

2024 Current Fiscal Year Report: VA National Academic Affiliations Council

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Veterans Affairs

2. Fiscal Year

2024

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

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a. Open

0

17b. Closed

0

17c. Partially Closed

0

Other Activities

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. Other(rents,user charges, graphics, printing, mail, etc.)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Total	\$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 #3: Veterans Trust VA to be Consistently Accountable and Transparent; and Goal #4: VA will Modernize Systems and Focus Resources More Efficiently to be Competitive and to Provide World Class Capabilities to Veterans and its Employees. The Council is charged with providing advice and recommendations on:(1) Developing and recommending strategies for effective communication on academic affiliations between VA and relevant stakeholder organizations including recommendations about the optimal

function of affiliation partnership councils (2) Developing and recommending mechanisms to expand the number and type of mutually advantageous affiliations between VA and the academic community (3) Identifying and recommending opportunities to better align the missions and operations of VA and its academic affiliates (4) Recommending approaches for electronic health record modernization consistent with academic affiliate experiences (5) Developing and recommending guidelines for joint strategic, tactical and operational planning by VA and its academic affiliates in areas of partnership; (6) Identifying policy, regulatory and administrative impediments to effective affiliation management (7) Recommending new approaches to developing a robust and diverse workforce pipeline for VA and (8) Developing and recommending appropriate mechanisms to share faculty, trainees, space, equipment and other health care resources. The Council has produced 85 recommendations for VA since its inception in 2011. Of these recommendations, 60% were fully implemented by VA, 35% were partially implemented, and 5% 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 2023, the Committee met four times: December 5, 2022 (via virtual platform), March 22-23, 2023 (face-to-face), June 29, 2023 (via virtual platform), and September 27-28, 2023 (face-to-face).

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

The Secretary has 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. Loretta Christensen was not reported in the FY22 ACR; this is an error.

Designated Federal Officer

Nellie N. Mitchell Designated Federal Officer

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bakewell-Sachs, Susan	10/01/2018	09/30/2024	Dean, School of Nursing, Oregon Health & Science University Chief	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Bowman, Marjorie	10/26/2018	10/26/2025	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 Uniformed Services University	Ex Officio Member
Evans, Arthur	10/01/2019	09/30/2025	Chief Executive Officer and Executive Vice President, APA Vice President for Health Affairs and Founding	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
German, Deborah	10/01/2021	09/30/2024	Dean, University of Central Florida College of Medicine	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

			Assoc. Dean Multicultural and Community Affairs	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Henderson, David	10/01/2021	09/30/2024	Professor and Chair, Dept. of Family Medicine University of Connecticut School of Medicine	
Hildreth, James	10/01/2018	09/30/2024	President and CEO, Meharry Medical College	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jackson-Triche, Maga	10/01/2021	09/30/2024	Assistant Vice Chancellor and UCSF Health Executive Advisor for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Jung, Paul	10/01/2018	10/01/2025	Director, Division of Medicine and Dentistry, HRSA	Ex Officio 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	09/30/2024	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 Regular for Health - Clinical Services Quality and Field Operations	Government Employee (RGE) Member
Ragucci, Kelly	10/01/2019	09/30/2024	Vice President, Professional Development, American Association of Colleges of Pharmacy (AACP)	Special Government Employee (SGE) 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		Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer, AAMC	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Carter, Kennita [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/31/2021	03/31/2025	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		Senior Program Manager, Department of Veterans Affairs	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Sanders, Karen [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	10/01/2017	10/01/2024	Senior Advisor, OAA	Regular Government Employee (RGE) Member
Thompson, Jennifer [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/31/2021	03/31/2025	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	03/31/2025		
Wilson, M. Roy [Diversity in the Healthcare Workforce Subcommittee]	03/31/2021		President, Wayne State University	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 27

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 85 recommendations for consideration by VA. Of these recommendations, 60% were fully implemented by VA, 35% were partially implemented, and 5% are new and pending SECVA signature. 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?

85

Number of Recommendations Comments

This is the cumulative number of Committee recommendations for FY 2011 through FY 2023.

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

60%

% 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?

35%

% 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



Reallocated resources



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-22 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