**NEW BOOKS, BRIEFLY NOTED**

22 July, 2009

Emory A. Wilson, J.A. Perman, and D.K. Clawson. Pearls for Leaders in Academic Medicine. New York: Springer, 2008.

Drs. Wilson and Clawson are former Deans of the University of Kentucky College of Medicine. Dr. Perman is the current Dean. In this slim (70 page) paperback, they offer an assortment of reflections, aphorisms, witticisms, and bullet points on running a medical school.

The book is divided into chapters such as “Negotiating a Contract”, “Adjusting to the Position”, “Keeping an Eye on the Money”, “Relating to Faculty and Students”, “Relating to the Media”, and “Applying Management Principles to Academic Leadership”. Some of the “pearls” are attributable to current and former medical school Deans – many are listed without attribution. In general, each little “pearl” is quoted in bold font then followed by a brief paragraph of explanation. For example, in the section on “Adjusting to the Position” as an academic leader, one will find advice such as “talk about the vision at every opportunity”, “start networking immediately”, “how to identify a confidant”, “don’t rush judgments”, and “set a timeline to make a decision”. Sprinkled throughout the book are little quotes such as one from former United States Senator Nancy Kassenbaum. “One should not look back in anger nor forward in fear, but around with awareness”, and from former Kentucky Governor A.B. Chandler, “It doesn’t matter what you think or what I think. When history is written, it will be what you do and what I do.”

At the end of the book there is a suggested reading list for academic leaders.

This little volume might be of interest for department chairs, associate Deans, Vice Deans, and Deans, or someone in search of a handbook of aphorisms appropriate to sprinkle throughout a speech.

/rma