

Present:

Regina Kovach, MD
Peter Borgia, PhD
Joni Clark, MD
Erik J. Constance, MD
Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE
Fran Kovach, MLIS
Harald Lausen, DO

Tracy Lower, MD
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA
Erica Nelson, MD
Robert J. Pary, MD
Nicole Roberts, PhD
Sandra Shea, PhD

Absent:

Reginald Bulkley, MD
Aishah Covington (Class of 2009)
Gary Dunnington, MD*
Richard Embrey, MD
Susan Hingle, MD*
Sharon Hull, MD, MPH*
Robert Knudson, MD
Paul Phillips, MD (Class of 2006)
Catherine Rapp (Class of 2008)
Gary Rull, MD

Guests:

M Boehler *Proxy-Dunnington)
Cherie Forsyth
Carolyn Holmes
Gary Myers, PhD *Proxy-Hull

Julie Robbs
Julie Varns *Proxy-Hingle
Mattie White, MD
Brenda Yale

1.0 Review of Minutes

The minutes of the June 25, 2007, 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 discussions of the flow charts in the Non-Cognitive Behaviors Policies and the issue of Student Gift to Faculty Attendings. Also, Dr. Constance provided an informative report on admissions. Dr. Kovach asked Dr. Constance to give this report to the Y3CC at an upcoming meeting.

2.2 Departmental Reports

Several departments noted that as of the third week of Academic Year 2007-2008, all was going well with no specific problems to report.

Family and Community Medicine – Dr. Lausen reported that there had been some changes made in the FCM Clerkship, including posting curricular documents on WebCT.

Internal Medicine – Dr. Kovach introduced the new Nurse Educator, Julie Varns.

Obstetrics and Gynecology – Dr. Nelson reported that a new chair has been named, Dr. J. Ricardo Loret de Mola. Dr. Loret de Mola was previously at MacDonal Women's Hospital of Cases Western Reserve University in Cleveland, where he served as Chief of the Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility Division.

Surgery – In Dr. Dunnington's absence, Ms. Boehler reported that the newly implemented clerkship curriculum was moving forward as scheduled.

2.3 Doctoring Team Report

Dr. Shea introduced the new Doctoring Director in Carbondale, Mattie (McHamness) White. Dr. White replaces Dr. Hamilton who recently retired.

2.4 Student Reports

No report at this time.

3.0 Curriculum Issues

3.1 Neurology Clerkship during Year Three Option Periods (Dr. Clark)

Dr. Clark reminded the group that the four-week Neurology Clerkship was now included in Year Four with the exception of one rotation which was offered to Year Three students during the Option Periods. Because several more students requested this course than there were openings available, a lottery system has been implemented of all those requesting this as their first priority. With nine slots available, the first nine names drawn were scheduled for the Neurology Clerkship with the other students wait-listed in the order in which their names were drawn.

Dr. Clark further informed the group that at a recent Neurology Department faculty meeting, the selection process for this rotation was discussed. It was felt that the limited openings available during the Year Three Option Periods should be reserved for students who have a desire to make Neurology their career choice. Accordingly, Dr. Clark is bringing this matter before the Committee for discussion. She also indicated that Dr. Elble had expressed an interest in making this rotation an honors course, with applicants completing an interview with Dr. Clark and Dr. Elble prior to their acceptance.

A thoughtful discussion ensued regarding the advantages and disadvantages of each selection method. Concerns were expressed that often students have not made a career choice by the time Y3 scheduling occurs during the latter part of their Year Two. Additionally, there is a possibility that students could manipulate the selection process proposed by Neurology to gain the coveted clerkship openings. It was noted that since other over-requested courses, including the Neurology Clerkship rotations in Year 4, are based on a lottery system that was the only way all students have an equal chance in the scheduling process. Other options were discussed such as utilizing a selection process for a portion of the slots and lottery for the remaining openings. Because this proposal would present a significant change to the current practice, it was determined that the matter should be tabled until the next meeting for further discussion and voting.

