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J. Lyle Bootman, PhD, ScD

Building the Future

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I believe one of the strongest assets at the University of Arizona Health Sciences Center is its people, and I don't think that point is made often enough. As we work together to build a great academic health sciences center, I plan to communicate frequently with the UAHSC community. As such, I wanted to bring you up to date on a couple of important items.

Governor's Medical Education Oversight Task Force

As you recall, last spring Gov. Jan Brewer called for the formation of the Governor's Medical Education Oversight Task Force to review the governance structure of the newly integrated organization - The University of Arizona Health Network (UAHN). The task force met earlier this month and recommended a restructuring of the UAHN Board in both size and scope. The current 24-member board will be reduced to 17 members (with two non-voting) and the makeup of the Board will be changed. The task force also made recommendations regarding voting rights, selection of board officers, length of terms, and board fiduciary responsibility. This is an ongoing process that is evolving quickly; the task force asked that the revamped UAHN Board be in place in January, if possible.

As you may know, The University of Arizona Medical Center - University Campus (called University Hospital when it first was created) was established as a teaching hospital to support the clinical needs of the UA health sciences colleges. Over the years, it has played a key role in our three-fold mission of education, research and clinical care. With the formation of UAHN, the relationship continues to evolve.

New Facilities Under Construction; Others in Planning Stage

We are working to address our UAHSC space needs, with facilities under construction or in the planning stage for both our campuses in Tucson and Phoenix.

At the Phoenix Biomedical Campus, we are constructing a six-story, 264,000-square-foot Health Sciences Education Building, which is set for completion by summer 2012 and will house the expansion of the UA College of Medicine - Phoenix, the UA College of Pharmacy, the UA Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health and two programs from Northern Arizona University - a physician's assistant program and a physical therapy program.

If you haven't visited the Phoenix Campus yet, I urge you to do so. The rise of the UA facilities in downtown Phoenix is truly a magnificent sight.

For the future, the Arizona Board of Regents recently approved the UA Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), which includes a one-year capital plan (Fiscal Year 2013) and a two-year capital plan (FY 2014 and 2015). The one-year plan includes projects that have a funding strategy and are most likely to proceed in the near future.

Projects that will benefit the health sciences include:

- **A building for bioscience research labs** (CIP FY2013) planned for the Tucson campus (near the existing Medical Research Building). This facility will bring together our basic scientists, physician-researchers and other clinical researchers for collaborative translational research.
- **A bioeducation/biotranslational building** (CIP FY2014) also is planned on the Tucson campus, just north of the Medical Research Building. This will provide interprofessional space for medicine, nursing, pharmacy and public health education, and feature a clinically driven medical research and simulation facility.

campus. This joint planning effort with UAHN will feature outpatient clinics and office space with hospital-based clinical and patient-focused infrastructure yet to be determined. Among other areas, the building will house programs in primary care and aging, with a focus on prevention and health maintenance.

I remain extremely optimistic as we work through our challenges for UAHSC, including such issues as new facilities, additional resources and enhanced clinical partnerships. Remember, change and growth always present opportunities. I look forward to working with you to create the vision and future that will allow UAHSC to become one of the nation's premier academic health centers.

J. Lyle Bootman, PhD, ScD
UA Senior Vice President for Health Sciences