

Year Three Curriculum Committee November 27, 2006 Minutes

Present:

Regina Kovach, MD, Chair
Jeffrey Bradley, Class of 2007
Joni Clark, MD
Erik J. Constance, MD
Richard Embrey, MD
Susan Hingle, MD
Sharon Hull, MD, MPH
Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE
Fran Kovach, MLIS

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
Gary Rull, MD
Bradon Wilhelmi, MD

Absent:

Peter Borgia, PhD
Kenneth Kraudel, MD
Kent Morris, MD
Sandra Shea, PhD
Christine Todd, MD

Guests:

Cheryl Ashburn
Margaret Boehler

Wendy Edie
Julie Robbs

Brenda Yale

MINUTES

The November 27, 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 October 23, 2006, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2.0 Curriculum Reports

2.1 EPC/Executive Committee

Dr. Kovach and Dr. Hingle reported that at the last EPC meeting the group reviewed Curriculum Committees' Operating Papers and Dr. Nelson presented the CCX results. Also discussed were various issues related to the preparations for the LCME site visit.

2.2 Departmental Reports

None of the departments present reported any significant problems or concerns at this time.

2.2 Doctoring Team Report

Dr. Rull reported that the first Geriatric session for Year Three (Class of 2008) was held on Friday, November 10, 2006. This session was for one-half of the Class, students in the Surgery and Internal Medicine Clerkships. He indicated that feedback was comparable to previous years. The session for the remaining one-half of the Class will be on Friday, March 10, 2007.

Dr. Hull reported that the first of two sessions of the Doctoring Medical Humanities two-week segment would begin on December 4, 2004 for one-half of the Class; the remaining one-half of the Class will begin their Doctoring segment on January 2, 2007, at the beginning of the second semester.

Dr. Constance reported that feedback had been received from the Class of 2007 regarding the need for students to have more information on Year Four issues prior to the Orientation. Therefore, he and Dr. Lower will meet with the students during the Doctoring segments to address planning issues including scheduling extramural electives and residency interviews. He thanked Medical Humanities faculty for carving out time from each of their segments so that this meeting could take place.

2.3 Student Reports

Ms. Rapp and Mr. Bradley both reported that all was going well with their respective Classes.

2.4 LCME Update

Dr. Klamen reported that the website for the visit contained much information that would be of benefit to all and encouraged everyone to take advantage of the material contained therein. She provided additional information regarding the groups with whom the site visit team will be meeting. She also observed that Clerkships were well prepared with important documents, policies and procedures already in place.

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. Lausen, Kovach, Lower, Pary and Wilhelmi. She reminded the group that a comprehensive report of all responses presented would be made a part of the record and added as a reference to the Year Three Curriculum Committee website.

Dr. Lausen reported that the student ratings on both the End-of-Clerkship feedback and the Year Three Appraisal continue to be very positive. The strengths students identified included preceptors as role models, constructive feedback, autonomy, clerkship organization, and the opportunity to participate in 'full spectrum' health care delivery. The majority of negative feedback was the distance learning portion of the rotation. He indicated that this program had been changed prior to the last academic year to expedite the process. They are currently using Web CT as their platform and feel this delivery model of curricular components is of great benefit to the students. Dr. Lausen also indicated that the issue of comparability of educational opportunities has improved over the last year, although he noted some variability is inevitable when using a large variety of community-based preceptors. He summarized indicating they were quite pleased with the feedback and detailed their continuing efforts to address general student concerns such as application of grading criteria and feedback.

Dr. Kovach reported that students identified several IM faculty as good teachers and role models. Additional strengths included wards, core seminars, Clinical Management Conferences, and Nephrology, among others. She indicated that concerns included the general decline in the student ratings in some categories, especially consistency in awarding honors. Other concerns mentioned were variability in mentor experiences, Cardiology and Endocrinology rotations needed improvement and two reports of student abuse. The one situation that was brought to the attention of the Clerkship Director was immediately addressed with the Chair and the specific faculty member. She provided further information regarding consistency of criteria for awarding honors. Dr. Kovach summarized explaining the plans to meet the challenges in areas students identified as needing improvement.

