Minutes, Dean’s Advisory Council
College of Pharmacy, University of Louisiana at Monroe
10/17/08

Present: Dean Lamar Pritchard
Director of Development William Bourn
Director of Alumni Affairs and Public Affairs Joellen Lee
Administrative Assistant Donna Hodges

Phillip Aucoin
David Burch
Allen Cassidy
Candace Chelette
Bob Dufour
Milam Ford
Simone Guinn
Keith Hanchey
Tony Hughes
Eddie Klein
Loretta Lemoine
John LeTard
Marty McKay
Bob Munster
Tom Oglesbee
Walter Pierron
Blake Pitre
Morris Rabb
Andy Soileau
Rob Toups
Kenneth Wilson
Julie Wilkerson

The meeting was opened by a brief welcome from University President James Cofer. President Cofer discussed some of the advances made recently by the university and the College of Pharmacy. President Cofer also discussed enrollment issues that the enrollment of the University continues to grow particularly in the area of online courses and several new majors that are now on-line. The University while still not receiving the level of funding we would like is healthy and formula funding is to be started fairly soon. It looks good for the university, in particular certain professions including pharmacy. Dr. Cofer indicated that the university administration intends to move quickly in search for a new dean for the College of Pharmacy.

All present were asked to introduce themselves by stating their name, place of business and their “personal passion”.

Dean Pritchard provided a summary of the “state of the college of pharmacy”. He reviewed the mission of the college, its organizations structure, and discussed current enrollment. While the enrollment maximum is set at 100 students per class, consideration of this year’s applicant pool resulted in 84 new students being admitted for the fall, 2008. It is noteworthy that the hometown distribution of students is comparable to the population distribution in Louisiana, (many students from below Interstate 10). It was also noted that past rates and average scores
for ULM pharmacy graduates on the NAPLEX examination exceeds the national average. We continue with our affiliation with Baton Rouge General called Earl K. Long, LSU Medical Center at Shreveport and E.A. Conway in Monroe as our LSU affiliates for experiential instruction. We are continuing with expansion of residentsy opportunities. We continue to offer the Master of Science and PH.D in Pharmaceutical Sciences and the Bachelor of Science of Toxicology along with our Professional Pharm. D program. We are moving to a “3-4” system in which there will be 3 required years in the pre-pharmacy curriculum. Students admitted into the professional program in 2009 will have completed the 3 year pre-professional curriculum prior to entering the professional segment. A significant change is taking place in the professional segment as we are moving into a “modular” learning program in which the learning process will be centered on diseases states. For each disease state a number of faculty will participate to provide information related to the various pharmaceutical sciences concerning that particular disease state. College of Pharmacy faculty and staff numbers have grown over the past few years at the present time totaling 129 employees. The college of Pharmacy budget has increased since 2004 from approximately 6.5 million dollars per year to the current year of 11.5 million dollars. It is noteworthy however that many of the expenses previously not required to come from College of Pharmacy funding have now been added, significantly impacting the increase. College of Pharmacy Development funding continues to increase with a notable increase in the number of alumni participating. The College of Pharmacy strategic plan was discussed and is included in the packet provided to members of the Advisory Council. A new ULM College of Pharmacy (Vision 2015) was proposed and will include 3.3 million dollars in endowment funds for student scholarship, faculty development and pharmacy library needs, each with a target endowment of 3.3 million dollars. In addition funds will be sought for construction of permanent facilities in Shreveport and Baton Rouge at estimated costs of 7.5 million dollars each. ULM College of Pharmacy continues with numerous statewide services including professional services to the various LSU hospitals, the Medicaid Outcome Research Center, the Louisiana Drug Information Center and the Louisiana Poison Control Center. It was noted that the later is funded by “pass through funds”, which goes to the LSU Medical Center in Shreveport. The ULM College of Pharmacy Medicaid services program was discussed and lauded by Dean Pritchard as being a “true showcase” program with wonderful success stories. The Bienville building was discussed including the fact that is now completed through phase 2, with phase 3 (research? Center) construction beginning immediately. Another showcase is the Pharmacy Care Lab in the Bienville Building, which is truly “state of the art”. The Pharmacy care lab has the motto of “Tell me and I will forget, show me and I will remember; involve me and I will understand forever. Long range plans include a center for drug discovery which, as planned would utilize more of the 23 acre property, the front half which is occupied by the existing structure. Outreach programs were briefly discussed including the college journal Le Pharmacien Louisianais, a lecture series, and the now annually established College of Pharmacy Golf Classic. Research programs in the College of Pharmacy are funded by numerous funding agencies and include research in the areas of prostate cancer, breast cancer, heart disease, diabetes, liver disease, metabolic syndrome, smoking toxicity and natural products chemistry. Currently the researchers in the College of Pharmacy affiliate with numerous outside universities including four instate institutions and several nationally acclaimed institutions outside Louisiana. College of Pharmacy research collaborations are expected to increase significantly over the next few years through the currently existing research consortia, the existing “incubation” facility, and the anticipated expansion of the center for drug discovery.

