

Year Three Curriculum Committee November 26, 2007 Minutes

Present:

Regina Kovach, MD
Hossum AbdelSalam, MD
Peter Borgia, PhD
Aisha Covington (Class of 2009)
Susan Hingle, MD
Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE
Fran Kovach, MLIS

Harald Lausen, DO
Tracy Lower, MD
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA
Erica Nelson, MD
Catherine Rapp (Class of 2008)
Nicole Roberts, PhD
Gary Rull, MD

Absent:

Reginald Bulkley, MD
Erik J. Constance, MD
Gary Dunnington, MD
Richard Embrey, MD
Robert Knudson, MD
Gary Myers
Robert J. Pary, MD
Paul Phillips, MD (Class of 2006)
Sandra Shea, PhD

Guests:

Jean Afflerbach
Maggie Boehler (Proxy-Dunnington)
Cherie Forsyth
Carolyn Holmes

Julie Robbs
Julie Varns
Theresa Waters

The November 26, 2007, Year Three Curriculum Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

1.0 Review of Minutes

The minutes of the October 22, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2.0 Curriculum Reports

2.1 EPC/Executive Committee

Dr. Klamen stated that the EPC had not met since the last Y3CC meeting. She reported that at the last Executive Committee meeting, discussions continued regarding the Strategic Planning Document. Progress reports on this project will commence on December 3rd with comprehensive information to be available on the website.

2.2 Departmental Reports

Several clerkships reported that all was going well with some changes being considered in both the Family and Community Medicine and Neurology Clerkships. Dr. Lausen and Dr. AbdelSalam indicated that further information on their respective clerkships would be presented as part of their response to student feedback.

2.3 Doctoring Team Report

Dr. Rull reported that the Geriatric Session for one-half of the Y3 Class was held on Friday, November 16, 2007. This is part of the "Aging Across the Curriculum" initiative and addresses issues related to falls and functional loss. Student feedback from this session will be provided at the next Y3CC Meeting.

2.4 Student Reports

Ms. Rapp reported that all was going well with the Class of 2008; students were busy planning interviews and extramural electives.

Ms. Covington reported that all was going well with the Class of 2009.

3.0 Curriculum Issues

3.1 Proposed Transcript Change

Dr. Kovach informed the group that the proposal had been reviewed in the Y3CC meetings previously. A vote had not been taken earlier awaiting input from students following their Student Assembly meeting. Ms. Rapp indicated that the majority of students were in favor of not having discrepancies between the Dean's Letters and the transcript. By email correspondence Ms. Covington conversed with her Class and found that the majority of students responding were in favor of this change.

The proposed wording for the Transcript Change which will be effective with the Class of 2012 is as follows:

The official transcript grade for students who fail a clerkship because of a final examination failure and subsequently retake and pass the examination should be an S asterisk (S).*

A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously that this change be implemented with the Class of 2012, entering Year One at the beginning of Academic Year 2008-2009. It was reiterated that this information should be detailed to the matriculating students as evaluation and transcript information is provided during Year One Orientation.

This will now be sent to the Executive Committee for review.

3.2 Mission and Goals of Y3CC

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to the document, Mission and Goals for the Year Three Curriculum Committee which included several changes that had been suggested. A brief discussion followed regarding the proposed wording with one additional change suggested. A motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously that the changes be approved with one additional revision. Dr. Kovach asked that the revised document be made a part of the Year Three Curriculum Committee webpage.

3.3 Policy: Time Off During Clerkships (R Pary, MD)

Dr. Kovach indicated that this was a matter that Dr. Pary had asked to be considered by this group. Since Dr. Pary was unable to attend the meeting, Dr. Kovach indicated that this matter will be tabled until December, at which time he can provide additional information on this matter.

