE continue.

Negotiations began this year with the A.T. Still-Mesa medical school. Our colleges are collaborating to establish a Cincinnati clinical training site within the CORE system. We have established an excellent relationship with HealthSource in Cincinnati who is assisting in this effort.

State and National Conferences

Under the leadership of CIO Brian Phillips, this year the College sponsored a major conference on Health Technology called RHIOhio. This event brought statewide attention to the College and University.

We also had a very successful Alumni CME conference, implemented by Jill Harman and Sharon Zimmerman. This conference not only provided outstanding CME, but allowed significant interaction with alumni and promoted fund-raising opportunities for the new Academic and Research Center.

Financial State of the College

Once again the College will finish this year with a positive variance. The 2% increase in State funding this year, although very modest, represents the first increased funding we have enjoyed since I became dean in 2001. Next year's projected 10% increase should allow us to limit the increases in tuition that have become a critical issue for our students.

The School as Lender program is successfully generating funding for needs-based scholarships. We are watching national legislation regarding this program closely.

The College has a number of large financial needs facing it in the future. This includes possibly financing a new clinic and diagnostic center, the possibility of having to pay clinical preceptors, and supporting our growing research enterprise. We are very mindful of these needs and are earmarking funds in a five-year financial plan.

University Medical Associates

University Medical Associates and our insurance captive, UMA SPC LTD, continue to do extremely well. Along with UMA leaders and Student Services leadership, I am actively involved in creating an increased involvement in student health at Ohio University. We are also actively seeking a new practice facility. The first quarter of 2008 should let us know if this will become a reality. With the opening this year of new facilities by our competition, a new facility is absolutely essential.

Communications

This year our Women's Climate Study Committee completed its report. The study was extremely well done, and many new ideas are emerging from this effort. Committees will be established in 2008 to further define solutions drawn from this study.

Personal Faculty Responsibilities

This year I was honored to be the Keynote Speaker at the Northeast Regional Meeting of the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine. At that conference I presented a new model for research structure in medical schools that has been brought to faculty at several Ohio medical schools for consideration.

I continue to play an active faculty role in the OU-COM curriculum, including EKG lectures and problem sets, lectures in hypertension, facilitation, and regular participation in the Free Clinic.

2007-2008 Initiatives:

A major project this year will be an effort to establish a new clinical facility and arrange funding to equip the new research facility. There are many financial and political hurdles to overcome, but the efficiencies gained by having UMA and Student Health working closely together in a new facility would be a tremendous step forward for both the University and the medical school.

We will be working hard with ATSU-Mesa, University of Cincinnati and HealthSource to establish a training presence in Cincinnati. The rapidly rising reputation of OU-COM has resulted in new hospitals and systems wishing to affiliate with the College. We will need to plan carefully as the size and cost of the CORE system grows.

This year we will begin requiring tablet computers of our incoming students. I have asked the CAC to evaluate and possibly initiate computerized testing gradually over the next two to three years.

This year we will establish an Office of Assessment to accurately track our educational efforts and provide accurate data to our faculty to guide changes in our curriculum.

Our five-year funding plan will guide our financial decisions. This plan is separate from that of the University. As the University seeks to reallocate funding to support their

initiatives, it will be critical to maintain our budget separately in order to support the costly and important initiatives that are in front of us. Our major initiatives, including funding new CORE sites, funding clinical training, supporting a new clinical facility, equipping the new research facility, supporting our educational and research efforts, growing our faculty, and keeping a manageable level of tuition will require strict budgetary discipline on our part.

We must establish new programs and pipelines to maintain and improve our excellent record in diversity. I look forward to working with the President to create relationships and collaborative programs with historically black colleges and universities.

Development priorities can now move slowly away from the Academic and Research Center and towards the establishment of a College endowment. This will be critical in the College's future.

I will work with our alumni office to continue increasing alumni participation in our College. We have an increasingly engaged Alumni Association, and it is incumbent upon our college to involve them as much as they desire. Their support will be critical to the College's future growth and prosperity.

Despite the extraordinary success of our curriculum, we need to continually assess and improve our educational program. I will work with the Curriculum Advisory Committee to provide the support and resources to do so. Similarly, I will work closely with the Research and Scholarly Affairs Committee to continue their outstanding efforts in improving the research environment at our college.

Continuing to improve relationships with community and University partners in research and commercialization will be a priority this year.

We will continue our efforts to keep OU-COM on the cutting edge of education and technology.

My sincere thanks go to the COM faculty and the Ohio University administration for allowing me the privilege of serving the College as dean. I am extremely proud of the faculty and staff of our college. I am also profoundly grateful for their support and for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of our students. The growing quality and reputation of our student body is a testament to their success.