Dr. Lower reported they were very pleased with the student ratings in the Pediatrics Clerkship. Students identified strengths as organization, faculty, streamers/lectures, and residents. She noted, however, that 'residents' was also an area identified as needing improvement, along with overall variety of patient problems, nursery, and increase student participation in the inpatient rotation. She detailed the changes that were planned and the growth in patient population that has developed with the addition of new faculty. She summarized indicating that overall, the ratings were quite good, noting that improvements were effected in areas such as overall rating, patient numbers, variety of patient problems, and constructive feedback. While the ratings were high, she indicated that they continue to monitor student progress to determine the efficacy of the Pediatrics rotation learning experience.

Dr. Pary reported that among the strengths students identified were faculty and residents as good teachers providing quality feedback, friendly staff, well organized, good range of patient

experiences, and faculty observation. Common themes identified by students as weaknesses in the Psychiatry rotation included too many papers/busy work, integrate Psychiatry and Neurology, and change seminar/lecture format. He detailed the changes that have been made such as the reduction of the number of papers required, as well as changes implemented to address seminar/lecture format. He summarized indicating that they continue to monitor student feedback and implement changes as appropriate to improve the quality of the Psychiatry Clerkship rotation.

Dr. Wilhelmi reported that students identified strengths as nurse educators, faculty and residents enthusiasm for teaching, and overall organization. He noted rating improvements in a number of categories over last year's feedback. Concerns expressed included mentor sessions, peri-operative management sessions, team rounds and too many core sessions. In an effort to address student concerns, various changes have been implemented including decreasing the number of cores sessions, removing redundancies, as well as the additional of a peri-operative management course focused on the ICU patient, among others. He also indicated that they have implemented a Year Four Student Focus Group for suggestions for refinement and curricular components. He stated that the Department Chair, Dr. Dunnington, has met with faculty to emphasize the importance of being professional role models for the students. He summarized indicating that improvements continue to be noted in several areas and they will monitor areas of concern to address specific learning issues.

Dr. Kovach invited others to share experiences and suggestions as to how subjectivity in the evaluation process can be minimized, as well as other important challenges faced by the clerkships. Following an introspective discussion, Dr. Kovach thanked the Clerkship Directors for their presentations and the committee members for their attention.

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 reminded the group that this wording had come before this body at the October meeting and is scheduled for a vote at today's meeting. She indicated that one additional sentence had been added to the proposed new Section E for clarification as follows: "As appropriate, recommendations from the Y3SPS may be reported to the Student Progress Committee." The other revision proposed would delete the position of Anesthesiology Clerkship Director, since this position does not currently exist. The motion to accept the changes as proposed was made, seconded and approved unanimously. As a valuable member of this body, Dr. Bulkley has been invited to attend as a guest when his schedule allows.

3.3 CCX Presentation

Dr. Nelson presented information on the results of the CCX taken earlier this year by the Year Four students after completing their Year Three Clerkships. She stated that again this year 14 cases made up the Senior Clinical Competency Examination (SCCX) for the Class of 2007. Ten of the cases used the CCX program while the last four cases followed the USMLE Step 2 Clinical Skills Examination Patient Note format.

She provided information as to the means, pass/fail rates, and areas where students displayed the greatest strengths and weaknesses. Dr. Nelson compared this year's exam to the results from the last few years. She indicated that the process went very smoothly this year. Overall, the CCX Committee is very pleased with the student feedback, noting that several students expressed appreciation for the opportunity to practice for the Clinical Skills Exam (USMLE Step 2CS) using that format.

Dr. Nelson reported that there is a mandatory remediation course for students who do not pass the CCX; this course is now four weeks in length, with Dr. Klamen as the responsible faculty. Dr. Klamen offered that students' responded positively to the course content and organization

and there was strong evidence that students' skills were significantly improved by the end of the coursework. Dr. Nelson summarized her presentation detailing the goals for the next year's Class. A criticism from students indicates that we must continue to strive for greater consistency among SPs; also, the group will revisit the merit of utilizing the 37-item patient satisfaction form to explore available options for this somewhat lengthy instrument.

Dr. Kovach thanked Dr. Nelson for the informative presentation.

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

Dr. Kovach announced that she would be stepping down from her position as Internal Medicine Clerkship Director as the end of this calendar year. Susan Hingle, MD, was offered and has accepted this position beginning January 1, 2007.

5.0 Other

5.1 Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Monday, December 18, 2006, in the Lincoln Conference Room and Lindegren 310.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.