

SUMMARY

USAHS Alumni Association Advisory Board Meeting

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Noon-3:00 PM Eastern Time

<https://meetings.ringcentral.com/j/1489027587>

Attending: Stephen Elam, Paige Funderburk, Tiffany Hilton, Lee Ann Hoffman, Katie Hohman, Rebekah Jarrar, Cristine Johnson, Bob Kentner, Kayla Lambert, Tomika Lowe-Lopez, Kellan Quigley, Sara Story, Steve Weyandt, Polly Crabtree (Staff)

Guests: Vivian Sanchez (Chancellor and CEO), Thomas Werner (Interim Assistant Dean and Academic Program Director), Elaine Lonnemann (Assistant Professor)

Absent: Brittany Andrade, Morgan Beard, Jackie Hardison, Cody Honeycutt, Erin McCambridge, Craig McGhee, Molly Patel, Asiah Willborn

I. **Welcome and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM ET by Vice President Rebekah Jarrar, standing in for President Stephen Elam who is ill.

II. **Perdoceo Purchase and WASC Review**

Chancellor and CEO Vivian Sanchez gave the report on the planned transfer of ownership of the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences from Altas Partners to Perdoceo Education. Altas Partners identified Perdoceo Education as purchaser after an extensive search. We are currently in the process of seeking regulatory approval for the transfer of ownership.

Members of the USAHS Board of Directors, University leadership, faculty, staff, students and representatives from Perdoceo Education and Altas Partners met with WASC, the regional accreditor for the University, on September 27 on the San Marcos, California campus to discuss the sale and gauge the potential impacts of the transfer of ownership. WASC representatives conducting the interviews were very complimentary and positive. The commission meeting for regulatory ruling with WASC is scheduled for November 6, 2024.

The soonest the transfer of ownership can take place is December 1, with anticipated approval taking place in early 2025. During this transition time, and when the transfer of shares to Perdoceo Education is complete, there is no anticipated impact on programmatic accreditation. There have been extensive discussions with Perdoceo, and they have made it clear that our vision for USAHS is their vision; they would like us to continue doing what we are doing.

[Perdoceo Education](#) is a publicly traded organization with 35,000 primarily online students. They are anchored by two universities (Colorado Technical University and American Intercontinental University)

and are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) and have both received 10-year accreditation. The corporation is based in Illinois.

The transfer of ownership will result in no substantive changes for the University with no impacts to students or alumni. Perdoceo is looking to USAHS to prop them up and improve the image and reputation of the organization. USAHS will fill a gap for the organization in the field of healthcare. Perdoceo is also a cash-rich organization that will help pay off some of our debt. We are also looking forward to having opportunities for collaboration with the Perdoceo institutions, especially in technology.

Lee Ann Hoffman, faculty on the USAHS Dallas campus made the comment that while leadership has been very transparent with all aspects of this transaction, it has been “business as usual” on all campuses; students have seen minimal impact.

Chancellor Sanchez thanked the Alumni Association Advisory Board for all they do and welcomed future outreach.

III. **ANNOUNCEMENT: Kellan Quigley New VP Alumni Engagement Committee**

Following the resignation of Christopher Long from the Alumni Association Advisory Board, Kellan Quigley has been appointed as Vice President of the Alumni Engagement Committee for a two-year term effective immediately. This action was approved by the Executive Committee at the August 9, 2024, meeting.

IV. **Alumni Reunion and Family Weekend Recap**

Bob Kentner who attended the Alumni Reunion & Family Weekend (AR&FW) on the San Marcos campus September 27-28, gave a brief recap on the events augmented by information from Polly Crabtree.

Attendance

Barbecue (Friday Night) – 100

Continuing Professional Education Sessions

 Session I -Leadership -24

 Session II – Medicolegal Simulation – 32

Campus Fair and Community Service Activity – 150

Alumni and Employee Reception – 60

We are waiting for the video recap of the weekend. Once we have the video, we will include it in the October issue of Accolades Insider to be sent by October 11. We will send a post-event survey to attendees.

Next year, we plan to hold AR&FW in Austin, Teas. It has been recommended that we hold the event in mid-October due to heat in the Austin area in early fall. The big challenge for our Alumni Engagement committee is how do we get more alumni to attend this event?

V. **Physical Therapy Program Curriculum Update**

Dr. Thomas Werner, Interim Assistant Dean and Academic Program Director for Physical Therapy on our Austin campus gave an update on the new curriculum for Physical Therapy and shared the pathways students can take to graduation. We will send Dr. Werner’s slides to the board.

VI. University Advocacy Update

Elaine Lonnemann supplied the following advocacy update:

SLP

Two alumni who were recently awarded and Early Career Professional Certificate from ASHA: <https://www.asha.org/About/awards/Distinguished-Early-Career-Professional-Certificate/>
Ines Esparza and Asiah Wilborn

OT

AOTA Hill Day in September-faculty and students.

