

## Year Three Curriculum Committee October 23, 2006 Minutes

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**Present:**

Regina Kovach, MD, Chair  
Reginald Bulkley, MD  
Joni Clark, MD  
Erik J. Constance, MD  
Richard Embrey, MD  
Susan Hingle, MD  
Sharon Hull, MD, MPH  
Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE  
Fran Kovach, MLIS

Kenneth Kraudel, MD  
Harald Lausen, DO  
Tracy Lower, MD  
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA  
Erica Nelson, MD  
Robert J. Pary, MD  
Catherine Rapp, Class of 2008  
Nicole Roberts, PhD  
Sandra Shea, PhD

**Absent:**

Peter Borgia, PhD  
Jeffrey Bradley, Class of 2007  
Kent Morris, MD  
Gary Rull, MD  
Christine Todd, MD  
Bradon Wilhelmi, MD\*

**Guests:**

Jean Afflerbach  
Cheryl Ashburn

Julie Robbs  
\*Cathy Schwind  
(proxy for Dr. Wilhelmi)

Lisa Waldeck  
Brenda Yale

### MINUTES

The October 23, 2006, meeting of the Year Three Curriculum Committee was called to order at 3:00 PM.

**1.0 Review of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 18, 2006, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**2.0 Curriculum Reports**

**2.1 EPC/Executive Committee**

Dr. Klamen reported that at the last EPC meeting, there were further discussions regarding the new subcommittees that are being formed and the LCME visit.

**2.2 Departmental Reports**

All of the Clerkships reported that the current rotation was moving along smoothly and students were doing well. None of the departments present reported any serious problems or concerns at this time.

**2.2 Doctoring Team Report**

In Dr. Rull's absence, Dr. Hingle informed the group that the first geriatric session for Year Three would be held on Friday, November 10, 2006. This session will be for one-half of the Class and students in the Surgery and Internal Medicine Clerkships will be released from regular duties to attend this session.

**2.3 Student Reports**

Ms. Rapp reported that the new beds for the call rooms arrived and that these new accommodations appear to be adequate to handle the number of students with evening call schedules. She indicated that her Class was moving along well with no problems to report at this time.

**2.4 LCME Update**

Dr. Klamen reported that the final LCME documents for the Site Visit have been submitted. She asked that all departments make certain that their websites are up to date. There will be a

document prepared giving further details of what can be anticipated. She also encouraged all to become familiar with important documents including the Mission of SIUSOM. A self-study link providing more detailed information will be available.

### **3.0 Curriculum Issues**

#### **3.1 Y3 Appraisal and End-of-Clerkship Feedback Responses**

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to the Report of Responses to Student Feedback that would be presented today by Drs. Bulkley, Hull, Clark, and Nelson.

This report and the report of the responses to be presented at the November meeting will be made a part of the record and added as references to the Year Three Curriculum Committee website.

Dr. Bulkley reported that the student ratings for the Anesthesia Clerkship were very positive. He reminded the group that the St. John's facility withdrew from curriculum participation and stopped taking clerkship students in September of last year; thus all of the students had to be accommodated at the MMC facility. He indicated that there were also many Year Three students who had requested the Anesthesiology Clinical Elective during the Y3 Option Periods. He praised the faculty at MMC for making adjustments to accommodate all learners. A few students expressed disappointment that the Anesthesia Clerkship would no longer be a learning experience required for graduation. There were also criticisms of the lack of a formal orientation session, and Dr. Bulkley reported that they have made certain that students were being given appropriate information to prepare them for the two-week rotation. It was noted that there seemed to be fewer negative comments regarding CRNAs than had been observed in the past. Dr. Bulkley indicated that faculty have made this a high priority and worked hard at resolving this issue. He credited faculty and students for working in a more cohesive manner. Dr. Bulkley summarized by indicating that the department will continue to provide students with a valuable learning experience through the elective program.

Dr. Hull reported that the student ratings on the Year Three Appraisal for Doctoring Medical Humanities were very favorable. She indicated that 98.3% of students reported that the course was well-structured and organized, and that 98.4% reported that the workload was appropriate for learning needs. Further, students reported that 100% of the Class reported that educational opportunities in this course were comparable with those of their peers. And although the vast majority of students reported they were informed of the criteria for deciding pass/fail/honors and that these criteria were consistently applied, faculty continue to monitor this area and fine tune procedures to address student concerns. Dr. Hull summarized stating that in general, the Year Three Doctoring Medical Humanities segments were well received according to the Year Three Appraisal survey. She further indicated that the department is undergoing a substantive self-review process as part of the transition of leadership, and although no major shifts in the content or delivery are anticipated, faculty remain alert to potential problem areas and are poised to address student feedback.

