

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: VA National Academic Affiliations Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

VA National Academic Affiliations Council

3b. GSA Committee No.

76699

4. Is this New Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

12/06/2023

6. Expected Renewal Date

12/06/2025

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Agency Authority

12. Specific Establishment Authority

38 U.S.C. 7406

13. Effective Date

10/28/2011

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

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: VA consistently communicates with its customers and partners to assess and maximize performance, evaluate needs and build long-term relationships and trust; Goal 2: VA delivers timely, accessible, high-quality benefits, care and

services to meet the unique needs of Veterans and all eligible beneficiaries; Goal 3: VA builds and maintains trust with Stakeholders through proven stewardship, transparency and accountability; Goal 4: VA ensures governance, systems, data and management best practices improve experiences, satisfaction, accountability and security. 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

new and 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 8 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

five 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. VA will strive to develop a committee membership that represents members with diverse professional and personal qualifications: experience in military service, military deployments, working with Veterans; professional background and specialty; and committee subject matter expertise. The Council shall represent, to the extent possible, Veterans of diverse eras and branches of service and diversity in race/ethnicity, gender, religion, disability, and geographical background.

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 2024, the Committee met four times: December 11, 2023 (via virtual platform), March 12-13, 2024 (face-to-face), June 25, 2024 (via virtual platform), and September 25-26, 2024 (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
Bowman, Marjorie	10/26/2018	10/26/2025	Chief Academic Affiliations Officer	Ex Officio Member
Christensen, Loretta	07/07/2022	07/07/2025	Chief Medical Officer, Indian Health Service	Ex Officio Member
Elster, Eric	01/22/2022	01/22/2025	CAPT, MC, USN (Ret.) Dean, School of Medicine Professor of Surgery	Ex Officio Member
Evans, Arthur	10/01/2019	09/30/2025	Uniformed Services University Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice (SGE) President, APA Member	Special Government Employee

Member Name	Start Date	End Date	Position	Category
German, Deborah	10/01/2021	09/30/2027	Vice President for Health Affairs and Founding Dean, University of Central Florida College of Medicine Assoc. Dean Multicultural and Community Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Henderson, David	10/01/2021	09/30/2027	Professor and Chair, Dept. of Family Medicine University of Connecticut School of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Kowalski, Timothy	10/01/2022	10/01/2025	Vice Provost for Professional and Public Relations, Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Lilly, Ryan	03/13/2023	03/13/2026	VA New England Network Director	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)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
O'Toole, Thomas	01/31/2022	01/31/2025	Deputy Assistant Undersecretary for Health - Clinical Services Quality and Field Operations	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member

Robinson, Christopher	01/31/2022	01/31/2025	Clinical Resource Director, National Commission on Orthotic and Prosthetic Education (NCOPE)	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Rodriguez de Arzola, Olga	10/01/2023	09/30/2026	Dean of the School of Medicine, Ponce Health Sciences University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Stazzone, Anthony	06/11/2021	06/11/2025	Network Chief Medical Officer VA MidSouth Healthcare Network, VISN 9	Ex Officio Member
Wallace Kazer, Meredith	10/01/2019	09/30/2025	Professor and Dean	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Whelan, Alison	10/01/2019	09/30/2025	Chief Medical Education Officer, AAMC	Special Government Employee (SGE) 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 Special Government Employee (SGE) 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



Other



Outcome Comments

N/A

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None



Unable to Determine



Under \$100,000



\$100,000 - \$500,000



\$500,001 - \$1,000,000



\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000



\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000



Over \$10,000,000



Cost Savings Other



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 new and 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

This is the cumulative number of Committee recommendations for FY 2011 through FY 2024

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.

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

In response to FY-24 recommendations, VA is continuing to realign the Office of Academic Affiliation and foster synergy with other program offices and initiatives.

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