

Report of the Chairman, AFUSA, UERMMMMC, Inc. for FY 2006 – 2007, March 28, 2007

Thank you for all your support and contributions to our Alma Mater. We continue to maintain transparency through regular progress reports and messages to our alumni, the Medical Center, and all our constituents. This is to show our support and loyalty to our Alma Mater. Projects of various kinds are also being monitored up to their completion and the progress report of Dean Paredes and President Divinagracia confirm our commitment to excellence and the accomplishments in medical education, resident training and advancement of patient care, especially care of the indigent, and meaningful and productive research endeavors in the biomedical sciences. For a change, these reports are current, up to date, and disseminated with room for questions, rebuttal, clarity and accuracy.

The following is the Proposed Agenda for the 2007 AFUSA, UERMMMMC, Inc. Meeting for this coming August 2, 2007, J.W. Marriott Hotel. Washington, D.C.:

1. Call to Order, Chair, AFUSA, UERMMMMC, Inc.
2. Roll Call. Secretary
3. Report of the Chairman, AFUSA
4. Report of the President, AFUSA
5. Report of the Treasurer, AFUSA.
6. Report of the President, UERMMMMC, Q.C. Philippines.
7. Report of the Dean, College of Medicine, UERMMMMC. Philippines.
8. Report of the President, UERMMMMC-MAAA, Inc.
9. Report of the Committees - Executive Committee; Finance, Budget and Investment, and Audit Committee; Constitution and By-Laws; Fund-Raising; Scholarship; Faculty Development; Faculty and Resident Awards; Conference & Memorial Lecture; Research; Community Service; Recycle for Charity; Adopt Program; and, the Wish List Committee.
10. Old Business - MOA of DAP-Indigent Fund; Scholarships; National Board Examination Passing Rates; Use of the Lakeside Lockbox; Reconsideration of Dr. Brizuela's Project; Faculty Development Awards; Needs of the Medical Center Library; Helping Alumni for Placements in Residency/Training Programs in the USA/Abroad; Student/Faculty Perceptions of the Problem-Based Learning Curriculum; etc.
11. New Business.
12. Awards, Citations, Special Distinctions, etc.
13. Adjournment.

Please observe the following during the meeting:

1. The meeting will start and finish, on time.
2. It will be conducted according to parliamentary procedures.
3. The Chair has the prerogative to revise or rearrange the order of the Agenda based on what he considers most important and most beneficial for the mission and objectives of the Foundation,
4. Absent voting members of the BOT/Officers can designate their representatives, in writing, who participate in the deliberations, discussions or rebuttals but will not be able to vote (Dr. Querubin's reminder).
5. Discussions, debates or rebuttals will be limited to 10 minutes except if amended by two-thirds vote of the voting members to continue the process. Rebuttals will only be allowed for three minutes or less.
6. The two-thirds vote will be enforced except if amended by the voting members to accept a majority vote on specific motions or amendments.

When I visited the Medical Center in November 2006, I was deeply touched and honored to deliver the third Romulo Guevara, Sr. Memorial Lecture in Pharmacology, and my topic was "The Propensity for Medication Errors in the Clinical Arena". Dr. Guevara, Sr. gave me my first job after I graduated from Medical School and also served as one of my godparents when I married my wife, Violeta (Letty), when I was an intern. Dr. Guevara, Sr. was represented by Dr. Romy Guevara, Jr. and his family, and the response of gratitude by the family was recited by the oldest grandson of Dr. Guevara, Sr.

I was deeply impressed by the dedication and sincerity of Chairman Panfilo O. Domingo to serve as CEO of the UE Main and the UERMMMC. For his position in the Medical Center, he does not receive a salary and he turned around the Medical Center, which was essentially defunct back to its present state of profitability. He regretted the initial insults he sustained when he started but these are all forgiven and he maintains a good working relationship with the faculty, the staff, and the employee union. Their most profitable venture is the College of Nursing and the reasons are obvious. During the Board of Trustees Meeting which I attended, they funded from the profits the capital improvement (construction) of the Emergency Room, purchase of a state-of-the-art (newest generation) Imaging Machine, and also equipment for the College of Physical Therapy that is one of its kind in the Philippines. I found out that Mr. Domingo is a very intelligent administrator and an extremely savvy negotiator! We should be very proud of what he did and continues to do for our and his Alma Mater. Mr. Domingo is a UE graduate. More power to him and his wisdom and patience!