3.4 Response to Student Feedback (FCM & Neuro)

Family and Community Medicine: Dr. Lausen identified the strengths of the clerkship as indicated by students in their feedback, including preceptors as role models, clinical autonomy, the continuity of health care delivery, organization, and appropriate number and variety of patients. Students favorably commented on the ability to function as a team member in a community-based practice and the opportunity to learn outside the Springfield academic center. Weaknesses of the clerkship reported by students included the lack of sufficient constructive faculty feedback, application of grading criteria, adequate preparation for the exam, distance learning, and what some students felt was too much "busy work."

Dr. Lausen indicated that some modifications were being considered in response to the feedback to make this a better learning experience, however, there were some core curricular components that were invaluable to the learning experience. These components would be maintained and fine-tuned for next academic year. He compared and contrasted the feedback received over the past years noting trends that have been observed. He summarized by reiterating that overall the feedback continues to be quite good for the FCM Clerkship and faculty and staff strive to find ways to improve the learning experience for all students.

Neurology: Dr. AbdelSalam reported that he continues to learn the various facets of the Neurology Clerkship curriculum; and he, other departmental faculty, and the Chair seek to promote Neurology as a career choice for students.

Dr. AbdelSalam detailed the strengths of the clerkship which include faculty as educators and a variety of in-patient and out-patient cases. The concerns were also outlined as well as an explanation of how some of the changes recently implemented will address these concerns, including resident involvement, documentation of the neurological examination, and morning reports, while still covering all required curricular components.

He stated that students felt the Neurology Clerkship would be better in Year Three; however, this is not possible without a major revision to the Years 3 and 4 Calendars. He also stressed that even if a student has not chosen Neurology as a career choice, the knowledge gleaned from the 4-week clerkship was essential to a general practitioner.

In response to a question on the issue of student abuse reported by students, Dr. AbdelSalam stated that this matter had been addressed by the Chair with the appropriate faculty. All steps possible will be taken to ensure this does not continue to be a problem.

Dr. Kovach thanked the presenters for the insightful information, and reminded the membership that a full report of Clerkship Directors' response to student feedback would be posted on the Year

Three Curriculum Committee website on the intranet (password protected). She also indicated that several issues that had recurred in several clerkship reports would be discussed in further detail at the Y3CC meeting in December.

Dr. Kovach also indicated that a separate discussion of the Y3 Appraisal was in order to determine the value of information presented at the end of the year as opposed to that gained from the End-of-Clerkship Feedback. This item will be revisited within the next few months.

3.5 CCX Results (E Nelson, MD)

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 2008. Ten of the cases used the CCX program and 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 past 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 4-week mandatory remediation course for students who do not pass the CCX, along with other learning experiences such as electives to address deficiencies exhibited by a student. Dr. Klamen reported that there is strong evidence that students' skills were significantly improved by the end of the course. Dr. Nelson summarized her presentation detailing the goals for the Class of 2009.

A lively discussion followed regarding the results and how clerkship faculty might work with students during Year Three to improve their CCX performance. It was reiterated that early identification of problems is necessary to promote learning objectives that help students improve their H&P and diagnostic skills in a systematic manner.

Dr. Kovach thanked Dr. Nelson for her presentation.

4.0 Announcements

Dr. Klamen introduced Theresa Waters, who will be training students on SIU's Electronic Health Records system, Centricity.

Dr. Roberts reminded the group of the upcoming Academy sessions:

December 7, 2007, from 12:15 to 1:15, in the Dirksen Conference Room, 801/4th Floor, Room 4175E and teleconferenced to Wheeler 104. Colleen Seifert, PhD, Professor in the department of Psychology and an Adjunct Profession in the School of Information, University of Michigan, will report on Dr. Timothy Koschmann's "Competency Project" grant.

December 12, 2007, from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 PM, Telehealth Conference Room (913/Rm 1252) and teleconferenced to Lindegren 310 in Carbondale. Dean Naritoku, MD, Director for the Center for Epilepsy, Director of the Office of Therapeutics Research, will present "Integration of Basic and Clinical Science of Therapeutics Into a Senior Medical School Curriculum."

5.0 Other

- 5.1 Next Meeting – **Monday, December 17, 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 4:20 PM.