PT

APTA hosted a virtual Flash Action Strategy kickoff event the evening of Sept. 24. On Sept. 25 and 26, students and schools were provided an easy way for students to participate in PTPAC and support efforts before Election Day.

All PT Programs participated Competition page has not been updated since July

Nursing

Dr. Robert Kentner is on the alumni board, an alumnus and contributing faculty who is very involved with regional and federal level advocacy for population health initiatives.

Ashlee Loewen attended AANP and is involved with FLANP (Florida Association of Nurse Practitioners) - main goal is focused on Nurse Practitioner practice in the state by improving legislation to allow patient's full access to nurse practitioner care.

Dr. Helene Vossos is involved at the state and national level with advocacy for Mental Health and the PMHNP role.

Elaine let us know she has tendered her resignation with the University and will be leaving at the end of the fall term (😞).

VII. Revisit Alumni Association Advisory Board Goals for 2025

Board committees will meet during the month of October to set goals for 2025. Committee 2025 Goals are due to Polly Crabtree by November 1. 2024.

Governance Committee 2024 Goals:

1. Review the 2023 Alumni Association Advisory Board self-assessment to create the framework for a 3-year strategic plan for the USAHS Alumni Association.
 - Each committee to draft action plan for meeting goals by 3.31.24 **COMPLETED**
 - Full board action plan to be drafted at 4.13.24 board meeting **COMPLETED**
2. Maintain a full roster of 22 board members. Look to add members representing the Miami and Austin campuses when appropriate. **SEE ITEM VII IN SUMMARY**
3. Complete the 2024 self-assessment of the Alumni Association Advisory Board by 12.31.24 **TO BE COMPLETED BY EACH VP:**
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScmrIEuQsHsWuHhgCyhjUKvShKZKnw9ttU41Ntcinaskel_AA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Advocacy Committee 2024 Goals:

1. Continue working to identify alumni and faculty who function in advocacy related roles in the healthcare profession. **SEE UPDATE FROM ELAINE LONNEMANN**
 - Ask advocacy experts to speak at committee meetings to provide insight and suggestions for improving advocacy efforts. **BEEF THIS UP FOR 2025**
2. All committee members continue to monitor issues and topics of importance to healthcare organizations, calls for action from these organizations, and opportunities for alumni to join these organizations in leadership roles. **INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE INTEREST GROUP RECAP**
3. Update the Advocacy Committee Interest Group Recap twice per year to share with University leadership and post to the alumni website following Legal approval. **2024 DOCUMENT COMPLETED. PLAN FOR EARLY 2025 UPDATE.**

Alumni Engagement Committee 2024 Goals:

1. Board members will continue to support the Geographic Mentor program. PT alumni board members will join the Upnotch Community and will help recruit fellow PT alumni to support current students looking for mentors in the PT field. Looking for 50 matches during the 2024 pilot program. **32 STUDENTS REQUESTED PROFESSIONAL MENTORS AS PART OF PILOT. WE HAVE 103 PEOPLE IN OUR UPNOTCH COMMUNITY – WE WILL NEED TO CONTINUE TO GROW THIS PROGRAM IN 2025. THERE WERE 126 STUDENTS REQUESTING GEOGRAPHIC MENTORS FOR 2024 PLACEMENTS. WE HAVE 403 ALUMNI WHO HAVE AGREED TO BE GEOGRAPHIC MENTORS.**
2. Help recruit group members for all alumni social media accounts with a goal of 2,000 members by 12.31.24.
FACEBOOK PT = 532 Members
FACEBOOK OT = 549 Members
FACEBOOK SLP = 115 Members
FACEBOOK NURSING = 48 Members
LINKEDIN = 255 Members
TOTAL = 1,499 Members
3. The board will help recruit volunteers to lead Alumni Association Chapters in Atlanta, San Diego, and Miami in 2024. **CHAPTERS HAVE BEEN STARTED IN ATLANTA AND SAN DIEGO. THE MIAMI CHAPTER KICK-OFF IS NOVEMBER 7, 2024.**
4. Support participation in the planning of the Alumni Reunion & Family Weekend in San Marcos 9/27-9/28/2024. **COMPLETE**

VIII. New Board Member Recruitment

As Immediate Past President, Steve Weyandt will head the Selection Committee to select new board members from a pool of applicants. Board Member Application:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/P3375Q6>

We have 5 board openings, and one application already filed.

With the addition of Kellan Quigley as VP for the Alumni Engagement Committee, the Executive Committee is fully staffed. Executive Committee members stay in their current positions for one more

IX. Future Topics and Other Business

There was no discussion related to future topics and other business.

X. Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

The Executive Committee will meet in early November to review the committee goals and to set a date for the Spring 2025 meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM ET.