March 2, 2010

To: Thomas Yorio, PhD, Provost

Re: Request to the UNT System Board of Regents from the Dean of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine on behalf of the community of osteopathic physicians and benefactors of the College

As the University of North Texas System Board of Regents contemplates the future of the Health Science Center it is worthwhile to acknowledge the significant growth and diversity of educational offerings that the Health Science Center has achieved since its inception as the home of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine. TCOM, its administrators, faculty, students and alumni have been dedicated custodians of the excellent state-of-the-art facilities the state has entrusted to its care. In exchange for that trust, TCOM has produced over 3000 physicians as the State of Texas’ fifth college of medicine and its only osteopathic medical school. It has sustained a tradition of excellence in primary care education while sharing its resources with three other schools that were later added to the Health Science Center family. Its faculty continues to provide classroom instruction, clinical experiences, curriculum support and research mentorship in an atmosphere that promotes cooperation and synergy. In brief, the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine is the heart that gives life and vitality to the Health Science Center. As its Dean and on behalf of those that have built and sustained the heritage of this unique and valued institution, for the protection of its students and its faculty and in recognition of the community-based healthcare received by the citizens of Texas from its alumni I respectfully request that the Regents provide the following safeguards to assure the continued excellence and operations of the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine.

- Resources needed for the development and implementation of new degree programs on the campus of the Health Science Center shall be paid for from either legislative or other philanthropic funds designated by the provider as being solely for that purpose. Where existing faculty and other employees of the Health Science Center are needed to participate in the planning of such programs, the approval of the respective Dean for such services will be required.
- Funds provided to the Health Science Center from direct legislative appropriations attributable to the Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine (medical education formula funding) shall be inured to the benefit of the educational programs of TCOM.
Assessment for support of the common campus infrastructure shall be applied proportionately and uniformly to all schools.

- Funds provided to the Health Science Center from direct legislative appropriations attributable to graduate medical education shall be distributed proportionately to the colleges of medicine and osteopathic medicine according to enrollment.
- Funds received by the Health Science Center from contracts with affiliated entities for the administration and oversight of graduate or undergraduate medical education programs shall be distributed proportionately to the colleges of medicine and osteopathic medicine according to their participation and student enrollment.
- Unrestricted philanthropic funds received by the Health Science Center shall be used for the mutual benefit of all programs.
- The Health Science Center shall assure TCOM the incremental resources needed to increase and sustain its class size to 230 students. Such resources shall include faculty and facilities as may be determined by the Dean of the college to assure the reasonable execution of its curriculum.
- All affiliations secured by the Health Science Center to provide opportunities for clinical education shall allow access for all students enrolled in Health Science Center programs. Student distribution to affiliated teaching sites shall assure proportional access according to enrollment unless otherwise agreed to by the Deans of the respective schools.
- TCOM shall not be required to relinquish preferred access to any campus facilities it requires for the execution of its curriculum until such time as suitable replacement facilities are completed, fully operational and in compliance with accreditation standards for osteopathic medical education.
- Current statutes regarding the qualifications of the President of the Health Science Center shall remain unchanged.

Sincerely,

Don N. Peska, DO, MEd
Professor of Surgery and Dean
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine