

**Present:**

Regina Kovach, MD  
Hossam AbdelSalam, MD  
Joni Clark, MD  
Erik J. Constance, MD  
Aishah Covington (Class of 2009)  
Richard Embrey, MD  
Susan Hingle, MD  
Sharon Hull, MD, MPH  
Harald Lausen, DO

Tracy Lower, MD  
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA  
Gary Myers, PhD  
Erica Nelson, MD  
Robert J. Pary, M  
Catherine Rapp (Class of 2008)  
Nicole Roberts, PhD  
Sandra Shea, PhD

**Absent:**

Peter Borgia, PhD  
Reginald Bulkley, MD  
Gary Dunnington, MD  
Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE  
Robert Knudson, MD  
Fran Kovach, MLIS  
Paul Phillips, MD (Class of 2006)  
Gary Rull, MD

**Guests:**

Hossam AbdelSalam, MD  
Jean Afflerbach  
Cheryl Ashburn  
Maggie Boehler (Proxy-Dunnington)

Rodger Elble, MD, PhD  
Cherie Forsyth  
Julie Robbs  
Julie Varns

**1.0 Review of Minutes**

The minutes of the August 27, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

**2.0 Curriculum Reports**

**2.1 EPC/Executive Committee**

Dr. Nelson and Dr. Constance reported that discussions at the last EPC meeting focused on the finalized Grade Review Process, the proposed new USMLE licensing exam, and the future of medical education.

**2.2 Departmental Reports**

Several clerkships reported that the rotations are going well, and students are working diligently. The short clerkships are nearing the end of the second rotation; the third rotation will begin on October 1, 2007. The first 2-week Year Three Option Period is currently underway; and the second rotation of the long clerkships is scheduled to begin October 1, 2007.

**2.3 Doctoring Team Report**

No report at this time.

**2.4 Student Reports**

Neither Ms. Rapp nor Ms. Covington had any problems to report at this time.

**3.0 Curriculum Issues**

**3.1 Proposed Transcript Change**

Dr. Kovach reminded the group of the discussion that had transpired at the August meeting regarding the proposed change to the policy which would alter the way grades are reported on transcripts when a clerkship remediation is involved. The current practice for recording performance evaluations on transcripts and the information contained in the Dean's Letters are inconsistent which may signal a need for further investigation. It had been proposed that an asterisk (\*) be added to the S if a student needs to retake the exam and subsequently passes. This would connote that the student successfully passed the clerkship after completing a minor remediation activity.

In the ensuing discussion, Dr. Constance informed the group that if this Committee votes to recommend a change to the policy, the matter would then be taken to the EPC, and may need to be ratified by the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees. Student input will also be solicited prior to any revision to the current policy. It was noted that the S\* schema was already in

effect in other years; this proposed revision would only pertain to the clerkships, and would coincide with the content of the Dean's Letters. Although a vote on this matter was scheduled for today's meeting, the group agreed that a decision at this time was premature and felt it would be more prudent to await the students' input before making a formal recommendation. This matter will be tabled until students have had an opportunity to communicate their sentiments on this important matter.

**3.2 Proposed New Licensing Exam (Dr. Constance)**

Dr. Constance explained the changes being proposed by the National Board of Medical Examiners would, in essence, combine Steps 1 and 2 into one comprehensive examination with content integrating both basic and clinical sciences. In a brief discussion, advantages and disadvantages of this proposal were debated. The NBME is currently seeking input prior to further action. Committee members were encouraged to visit the website and offer their individual perspective on this matter. Recommendations are anticipated by January 1, 2008. As developments unfold, this issue will be revisited at future Y3CC meetings.

**3.3 Mission and Goals of Y3CC**

Because of the late hour and the need to move to more urgent agenda items, Dr. Kovach asked that this matter be tabled until a later meeting.

**3.4 Y3CC Membership – Ex Officio Members**

Dr. Kovach explained that this matter had been brought to the attention of all Committee Chairs for consideration. Roberts Rules of Orders provide that ex officio members will have the same privileges as regular members, including counting toward a quorum and voting on matters of business. She indicated that the Y3CC Operating Paper forthrightly addresses this matter detailing the individual members who will and will not have voting rights. This Committee conducts business following the modified Roberts Rules of Order which allows discretion in matters of voting privileges. She indicated that unless there was a desire to make significant changes in the Operating Paper, the Committee would continue to follow the directives as set forth in the Year Three Curriculum Committee Operating Paper for the manner in which business would be conducted by this group.

**3.5 Neurology – Rotation in Y3**

Dr. Elble stated that the Neurology Department was asking this group to consider an alternative to the lottery system for scheduling the Neurology Clerkship during the Y3 Option Periods. Instead of holding a lottery among all students who had requested this course, the clerkship would be offered first to those students who are interested in pursuing Neurology as a career. Dr. Elble stated that studies suggest that students who take Neurology in Year Three are more likely to choose that specialty as a career when compared with students who do not take it until their fourth year. Dr. Elble explained that the proposed plan would allow early identification of students interested in Neurology, thus enabling appropriate advisement in Year Four to better prepare students for Neurology residency programs.

To assist in the selection process, it was suggested that consideration could be given first to students who had participated in Neurology-related research during the MPEE period. Further, any student interested in taking Neurology during the Y3 Option Period would be required to meet with Dr. Elble and get his approval prior to registration.

A lively discussion ensued regarding the benefits and shortcomings of implementing the proposed program. Several members voiced concern that the potential exists for a student to exploit the system to gain entry into this clerkship during Year Three. The group explored the issue of preferential treatment in course assignment and the possible ramifications of a policy change for the standard of impartiality that pervades all educational opportunities at SIUSOM.

