

Connecticut State University System

Developing a State of Minds

BR#05-7



RESOLUTION

amending

THE CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES GUIDELINES FOR HEALTH SERVICES

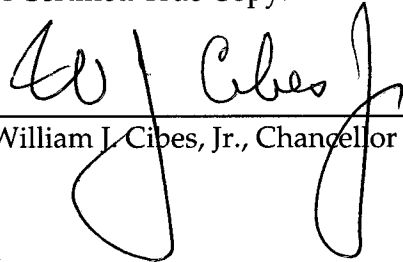
March 4, 2005

- WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees continues to provide for the healthful well-being of students and other members of the University community at each of the universities that comprise the Connecticut State University System, and
- WHEREAS, The operation of health services centers at each of the universities is an important part of providing for such healthful well-being, and
- WHEREAS, There are two dimensions of operation of university health services centers: the clinical dimension and the administrative dimension, and
- WHEREAS, Each of the universities provides access to physicians and other healthcare professionals to fulfill the clinical dimension, and
- WHEREAS, The administrative dimension may be fulfilled by appropriate management conducted by a physician, a nurse practitioner or other health provider, a licensed psychological counselor, or a host of other appropriate wellness managers, therefore be it
- RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees guidelines set forth in BR#76-32, which serve as the basis for assuring the healthful well-being of students and other members of the university community, and which pertain specifically to the administrative staffing of university health services centers, be amended to be consistent with the permissive language in state statutes, and be it further
- RESOLVED, That the flexibility inherent in such permissive language be promoted by allowing the university presidents to determine how best to manage their health services centers, and be it further

RESOLVED,

That the Board of Trustees recognizes that the administration of such health services centers may be rendered by a physician, nurse practitioner, other health provider, licensed psychological counselor, or other manager deemed appropriate by the university president.

A Certified True Copy:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. J. Cibes, Jr.", written over a horizontal line.

William J. Cibes, Jr., Chancellor

ITEM

Revision of Staffing Guidelines for University Health Services

BACKGROUND

Board Resolution # 76-32, A Resolution Concerning Health Services, provides prescriptive guidelines for the health services centers on each University campus of the Connecticut State University System. Such guidelines, adopted by the Board of Trustees some three decades ago, go beyond the requirements set out in statute. Such prescriptive guidelines include in Section 4 – “Staffing,” the requirement mandating that the director of such health services centers also be a “chief medical officer” who is a physician: “a general practitioner, family medicine specialist, or internist, full or part-time as experience dictates.”

The statutory language, Sec. 10a-89 of the Connecticut General Statutes, on the other hand, merely indicates that

The board of trustees *may* appoint one or more physicians for the Connecticut State University system and shall provide such physicians with suitable facilities for the performance of such duties as it prescribes. [*Italics added for emphasis.*]

While each of the Universities that constitute the Connecticut State University System has access to physicians, including specialists, to provide health services for its student body and campus community, it has been determined that the individual responsible for the administration and management of the campus health services center need not necessarily be a physician. To that end, the Universities prefer permissive guidelines that parallel the statutes, leaving it up to the individual University President to determine if its own needs necessitate an administrator who is also a physician.

ANALYSIS

It is important that each University have access to the clinical services of a physician (or physicians) to serve the needs of its campus community. However, this is not the same as mandating that only a physician should be that University’s administrative officer responsible for the managerial needs of its campus health services center. Indeed since the Board’s guidelines were adopted in 1976, many operational models have emerged across the nation that assure access to medical services rendered by physicians, generalists or specialists, while allowing flexibility in determining how a health services center is administered. Some “wellness” models, for example, combine campus medical services with psychological services. Oftentimes these models place mental health professionals in the administrative roles. Other models utilize other health professionals as the administrators – most notably Nurse Practitioners – as the administrative heads of the health services centers. Such administrative duties are not the same as the clinical duties.

Accordingly, the determination of how to administer the various campus health services centers should be left to the individual Universities. The Universities should assure that physicians are available, “full or part-time as experience dictates” to assure

such *clinical* services are available, but they should also be able to determine if the *operational administration* of their health services centers is best met by a physician, a nurse practitioner, a licensed psychological counselor, or other appropriate manager.

While the entire set of Board guidelines is being analyzed to determine that the principles adopted by the Board of Trustees in 1976 remain relevant for 2005 and beyond, the immediate needs of our Universities demand that revisions in the staffing section be addressed immediately. Thus, in order to allow for each University to determine which organizational model best serves the unique needs of its campus, it is best to use the permissive language used in the statutes rather than prescriptive language adopted some 30 years ago.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION

Approve the revision of Section 4 of the Health Services guidelines to allow for the permissive language found in the statutes.