



American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine

March 16, 2012

Mr. Harold Hahn, Chairman
Strategic Planning and Policy Committee
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
1200 E. Anderson Lane
Austin, TX 78752

Dear Chairman Hahn:

I was recently advised that the Strategic Planning and Policy (SPP) Committee received concerns regarding American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine's (AUC) pending certificate of authority application. It is my understanding that those concerned assert that THECB approval may jeopardize the availability of clinical training opportunities for Texas-based medical schools and their students.

Since 1978, AUC has worked collaboratively in many teaching hospitals with Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) and Doctor of Osteopathic (DO) students to provide access to high-quality medical education clinical training opportunities. Over 90% of our graduates are U.S. citizens, 167 of them from the State of Texas. Many of these students are graduates of fine, Texas-based colleges and universities such as Texas A&M University and The University of Texas at Austin. After spending the first two years of their medical education at AUC's campus in St. Maarten, many would like to return home to Texas for their clerkship training. The state would incur no cost by allowing this to occur while increasing the number of graduates who return to their home state to practice medicine, the overwhelming majority in primary care.

Despite having to complete all four years of their medical education outside of Texas, many of our Texan alumni do eventually return to Texas for residency training and eventual practice across the state. Over 45 percent of our alumni choose to specialize in primary care specialties such as family practice, internal medicine, obstetrics and family medicine. AUC and our graduates have been and will continue to be a part of the fabric of Texas. We are proud of our Texas graduates and it is our privilege to be part of the educational and health care solution in Texas. It is for this reason that we engaged the THECB in February 2011 to make application to avail our students of clinical training opportunities while also comporting with regulations related to recruiting Texas students. We trust, given the positive recommendation received by the THECB's outside medical consultants and chaired by Dr. Frank Simon, and in conjunction with the associated positive application review and site visit, that we have demonstrated our commitment to meet and exceed these requirements.

We attest to you, SPP Committee members and the full Coordinating Board, that AUC will not participate in any practices that impede Texas medical schools from serving their students' needs. To that end, we commit to you and the Board that we will not engage in practices that

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result in displacing any Texas medical school students from obtaining a clinical learning opportunity. Furthermore, we will be respectful of increasing class size or development of new schools of medicine or osteopathy in the State of Texas and their need for future clerkship positions. We believe so strongly in this that we request, should the Coordinating Board choose to approve AUC's certificate of authority application, that approval be contingent upon this stipulation.

Should the CB choose to grant AUC a certificate of authority, such authority is good for two years. We understand that it is incumbent upon AUC to demonstrate our clinical placement practices. We are confident in these practices and eager to establish to the CB and other stakeholders how this balance can and will be achieved.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to discussing this matter further with you, the SPP Committee and full Board soon. Should you have any questions we are happy to make ourselves available at your convenience and in particular on Monday, March 19th. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 248.217.5966 or at bkplan@aucmed.edu.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce L. Kaplan".

Bruce L. Kaplan, D.O.
Chief Academic Officer
American University of the Caribbean School of Medicine

C: Mr. Fred W. Heldenfels IV – Chairman, THECB
Members, THECB Strategic Planning and Policy Committee
Dr. Raymund Paredes, Commissioner, THECB
Mr. Daniel Hamburger, President and CEO, DeVry Inc.
Mr. William Hughson, President, Healthcare Group, DeVry, Inc.
Dr. Andrew Jean, President, DeVry Medical International