Following substantial debate, the motion was made and seconded that the process to be followed for filling the Neurology Clerkship rotation during Year Three Option Periods would be revised. Students who express a desire to pursue a career in Neurology would be required to meet with the

Neurology Department Chair. Following this discussion, the Chair would determine the student's acceptability to register for the Clerkship in Year Three. If there are fewer slots available than students deemed acceptable by the Chair, a lottery will be held from among these students to determine enrollment in the course. If there are fewer students than 9 who express interest and are found acceptable by the Department Chair, the remaining slots will be filled using the standard lottery system from among students who have expressed a desire to take the Neurology Clerkship in Y3 but did not meet with the Neurology Department Chair to secure acceptance for enrollment. This process will be utilized for one year, become effective with the Class of 2010, and can be extended one additional year to determine the viability of this manner of course enrollment. Eight members voted in favor, 1 opposed, with no abstentions.

### **3.6 Response to Student Feedback (IM, MedHum, Ob/Gyn, Peds)**

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to the Report of Responses to Student Feedback that would be presented today by Drs. Hingle, Hull, Nelson, and Lower. She noted that the combined report of responses will be made a part of the record and added as a reference to the Year Three Curriculum Committee website.

Internal Medicine - Dr. Hingle provided comparisons of results for program elements over the past four years, identifying trends observed for specific elements of the Clerkship. She indicated that the overall rating of the Clerkship had fallen over the past two years to slightly under 4.0 (on a 5.0 scale). Some of the changes that are currently being implemented will hopefully bring that overall rating to 4.0 or above as it had been in previous years. Among the strengths of the Clerkship, Students identified Inpatient Ward Service, Core Seminars, Clinical Management Conferences, Critical Incident Cases, and excellent faculty. Concerns were outlined including lack of outpatient medicine exposure in subspecialties, improvements needed in several subspecialty rotations, and the perceived fairness of grading. She indicated that there has been significant improvement in this area, but felt it was still low and they continue to strive for better results. She also stated that one case of student abuse had been reported prior to her assuming the Clerkship Director's duties. Dr. Kovach offered that this matter had been addressed with the offending individual as soon as the incident was reported. Dr. Hingle summarized indicating that there are several improvements planned to address students' concerns, including use of a new evaluation form, a pilot project on wards at MMC which adds teaching attending experiences, and direct observation of students.

Doctoring Medical Humanities – Dr. Hull reported that the student ratings for the Medical Humanities two-week Clerkship remained high. Strengths included organization and structure, an appropriate workload for student learning needs, and faculty contact. A continuing concern is the report from some students (albeit a minority) that criteria for deciding pass/fail/honors may not be consistently applied, an issue not unique to Medical Humanities. All students indicated they were informed of the criteria for deciding pass/fail/honors, a notable improvement over previous years' responses. Dr. Hull summarized stating that the Medical Humanities experience in Year Three is generally very well received, as evidenced by the feedback in the Year Three Appraisal Questionnaire. She observed that the percentage of positive responses was down overall in virtually every category for Medical Humanities this year, but it appears to be because several students who completed the overall survey did not complete ratings in several categories on this clerkship, and was not attributable to more negative responses. In closing, Dr. Hull reiterated that the Medical Humanities faculty look forward to continuing to keep the Year Three Curriculum Committee apprised of their efforts.

Obstetrics and Gynecology – Dr. Nelson reported that this year's student feedback was low, and there were several negative comments regarding faculty. It was posited that the negative attitudes toward certain faculty may have impacted some students' ability to critically analyze other elements of the clerkship effectively. Several complaints focused on the workload and hours, with students indicating there was too much 'busy work' and inadequate study time. Admittedly, Ob/Gyn is a very busy clerkship, but that provides an abundance of learning opportunities to

reinforce knowledge objectives and better their skills. Making efficient use of impromptu 'down time' is an important ability for students to perfect due to the unpredictable nature of many medical specialties, including Obstetrics. Except for two overnight on-call assignments and one 24-hour on-call assignment, students' evenings and weekends are unscheduled and available for study time. She detailed for the group the average amount of time that students spend in various clerkship activities and the importance of night call in this field. Dr. Nelson voiced her concern about the perception some students have that H&Ps are 'busy work,' noting that taking a proper history and physical exam is at the heart of patient care. She also addressed the issue of organization and explained their efforts to provide comprehensive information regarding content, schedules, and expectations on the clerkship website, and emailing individual student schedules prior to the clerkship orientation. A continuing concern for Ob/Gyn (as with many other clerkships) is the issue of criteria for pass/fail/honors being applied consistently; there is an on-going effort to monitor and fine-tune the evaluation process. The most disturbing area of weakness is the student response regarding the faculty as professional role models. The department has undergone several internal and external reviews and discussions as groups and individually. Dr. Nelson expressed confidence that time and strong leadership will bring change in this area.

Due to time constraints, Dr. Lower will present her response to the student feedback for the Pediatrics Clerkship at the October 22, 2007 Y3CC meeting.

Dr. Kovach thanked the presenters for the insightful information, and reminded the group that the remaining clerkships would present at the October 22<sup>nd</sup> Y3CC meeting.

#### **4.0 Announcements**

Dr. Kovach welcomed Gary Myers, PhD to the Year Three Curriculum Committee. Dr. Myers will be assigned the seat vacated by Sharon Hull, MD, who will be leaving. Dr. Kovach thanked Dr. Hull for her service to the Year Three Curriculum Committee, and wished her well.

Dr. Clark informed the group that she would be leaving the School for another opportunity in her field. She introduced Hossam AbdelSalam, MD. Dr. AbdelSalam will assume the responsibilities of the Neurology Clerkship Director effective November 1, 2007.

#### **5.0 Other**

- 5.1 Next Meeting – **Monday, October 22, 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 4:45 PM.