Dr. Clark reported that over the past years many of the students criticisms of the Neurology Clerkship were that it should not be divided into two 2-week segments, and that this has, of course, been remedied. She detailed specific changes that were being incorporated into the new four-week curriculum. She also reported that the evidence based medicine content has been dropped but she suggested that this should be addressed elsewhere in the curriculum since student's exposure to this concept is somewhat limited. With only four weeks, there is still much to accomplish to prepare students for the exam and to give them an adequate knowledge base in neurological issues. In summary, Dr. Clark noted that with all of the students in the current Class taking the new four-week clerkship, she felt the feedback will continue to improve.

Dr. Nelson reported that this year's feedback for the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology was not as good as what the department had enjoyed in the past. However, many of the complaints that students had were addressed earlier in the year and she felt many of these issues were already resolved, or in the process of improving. She stated that efforts have been made to make the process of awarding honors as impartial as possible and to make certain even

reluctant learners are provided with a valuable experience. She indicated that the overnight call experience is significant to students gaining the full measure of this clerkship's experience. Dr. Nelson detailed the challenges which the department has faced and steps that have been taken to rectify these problematic areas. She indicated that faculty and staff are making a concerted effort to remedy the problems experienced previously and she summarized predicting that the feedback for the current Class should be much improved.

In related discussions, the group mulled over the issues of call schedules, evidence based medicine, teaching responsibilities of residents, and awarding honors. Following a thoughtful exchange, Dr. Kovach thanked Dr. Bulkley, Dr. Hull, Dr. Clark, and Dr. Nelson for their presentations. She reminded the group that the remaining clerkships would be presenting responses at the November meeting.

### **3.2 Revision to Y3CC Operating Paper**

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to Operating Paper for Y3CC and the proposed revision which came as a result of the EPC requesting that all subcommittees or work groups of curriculum committees be stated in the Operating Paper. She asked the membership to consider the wording listed under section "E" indicating that this matter would be called to a vote at the November meeting as dictated by the Y3CC Operating Paper.

In a related matter, Dr. Kovach informed the group that Dr. Clark has resigned as Vice-Chair of the Committee. She indicated that she had discussed with Dr. Hingle the possibility of her assuming this position and Dr. Hingle had graciously agreed. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously that Dr. Hingle be elected as the Vice-Chair for the Y3CC. Dr. Kovach thanked Dr. Clark for her previous years serving in this capacity.

### **3.3 Student Call Nights**

Dr. Kovach informed the group that she had recently received correspondence from Dr. Dorsey regarding information students had passed along to him during informal meetings. Some students complained that when they were on call, the residents on duty did not consistently page them to advise of patient admissions and other learning opportunities. A thoughtful discussion ensued and it was noted that residents must be reminded that students should be called for patient admissions and consults, but they should not be overwhelmed with patient responsibilities that hinder the learning experience. Dr. Lower indicated that the Pediatrics Department has a 'universal' pager that students carry when on call to assist residents by having just one number they are to call to reach students, a situation which would make the process easier for all. All clerkships agreed that although they have made concerted efforts to address this matter with house staff, there is always room for improvement and a reminder to this effect would be issued.

### **3.4 Faculty Observation of Students in Clerkships**

Dr. Klamen informed the group that one of the issues that resulted from the LCME self-study group concerned the perception of the students that faculty may not be observing their performance sufficiently. As an Action Item, Dr. Klamen queried the group to find ways of better addressing this issue. She reiterated that there was not a need for faculty to observe a complete history and physical exam performed by a student, but that ample time should be spent watching the student to be able to provide formative feedback. In a thoughtful discussion, several faculty offered ways in which this might be accomplished. The discussion ended with Dr. Klamen reiterating that there were a variety of methods to observe students and residents, and that there is a need to place greater emphasis on this matter. She echoed that as evidenced by the GQ, we clearly meet the standard, however, this was an area ripe for improvement in the teaching arena.

### **3.5 State of Medical Education (Review Article, NEJM)**

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to the article that had been referenced, "American Medical Education 100 Years after the Flexner Report." She indicated that this was the first of a series of essays reviewing various perspectives on medical education and what ramifications this might have for SIUSOM. In a brief discussion, the issues related in the article were explored. This and the other review articles in this series will be posted to the Y3CC website and will be discussed over the course of the next several months.

## **4.0 Announcements**

### **4.1 Academy for Scholarship in Education**

Dr. Klamen and Dr. Kovach reminded the group about the upcoming Faculty Development sessions and urged all to attend:

- Thursday, December 7, 2006, 4:00–5:00 PM, Dirksen C/R / Lindegren 310; Longitudinal Assessment Results: Implications for our Curriculum, Reed Williams, PhD
- Tuesday, January 9, 2007, 8:00–10:00 AM, Rm 1252, 913 / Lindegren 310; How to Survive the LCME Site Visit, Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE

## **5.0 Other**

### **5.1 Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held on Monday, November 27, 2006, in the Lincoln Conference Room and Lindegren 310.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 PM.