My meeting with the Medical Student Council Members and the Scholarship Recipients was open, frank and very candid. The Filipino-American students ("Fil-Ams") claimed that they enrolled in the UERMMMC because of the Problem-Based Learning curriculum. Reverting to the original curriculum was the decision of the Board of Trustees because of the deteriorating passing rates in the national licensure examinations of UE Medical Graduates! To this date, there are still remnants of the PBL and the students like the small group discussions which have some of the PBL format. Many of them claimed that the Medical Library is, at times, overwhelmed by the number of

nursing students and they recommended that they expand and enlarge the Medical Library or build another one devoted to the College of Nursing and its students. I cannot render an opinion on this issue because I have not been to the College of Nursing and I don't know if they have their own library or what else they have there. The Medical Library needs more copiers, VCR players, a VCR-to-DVD converter machine, recent journals, educational CD-ROMs, etc. I donated a VCR player recently but they need more. Dr. Dekian Ong will report in detail on this issue and he is in the Philippines now.

This summer, I personally witnessed the Observational Fellowship Award (Faculty Development) to Dr. Joan Tagorda, Secretary and Assistant Professor, Dept. of Surgery, UERMMMC. She is the recipient of the Dr. and Mrs. Rolando M. Puno Observational Fellowship from the Dept. of Surgery, University of Louisville, Kentucky for three months, which was extended for another two months so that she could also work at the Sloan-Kettering Cancer Memorial Hospital in New York where she was provided board and lodging by Dr. Ida Tiongco. Her last month was at the Dept. of Surgery in Northwestern University, Chicago, Illinois. Her board and lodging were provided by Rene and Susan Suntay, M.D. Dr. Tagorda also attended the Annual Meeting of the American College of Surgeons (ACS) in Chicago, Illinois and her round trip airfare was paid for by Dr. Angelita Tobias, wife of the late Dr. Winifred Tobias. Susan and Rene Suntay provided her with accommodations and transportation to and from the ACS Annual Meeting venue. At the time of the writing of this report, Dr. Tagorda has not submitted her report of her experience but will be submitting it soon. She thanked everybody who shared their homes, wisdom, and financial support for this Faculty Development Award.

Next year, a Faculty Development Award (Observational Fellowship) will be awarded by Dan and Irene Manlapaz, M.D. in Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and the experiences will be provided by the two departments where Dr. ManJapaz is the Chief of Pathology in Louisiana and also the Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the LSD Medical School, Shreveport, LA. The faculty is now being selected by Dean Paredes and Dr. Manlapaz had interviewed the candidate when she was at the UERMMMC last year.

The rest of my report of my visit to the UERMMMC was electronically transmitted to the BOT and Officers in December, 2006.

This is a recurrent issue and we must deal with the problem that many donations in money or in kind are not acknowledged on time by the recipients at the UERMMMC. Dean Paredes' report is on time and transmitted almost upon receipt of the donation(s). Many contributors who are not channeling their donations through the Recycle for Charity are, at times, frustrated because they have not heard from the recipient(s) from the Philippines or the UERMMMC. I have had e-mail exchanges with President Divinagracia and Dean Paredes about this issue and we have to find a common solution so that we don't discourage present and future donors to our Foundation and our Alma Mater.

We now have a D & O (Director & Officer) of Insurance through the efforts of Elmer Gilo, M.D., Treasurer, AFUSA, UERMMMC, Inc. If you are interested in the copy of the policy, please contact or e-mail Dr. Gilo.

We have to continue to expedite assistance to young graduates in obtaining placement in Residency Training Programs in the U.S.A. and abroad. They are all future members of the faculty of our Medical School if ever they go back home. With all our concerted and coordinated efforts, we can be assured of their successful placement. I want to personally thank the members of the Foundation/Association who helped the successful placement of our recent graduates during the recent selection process.

Last but not least, there are claims from some of our donors and alumni that the process of donating in money or in kind, and its transfer to the Philippines, has always been scrutinized to comply with IRS rules and regulations, and, at times, this scrutiny slows the progress of the donation. Yes, we must follow the policies of the IRS because of their anti-terrorism campaign which is very relevant and very important considering the world situation today. However, the Foundation should not use the IRS shield to slow or impede the donation and delivery process especially if the work is enormous and overwhelming. I, for one, will be the first one to resign if we even support projects that promote, support, sponsor or encourage terrorism! I am a Vietnam War veteran and I resent any claim or statement about the Foundation to this effect.

I wish you all a very fruitful and pleasant Annual Meeting, Jubilee Celebration and Scientific Meeting in Washington, DC.

Respectfully submitted,

Benjamin M. Rigor, M.D., LL.D.
Chairman, AFUSA, UERMMMC, Inc.