

BOARD OF MEDICAL STUDENT LOANS
Minutes of the meeting of May 4, 2012

The Board of Medical Student Loans held an open public meeting on May 4, 2012 by videoconference at four locations: Midwestern University, 19555 N. 95th Avenue, Office of Media Services, Glendale, AZ 85308; The University of Arizona College of Medicine, 1501 N. Campbell Avenue, Room 2141, Tucson, AZ 85724; the Phoenix Campus of The University of Arizona College of Medicine, 550 E. Van Buren Street, Room 1353, Phoenix, AZ 85004, and A. T. Still University, 5850 E. Still Circle, Mustang Conference Room, Mesa, Arizona, 85206.

Board members in video conference attendance: Chairperson Carol Q. Galper, Ed.D. in Tucson, AZ; Shirley Rheinfelder, M.D. in Glendale, AZ; Patricia Tarango in Phoenix, AZ; and Thomas McWilliams, D.O. in Mesa, AZ. Financial aid administrators from Midwestern University, A.T. Still University and The University of Arizona College of Medicine were also present.

Unable to attend were members Ross Kosinski, Ph.D. and Paul Steingard, D.O. The Board currently has two vacant seats yet to be appointed by the Chairperson of the Arizona Medical Board.

The minutes of the meeting of November 4, 2011 have been distributed to the Board for review.

Chairperson Galper called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

Participant request by **Valerie Miranda, M.D.** started the meeting as she was present to address the Board concerning approval of her part-time employment with Mobile Doctors in the Phoenix area. She began by summarizing her letter of request to the Board highlighting her duties with Mobile Doctors, serving patients in-home mostly over the age of 65 with Medicare B throughout the Valley from San Tan to Buckeye to Waddell three days each week plus "call". Mobile Doctors is a growing service which includes 750 patients. Dr. Miranda states that her patients are poor, disabled, immobile and otherwise not able to reach medical care on their own. She states that she believes that her job is indeed serving patients in extreme need. Dr. McWilliams began the Board's discussion pointing out that working part-time for Mobile Doctors is an elective decision by Dr. Miranda, and that the Board does not have the ability to waive her requirement to repay obligated service.

Patricia Tarango poses the question, how does one determine that 100% of Dr. Miranda's time is spent in a HPSA, MUA or MUP? Dr. McWilliams agrees, stating designation is specific and that a facility across the street from a HPSA zone/region is not eligible.

Eligible employment is difficult because Dr. Miranda ended her residency 14 weeks early and is not board-eligible or board-certified. Dr. McWilliams asks Dr. Miranda if she intends to complete residency. Because she did not complete two consecutive years at a single facility, picking up where she left off would be difficult. In order to resume residency, she would need to find a program that would be willing to waive the special circumstances of her multiple residency locations and allow an exchange of credits. She most likely will be required to do a full-year of residency to become board-eligible. This would be difficult, Dr. Miranda explains, as she is recovering from and still has complications from head trauma such as anxiety and sensory overload. She has looked into other employment opportunities possible for her but mostly finds positions requiring board eligible/certified or positions of locum tenens. Dr. McWilliams would like to see Dr. Miranda search further for employment in a certifiable eligible service site. Dr. Miranda concluded her request and exited the meeting.

Dr. McWilliams made a motion to require Dr. Miranda to put in a "good faith" effort to secure eligible employment or to finish residency. Board members in attendance unanimously agreed. Dr. McWilliams then made a motion for continuance of the item to give time for Dr. Miranda to search for eligible

employment, however noting that “time is of the essence”. Dr. Galper seconded the motion. Dr. Rheinfelder was in favor.

The meeting resumed with Chairperson Galper’s guidance from the beginning of the agenda.

Approval of the meeting minutes from November 4, 2011 motioned by Dr. McWilliams. Dr. Galper seconded. Dr. Rheinfelder in favor.

Board member appointments were reviewed. Notable was that there are two vacancies to be filled by the Chairperson of the Arizona Medical Board.

Chairperson Galper briefly discussed the **Sunset Review** of the Arizona Medical Student Loan Program, confirming that its “sunset” has begun. It was signed by the Governor on April 6, 2011. The Board is continued until July 1, 2017 and will be repealed on January 1, 2018.

The following participants were **referred to the Attorney General’s Office (AGO)** for collections: Juan Hernandez, Claudia Chavez, Dr. Scott Salmon and Dr. Rey Palop. Dr. David Damstra was referred in 2001. He was recently located by the AGO in Navy service in Guam. The Board upholds its decision to pursue collection through the AGO.

Participant updates were reviewed. Only discussion regarding **Janet Vargas, M.D.** took place. The Board will contact Dr. Vargas requesting another eligible site for service in addition to her part-time work at the previously-approved ETANO Counseling.

Heather L. Holley, D.O. requested approval of residency extension due to maternity leave. Her residency is now scheduled for completion on October 3rd, 2012. Dr. Galper motioned to approve residency extension to October 3, 2012. Unanimously approved by other Board members present.

