Resolution in Support of an Independent Medical School at UNLV

Whereas, Nevada has a current population of 2.75 million that is expected to grow to nearly 3.7 million by 2030; and

Whereas, in 2010 Nevada ranked 45th in the United States in the number of physicians per 100,000 population and 46th in the number of primary care physicians per 100,000 population; and

Whereas, Las Vegas is the largest metropolitan area in the United States without an allopathic medical school and, within the top 100 metropolitan areas, has the smallest share of its economy tied to health services; and

Whereas, Nevada can support neither current nor projected healthcare needs of its residents with the limited scope of The University of Nevada School of Medicine – University of Nevada Reno (UNSOM-UNR); and

Whereas, by 2030 the total economic impact of two state-supported Nevada medical schools could total $1.9 Billion ($1.2 billion in Las Vegas and $684 million in Reno), representing six times the current UNSOM-UNR impact ($285 million); and

Whereas, UNLV is a doctoral-granting institution with strengths in biomedical research and an existing dental school; and

Whereas, the Tripp Umbach report recommends that a new four-year medical school at the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV) begin in 2017 with an initial class of 60 medical students, growing to an incoming class of 120 students by 2020; now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the UNLV Faculty Senate enthusiastically endorses the Tripp Umbach report, commissioned by the Lincy Institute, calling for the creation of a four-year independent allopathic medical school at the University of Nevada Las Vegas by 2017; and

Resolved, That the UNLV Faculty Senate supports full compliance with the Liaison Commission on Medical Education (LCME) and its guidelines for developing new medical schools, such that no later than January 1, 2020 the UNLV School of Medicine will achieve full LCME accreditation and be completely independent of UNSOM-UNR; and

Resolved, That the faculty and leadership of a new medical school in southern Nevada must be faculty members recruited, hired, and tenured at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

Senate Chair Paul Werth
Approved 11-05-2013
Vote: 40-0-0