



SVMAA Meeting – April 7, 2025

Via Zoom

Launched: 7:06 pm

In attendance:

- Board members: Jennifer Lorenz (2009), Kristi Thorson, Ty Vannieuwenhoven (1989), Kathy Reilly (1990), Brad Poff (1987), Holly Hovanec (2018), Anne Sherwood Zieser
- Visiting alumni: Lisa Lindesmith (1989), Barbara Silva (1987), Tami Zalewski (1993), Tom Kennedy (Veterinary Sciences member)
- Dr. Jon Levine, Dean

1. Introductions

2. Dean Levine: updates for campus and SVM

Campus updates:

- a. Indirect costs are part of external grant budgets and used to support research infrastructure at universities.
 - i. UW had negotiated a 55% indirect cost rate with the federal government. Several federal agencies have dropped this rate to 15%. Federal courts have an injunction blocking the 15% rate. The impact of a 15% IDC across federal agencies would be financially significant. More information can be found at the UW federal relations website.
- b. Grants for certain research discontinued:
 - i. Universal COVID/flu vaccine combination research
 - ii. Support for underserved students
- c. The major goals are to continue teaching and providing education for students. The SVM has been asked by campus to model 5% and 10% base budget reductions.
 - i. Reductions: faculty in dermatology, infectious disease, organizational positions
 - ii. We are continuing strategic planning for the future (RISE initiatives)

SVM specific updates:

- a. Curriculum revision/updates: focus on problem-based and independent learning - Phases 1-2 approved by faculty, 3 and 4 to be voted upon
 - i. Implementation in August 2025
- b. Enrollment increased from 96 to 100 students

- i. Considering future growth: how do we accommodate a growing need in south building?
- c. RISE initiative accomplishments: clinician-scientist, AI faculty position, immunology/aging faculty, surgical oncologist position hired
- d. Research portfolio: continue to diversify
 - i. Clinical studies core: commercialization, entrepreneurship in
 - ii. collaboration with SMPH
- e. New north Veterinary Teaching Hospital:
 - i. Renovations to be completed by winter 2026 including laboratory spaces
 - ii. This building has given us perspective: functionality and patient load
 - iii. tweaks have included employee retention plans and staffing – ER has
 - iv. been open consistently since February 2025
 - v. Faculty: recruitment of surgeons and other clinical faculty
 - vi. Seeking to better acknowledge excellent clinical care
 - vii. Outreach operations continue: WisCARES, Dairyland Initiative, Shelter
 - viii. Medicine Program
- f. Questions for Dean Levine:
 - a. Loan repayment issues with the current SAVE program changes: Wisconsin has retained lower tuition and loan rates than most peer institutions
 - i. Kristi adds that another focus is adding scholarship support, including longer term, merit based awards
 - ii. ii. WVMA and SVM have worked on legislation for rural loan repayment programs in WI specifically
 - b. Expanding class size to meet workforce needs: there has been talk of the workforce finally catching up with pre-COVID demand
 - i. AVMA/AAVMA have differing opinions about workforce needs
 - ii. We need to be judicious in Wisconsin and understand the
 - iii. shortage
 - c. Business knowledge: partnering with business school to improve business ownership prospects, partnering with corporately owned practices
 - d. How can SVMAA help?
 - i. Advocacy missions – involvement with the SVM, strategic planning
 - ii. inputs are critical, collaborations with industry, increasingly –
 - iii. projects which require advocacy and input from alumni
 - iv. Meetings – receiving direct feedback from alums and the field

Adjourned: 7:58 pm