Jennifer Holmgren, D.O. requested approval of residency extension due to maternity leave. Her residency is now scheduled for completion on October 2, 2012. Dr. McWilliams motioned to approve residency extension to October 2, 2012. Unanimously approved by other Board members present.

Rachel Martin, M.D., M.P.H. requested approval Copper Queen Medical Associates in Douglas, AZ. It is a clinic of Copper Queen Community Hospital in Bisbee, AZ. Dr. McWilliams motioned to approve. Dr. Galper seconded. Dr. Rheinfelder in favor.

Benjamin Dangerfield, D.O. was approved by Dr. Galper in January 2012 to sign a contract with Maricopa Medical Center - Comprehensive Health Center, 2525 East Roosevelt Street, Phoenix, AZ 85008. This facility is designated as a Primary Care HPSA and is located in a Medically Underserved Area/Population. Dr. McWilliams and Dr. Rheinfelder also supported the approval. Dr. Dangerfield begins July 2, 2012.

Aaron Knudson, D.O. requested approval of an anticipated start date of service commitment on September 9, 2012, allowing for a two-month break to relocate during July and August. Dr. Galper motioned to approve. Unanimously approved by other Board members present.

Matthew Payne, D.O. requested approval of Banner Health Ironwood Medical Center and Banner Health Copper Basin Medical Clinic in San Tan Valley, AZ with a starting date of August 1, 2012. Dr. Galper motioned to approve locations. Dr. McWilliams seconded. Unanimously approved by Board members present.

Anne Maiden, D.O. requested approval of Sunshine Pediatrics and its metro clinic on W. Peoria Avenue in Phoenix, AZ as eligible service. Dr. Galper motioned to approve locations. Dr. Rheinfelder seconded. Unanimously approved by Board members present.

Maurice Lee, M.D. requested approval to apply for a fellowship program in Sports Medicine for 2013-2014, delaying the start date of his service commitment by one year to begin in July 2014. Dr. Galper motioned to approve locations. Dr. Rheinfelder seconded. Unanimously approved by Board members present.

Kirstin Grahn, M.D. submitted a letter of proposal of service repayment for consideration. She left Mariposa Community Health Center in Nogales, AZ six and a half months short of her 5-year service commitment and moved to Nebraska. She asked that long hours and extensive "call" at Mariposa be considered as service to fulfill her obligation or other arrangement to complete her obligation. The Board began discussion regarding her request.

Dr. McWilliams stated that there is not a history of considering over-time or call as additional time served, and he does not wish to set a precedent for such request. Dr. Rheinfelder offered her experience as a physician in service to AMSLP when her work week was routinely almost 100 hours per week, yet she filled her yearly obligation. Dr. McWilliams motioned that this difficult item be tabled until the next meeting to allow more time for consideration. Dr. Galper seconded. Unanimously approved by Board members present. Furthermore, Dr. McWilliams motioned to suspend interest on Dr. Grahn's loan balance until a decision is made. Dr. Rheinfelder seconded. Unanimously approved by Board members present.

With the participant requests addressed, the Board went on to discuss **Reimbursement of Private Schools** to the University of Arizona College of Medicine. Chairperson Galper affirmed that The University of Arizona College of Medicine remains the central office of State-accountability for the Arizona Medical Student Loan Program. That office is statutorily obligated to complete required reports to the State until the completion of the Sunset, and furthermore must collect and maintain data on the retention of doctors for at least ten years after each loan recipient completes the recipient's service commitment. Each university financial aid office will be responsible for tracking of its own graduate-participants. A.T. Still University and Midwestern University will report its tracking data to The University of Arizona (the centralized office for the AMSLP). Dr. McWilliams suggested that reimbursement of private schools to the University of Arizona for its administration for the program as a whole be proportioned according by the number of participants at each respective school. For example, there are three (3) participants at A.T. Still University and thirty (30) participants at Midwestern University. All Board members and financial aid administrators present were in agreement.

Other items presented at the meeting included the request by Dr. Rheinfelder to recognize and honor **Maggie Gumble** for her many years of support to the Board of Medical Student Loans and the AMSLP. Maggie retired from her position at the University of Arizona College of Medicine in June 2011. The Board members discussed plans to honor Maggie with a plaque commemorating her service years at the next meeting during Fall 2012. The Board will invite Maggie and hopes she will be able to attend. The date has yet to be determined, but is expected to be in November 2012.

Lisa Veliz, a financial administrator from Midwestern University, added an update regarding **Christina Martin, D.O.** Dr. Martin is finishing her three-year residency in Family Medicine and will soon write the Board requesting approval of an eligible site to begin her service obligation.

Dr. McWilliams added that **Brandon Abbott, D.O.** who is completing his first year of residency in Medicine/Pediatrics is doing brilliantly, and when residency is completed will be an outstanding physician serving the mission of the AMSLP.

With all agenda items and other discussions addressed, Dr. McWilliams motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Galper seconded. All were in favor of adjournment. **The meeting was adjourned at 2:18pm.**

Minutes are available for review on this day, May 8, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri McClellan
Program Coordinator
Arizona Medical Student Loan Program

Approved:



Carol Q. Galper, Ed.D. CHES
Chairperson
Board of Medical Student Loans