

2026 Current Fiscal Year Report: VA National Academic Affiliations Council

Report Run Date: 06/04/2026 07:47:25 PM

1. Department or Agency	2. Fiscal Year
Department of Veterans Affairs	2026
3. Committee or Subcommittee	3b. GSA Committee No.
VA National Academic Affiliations Council	76699

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?	5. Current Charter	6. Expected Renewal Date	7. Expected Term Date
No	12/06/2023	12/06/2025	

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?	8b. Specific Termination Authority	8c. Actual Term Date
No		

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year	10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?	10b. Legislation Pending?
Continue	Not Applicable	Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority	13. Effective Date	14. Committee Type	14c. Presidential?
38 U.S.C. 7406	10/28/2011	Continuing	No

15. Description of Committee National Policy Issue Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open 0 **17b. Closed** 0 **17c. Partially Closed** 0 **Other Activities** 0 **17d. Total** 0

Meetings and Dates

No Meetings

**Current Next
FY FY**

18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Council advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates. Its jurisdiction directly impacts the following VA Strategic Goals: Goal 1: Veterans choose VHA as their health care provider and coordinator, built on trusted, long-term relationships; Goal 2: VHA delivers high-quality, accessible and integrated health care; Goal 3: VHA maximizes performance

through shared ownership and is on the forefront of innovation; Goal 4: VHA optimizes assets across the enterprise. The Council will advise the Under Secretary for Health and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates. The Council is charged with providing advice and recommendations on: (1) a statement of values and principles to guide VA's relationships with the academic community; (2) strategies for effective communication about academic affiliations between VA and relevant stakeholder organizations; (3) mechanisms to expand mutually advantageous affiliations between VA and the academic community; (4) opportunities to better align the missions and operations of VA and its academic affiliates; (5) guidelines for joint strategic, tactical and operational planning by VA and its academic affiliates in areas of partnership; (6) policy, regulatory and administrative impediments to effective affiliation management; (7) performance standards and measures for VA and its affiliates to optimize academic productivity and affiliation management; (8) administrative and support services needed from VA and its affiliates to advance VA's academic mission; and (9) mechanisms to facilitate strategic alliances and/or joint ventures between VA and Academic Medical Centers. The Council has produced 96 recommendations for VA since its inception in 2011. Of these recommendations, 54% (52 recommendations) were fully implemented by VA, 42% (41 recommendations) were partially implemented, and 4% (3 recommendations) are pending SECVA signature. The collective expertise and judgment of the Council's membership is highly valued by the agency.

20b. How does the Committee balance its

membership?

The Council will be comprised of not more than 14 regular members and eight ex-officio members. Specific expertise relevant to the mission/function of the Council includes experience in health professions education, clinical workforce development, and special competence to evaluate and improve VA relationships with the national academic community. This expertise will be evident by experiences such as: direct and long-standing familiarity with health professions education in a discipline or disciplines, in a leadership position; knowledge and expertise in innovation in health professions education; direct knowledge and/or participation in affiliation relationships with VA; or direct experience in health systems similar to or comparable to VA. In addition, the Chief Academic Affiliations Officer; a representative from Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA); a representative from Indian Health Services (IHS); a representative from the Uniformed Services University, Department of Defense; a VA Network Director; and the VISN Chief Medical Officer/ Co-Chair of the Strategic Academic Affiliations Council (SAAC) are ex-officio members of the Council. The other Council members shall be appointed by the Under Secretary for Health and shall serve as objective advisors, and not as representatives of any organizations for whom they may otherwise be serving. Several members may be Regular Government Employees (RGE), but the majority of the Council's membership will be Special Government Employees (SGE). Up to two additional ex-officio members from non-VA federal agencies with expertise relevant to the Council's mission will be nominated, as appropriate. These ex-officio members will not count against the Council's membership cap.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

The Council is expected to meet up to four times annually. The Council advises the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates. The Council provides a forum for joint planning and coordination that benefits both VA and the academic community. In FY 2025, the Committee met four times: December 4, 2024 (via virtual platform), March 26-27, 2025 (face-to-face), June 18, 2025 (via virtual platform), and August 13-14, 2025 (face-to-face).

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Secretary determined that establishing the Council is both necessary and in the public interest. This Council helps realize the potential of VA's partnerships with the Nation's medical and health professions schools. The academic community is an important and essential partner for VA to care for Veterans while significantly improving health care delivery and enhancing the clinical and research workforce so necessary for our Nation's future.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

The Council meetings are open to the public. However, if the Council tours a VA facility, the meetings are closed to the public to protect patient privacy.

21. Remarks

VA and the academic community share the same foundational values: A commitment to providing high quality care; recognition of the

inter-dependence of patient care, education and research; and a strong public service ethic. The Council is charged with developing and recommending ways to enhance this historic partnership.