Joellen Lee and Bill Bourn discussed alumni development issues including the successful golf tournament and even greater success expected for the 2009 tournament. It will be located at the Big Bear Golf Course east of Monroe and is being anticipated in a highly positive manner by
many of the “regular” attendees. A new format is being utilized for the LPL journal to conform to other university publications. Other activities include an effort to generate greater enthusiasm in our alumni for school activities and for purposes of development. These include a current visitation program in which pharmacists around the state are being called on personally and solicited for donations to the college; this year we are instituting a “5–year increment” program in celebrating reunions of our alumni during annual homecoming. This year we have extended special invitation to individuals for their 5th, 10th, 15th, etc. reunion (2003, 1998, 1993, 1988, etc.)

The morning session was concluded at approximately 12:00 noon and lunch was enjoyed by all members present. During that time, Richard Lupo, University photographer took photographs of individuals who had qualified for display on the Dufilho Society display board in the foyer of the building. At approximately 1:15 the group reconvened for an open forum discussion titled “Improving Our College for Louisiana’s Future”, lead by Marty McKay. The discussion was initiated by Marty McKay by asking how many pharmacy schools are in Texas. This was answered by Eddie Kline that there currently exist 6 with the expectation of 9 in the next few years. Mr. McKay then asked for suggestions of how the shortage of pharmacists could be addressed. Dean Pritchard stated that there is currently a cap on increases in enrollment of 10% per year. To increase at that rate would require significantly additional funding. He expressed concern that additional funding should not come from increases in tuition since Louisiana students have been hit particularly hard by the hurricanes of the last few years. This is particularly significant since approximately 70% of our student enrollment comes from areas that have been impacted. Mr. McKay went on to further to discuss the numerous shortages and indicated that the hospitals have been particularly affected. Dr. Ritchers commented on the limitations imposed by ACPE and the requirement of additional funding to increase enrollment. He also discussed the situation with indirect cost generated by grants and contracts and the need for the University to retain part of it, but that the University is now making available a significant part of these indirect costs to the college. Dr. Ritchers went on to say that we now have a “baseline” of what is needed and we cannot move any faster with expansion of the program. He discussed “capitation” as one of the possible solutions in increased funding. Looking again at the immediate problem of pharmacists, Keith Hanchy sited systems in Utah that are using mechanical technology to partially address the shortage. This has its limitations.

Marty McKay brought up the problem with library holdings that the college is currently experiencing. Dean Pritchard sited figures of 8 to 9 million dollars to get copies of “back journals” for the numerous necessary publications to bring the colleges learning resource into fully functional status. He mentioned that since this is essentially impossible, we could go to what is a “borrowers system” at about $800,000.00 a year. This would involve personnel that would be in charge of obtaining journal publications as required by our students and research faculty. It was noted, that our library shortage partially handicaps our research and that many of our researchers have to rely upon colleagues at other institutions to obtain necessary publications. Marty McKay asked about the use of the LSU libraries; Dean Pritchard ULM is pushing the envelope relative to assistance to ULM faculty and students. Sharing of resources is limited. In fact, LSU Shreveport cannot share with LSU Baton Rouge - they must each have separate subscriptions are be in violation of publishers policies. Dean Pritchard offered that if funding and faculty in place ACPE might grant an exception to the 10% a year rule. He also sited how Florida and Texas have expanded using satellite campuses. This would require significantly increased funding. For example Florida has an operating budget of about $33 million per year. Tony Hughes posed the question of whether the chain industry could help funding. Dean Pritchard indicated that would be possible but only to a limited extent. It is
noteworthy that the chain industry, while being viewed as “deep pockets” operates on a very low margin of profit. Keith Hanchey suggested that the current economic crunch being experienced throughout the nation may help some by pushing some retirees back to work thus increasing revenues by the chain industry. Dean Pritchard asked the question of whether chain companies would be willing to pay large sums (for example $30,000.00) for an exclusive recruiting day. Bob Dufour, formerly Director of Professional operations for Wal-Mart suggested that various philanthropic sources be pursued. Rob Toups suggested that upward of 25 million dollars might be available through state funding. Keith Hanchey asked the question, would such funding remain in the college of pharmacy? This question was directed to Dr. Ritchers. Dr. Ritchers answer was that with cost allocation some of that would be go to the university. Marty McKay asked how much would go back to the university; Dr. Ritchers was unable to provide a specific number. Candace Chelette asked about the donations provided by various companies and institutions on career day. Was the amount significant to assist with the College of Pharmacy needs? Further she mentioned the attitude of giving needs to be changed among our students and alumni. Rob Toups and Bob Dufour discussed how people can actually help their financial status by giving. Milam Ford asked whether mass letters could be written to approach legislators relative to our need for funding. Dr Ritchers replied we must work through proper channels in doing such activities. Considerable time was spent by the council in appealing to Dr Ritchers the desire of many members of the council to seek continuation of Dean Pritchard in his current post. Numerous appeals were made to the administration related to the need to continue the work which has been initiated through the leadership of Dean Pritchard. Widespread feeling was expressed by numerous members of the group that they would liked to see Dean Pritchard and the question was asked if there was a possibility of reversing the current to decision to proceed with replacement. The issue remained unresolved and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.