TO: All MUSC Faculty

FROM: Mark S. Sothmann, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

DATE: May 8, 2012

RE: MUSC Ombudsman

Memo

Dear Colleagues:

It is my distinct pleasure to announce that John Waller, MD, Professor of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine has been named the first University Ombudsman of the Medical University of South Carolina following a university-wide search conducted jointly by the Faculty Senate and the President’s Office. This joint initiative, endorsed by the Deans’ Council, emerged following an in-depth study of the value of ombudsman at dozens of peer institutions nationally.

Through Dr. Waller the Office of the Ombudsman offers services to faculty and post-doctoral trainees and provides a confidential, impartial, informal and independent resource for information or conflict management. The Office assists those who seek guidance with resolution of academic or administrative issues and disputes. It is a safe place to express one’s concerns, it can provide information and referrals and it generally serves as an advocate for fairness and equity. I am confident that through the work of Dr. Waller the MUSC vision of being a transformative academic health center will continue to be realized within the framework of the institution’s fundamental shared values.

Dr. Waller joined the MUSC Faculty in 2002 as Professor and Chair of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, relinquishing that post to become MUSC’s first Director of Medical Informatics from 2005 - 2011. He came to MUSC from Emory University School of Medicine where he spent almost 25 years as a Cardiac Anesthesiologist and Intensivist. There he served in various leadership roles including Professor and Chairman of Anesthesiology, Chief Medical Officer of the University Hospital and Chairman of the Finance Committee for the Emory Clinic. He also served as a Vice President and Chief Information Officer of Emory’s Health Sciences Center, and undertook a special assignment on behalf of the Center’s Executive Vice President that focused on resolving high-level disputes and conflicts.

Dr. Waller has been active in national and international professional organizations, and has served as President of the Society of Cardiovascular Anesthesiologists and Chairman of the International Anesthesia Research Society. In addition to those organizations he is a member of the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiologists and the International Ombudsman Association. He has lectured extensively and been a visiting professor in universities and cities around the world.

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The Office of the Ombudsman and Dr. Waller can be reached at (843) 792-7070 or through its web site http://academicdepartments.musc.edu/ombudsman/. I encourage you to contact Dr. Waller should you have any questions or if you would like more information regarding the role and responsibilities of an ombudsman.

Please join me in welcoming Dr. Waller to this new and important position at MUSC.