3.2 Clerkship Final Evaluation Form

Dr. Kovach reminded the group that Dr. Klamen had previously requested that evaluation forms be reviewed by the respective Curriculum Committees in anticipation of implementing an electronic process. She called attention to the samples of evaluation forms based on the ACGME competencies that were distributed to the group. She reminded the group that the Y3CC had discussed this matter on previous occasions without modification, however, with the impending computer system conversions; this was an opportune time to revisit the issue. The members discussed the benefits, as well as the negative aspects of using the ACGME competencies as the basis for Clerkship evaluations. They explored the relative advantages and disadvantage in moving to a system developed as a method to evaluate residents. The group also reviewed the Student Performance Evaluation developed several years ago by the Y4CC for use in evaluating students during electives for both Year Four and Year Three.

The group explored the effectiveness of the current clerkship evaluation form in adequately addressing each of the ACGME competencies. With the exception of two categories (1) Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, and (2) Systems-Based Practice, the current form speaks to the competencies satisfactorily. It was noted that measuring these successfully would be difficult with the limited amount of time students are in each clerkship rotation. It was felt this would be especially problematic in the short clerkships since six weeks does not provide enough time to gain a good perspective of the student's performance in these areas, even on a rudimentary level.

Dr. Kovach reiterated that alterations should not be made to the current format without sufficient justification for such change. It was also noted that EPC may soon be addressing Professionalism, an integral component of evaluating student performance. She summarized the discussion noting that the Committee is content with the current form and the two competencies not addressed by this document may be too difficult to evaluate for a Year Three level learner. She did ask that the group review the current form to determine if any changes would be appropriate at this time. Dr. Constance added that the format which is being used at this time provides a rich source of information for the Dean's Letters.

3.3 Grade Review Process

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to the minor wording revisions that are being proposed for the policy, Clinical Clerkship Grade Review Process. A brief discussion followed regarding the need for consistency of wording throughout all four years. Dr. Shea reported that wording revisions had been made to Year One policy expressing deadline times in terms of working days for further clarification. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously that the Clinical Clerkship Grade Review Process be approved with the revisions suggested and with the additional change of delineating times in working days, effectively changing the Two Week time periods to 10 working days and the six weeks time period be changed to thirty working days. When revised accordingly, this will be sent to EPC for consideration at their next meeting.

3.4 Integrating Patient Safety into the Clerkships

Dr. Klamen stated that at the last meeting of this subcommittee, the issue of patient safety in the clerkships was discussed. Dr. Klamen indicated that the discussions had been fruitful, but this is an ongoing effort and additional faculty participation is encouraged. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 20th at 1:00 PM.

3.5 Discussion Article: Student Course Evaluations

Dr. Lausen presented the article, Student Course Evaluations: Common Themes across Courses and Years (Mark Sadoski, PhD and Charles W. Sanders, MD). He summarized the research question, methods and findings, leading the group in a lively discussion. Of specific interest were the data indicating that three components of the courses were most highly rated by students in the study. These components were defined as organization, clearly communicated goals and objectives, and availability and responsiveness of instructional staff. It was observed that these are all components that are measured by the feedback surveys at this time. Another component highly rated by students in this study was whether or not faculty were knowledgeable and well prepared.

Dr. Kovach thanked Dr. Lausen for reviewing this article.

3.6 Year Three Appraisal – Update

Dr. Kovach informed the group that currently there are 52 student responses. Ms. McCann-Stone will be sending additional email reminders as each group completes the CCX which begins this week. Results will be collated and distributed to the Clerkship Directors for their review, with Clerkship Directors' responses to begin in September, if possible.

4.0 Announcements

4.1 Academy for Scholarship in Education – Faculty Development Series

- September 25, 12:00 – 1:00 PM, Dorothy Andriole and Heather Hageman, Washington University, *Outcomes in Medical Education*.
- October 23, 2007, (time TBA), Louis Pangaro, MD, FACP, Col. (ret.) MC Prof of Medicine, Vice-Chair for Educational Programs, Uniformed Services Univ, Bethesda, MD (topic TBA)

4.2 Dr. Kovach expressed much appreciation for Dr. Hingle's willingness to assume the duties of Year Three Curriculum Director in her absence.

5.0 Other

5.1 Next Meeting – Monday, August 27, 2007, 3:00-4:30 PM
Springfield location: Lincoln Conference Room, 801 N. Rutledge
Carbondale location: Lindegren Conference Room 310

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05 PM.