Designated Federal Officer

Nellie N. Mitchell Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Butler, Monique	10/01/2024	09/30/2027	President, Graduate Medical Education, HCA Healthcare	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Christensen, Loretta	07/07/2022		Chief Medical Officer, Indian Health Service "Vice Chancellor for Health Sciences Mark and Pam	Ex Officio Member
Deas, Deborah	10/01/2024	09/30/2027	Rubin Dean University of California Riverside School of Medicine" CAPT, MC, USN (Ret.) Dean, School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Elster, Eric	01/22/2022		Professor of Surgery Uniformed Services University Vice President for Health Affairs and Founding	Ex Officio Member
German, Deborah	10/01/2021	09/30/2027	Dean, University of Central Florida College of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Henderson, David	10/01/2021	09/30/2027	Assoc. Dean Multicultural and Community Affairs Professor and Chair, Dept. of Family Medicine University of Connecticut School of Medicine Professor and Vice Chair for Education, Department of Internal Medicine, Associate Dean for Admissions at the UC Davis School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Henderson, Mark	10/01/2024	09/30/2027	"UNC Eshelman School of Pharmacy John A. and Margaret P. McNeill, Sr. Distinguished Professor Director, Clinical Pharmacology and Analytical Chemistry Core, UNC Center for AIDS Research Adjunct Professor of Medicine, UNC School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kashuba, Angela	01/31/2025	01/31/2028	VA New England Network Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lilly, Ryan	03/13/2023			Ex Officio Member

Loyke, Christopher	10/01/2021	09/30/2027	Dean and Chief Academic Officer, Lincoln Memorial University – DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine (LMU-DCOM) Deputy Assistant Undersecretary for Health - Clinical Services Quality and Field Operations Clinical Resource Director, National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE) Dean of the School of Medicine, Ponce Health Sciences University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
O'Toole, Thomas	01/31/2022	01/31/2028	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member	
Robinson, Christopher	01/31/2022	01/31/2028	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member	
Rodriguez de Arzola, Olga	10/01/2023	09/30/2026	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member	
Seide, Witzard	10/01/2024		Ex Officio Member	
Stazzone, Anthony	06/11/2021		Ex Officio Member	

Acosta, David [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/29/2021	01/31/2027	Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, AAMC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Carter, Kennita [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/31/2021	01/31/2027	Chief, Graduate Medical Education Branch, Division of Medicine and Dentistry, Bureau of Health Workforce, HRSA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Chiu, Fungchow (Alex) [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	01/17/2017	01/31/2027	Senior Program Manager, Department of Veterans Affairs	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Sanders, Karen [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	10/01/2017	01/31/2027	Senior Advisor, OAA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Thompson, Jennifer [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/31/2021	01/31/2027	Associate Chief of Staff, Education Orlando VA Healthcare System Director, Office of Program Consultation and Accreditation and Associate Executive Director, Education Directorate, American Psychological Association	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Wall, Jacqueline [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/31/2021	01/31/2027	Executive Director, Education Directorate, American Psychological Association	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wilson, M. Roy [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/31/2021	01/31/2027	President, Wayne State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 22

Narrative Description

The Council provides advice to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on matters affecting partnerships between VA and its academic affiliates.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

	Checked if Applies
None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

The Committee was established in October 2011 and has submitted The Council has produced 96 recommendations for VA since its inception in 2011. Of these

recommendations, 54% (52 recommendations) were fully implemented by VA, 42% (41 recommendations) were partially implemented, and 4% (3 recommendations) are pending SECVA signature. The collective expertise and judgment of the Council's membership is highly valued by the agency. The bulk of the Council's recommendations are innovative ways to improve VA's deep and historic partnership with its academic affiliates. These recommendations benefit both VA and its many academic affiliates. For this reason, the exact cost savings realized from the Council's recommendations cannot be accurately determined.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

96

Number of Recommendations Comments

In FY 2024, the Council submitted 3 recommendations for VA consideration, which are still under review/finalization. This is the cumulative number of Committee recommendations for FY 2011 through FY 2025

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

54%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The Committee receives formal written responses to its recommendations as well as regular status update briefings at Committee meetings.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

42%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

The Committee receives formal written responses to its recommendations as well as regular status update briefings at Committee meetings.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes No Not Applicable

Agency Feedback Comments

The Committee receives formal written responses to its recommendations as well as regular status update briefings at Committee meetings. When published, the Council's approved recommendations can be found at:

<https://department.va.gov/advisory-committee-management/2025/03/22/va-national-academic-a>

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Reorganized Priorities | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Reallocated resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Issued new regulation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Proposed legislation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Approved grants or other payments | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Action Comments

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

N/A

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Contact DFO | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Agency Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online Committee Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Online GSA FACA Web Site | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Publications | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Access Comments

N/A