

January 30, 2017

Review council created by MUSC Board of Trustees recommends that MUSC board accept three recommendations made in report by state inspector general.

On January 30, Donald R. Johnson II, M.D., board chairman for the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Board of Trustees, presided over a meeting of the review council created to assess board spending policies in order to define and align with best practices going forward. The review council discussed three recommendations made in a recent report by the State Inspector General (SIG), who was authorized to review MUSC board spending by the Commission on Higher Education. The SIG's recommendations were:

- Consider eliminating its policy providing daily meal reimbursements (\$163 limit) for spouses or significant others.
- Consider moderating its current T&E (travel & expense) policy to more "ordinary and necessary" business expenses consistent with the public's expectation of reasonable travel related expenses for state officials.
- Establish a formal mechanism for UMA to authorize payment of Board of Trustees expenses. [University Medical Associates is the private faculty practice plan that pays expenses for members of the MUSC/MUHA Board of Trustees. UMA funds were confirmed by the SIG report as private resources, not public funds.]

The review council decided to recommend that the MUSC/MUHA board eliminate payments to cover meals for spouses of board members; reduce the daily meal reimbursement rate for each board member from \$163 to \$100 per day; and develop a formal memorandum of understanding between the board and UMA.

The review council's recommendations will be presented and discussed at the next MUSC/MUHA Board of Trustees meeting on Friday, February 10. The review council members included board members William A. Baker, Jr., and Dr. Johnson; administration members Thomas P. Anderson, chief executive officer for the MUSC Foundation, and MUSC President David J. Cole, M.D.; faculty member Paul Lambert, M.D., chair and professor, Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery; and community members Wilbur Johnson, J.D., managing partner with Young Clement Rivers, LLP, and Anita Zucker, businesswoman and philanthropist. Council advisory members represented several areas of MUSC including from legal – Allyson Abernathy, University Medical Associates general counsel and Annette Drachman, J.D., MUSC general counsel; from finance – Susie Edwards, university controller, and Lisa Montgomery, MHA, executive vice president, Finance and Operations; from compliance – Susan Barnhart, director, Internal Audit, and Reece Smith, adjunct instructor, Medical University Hospital Authority compliance; and from the faculty senate – Dannah Wray, M.D., associate professor, Infectious Disease Division.