

Present:

Regina Kovach, MD
Hossum AbdelSalam, MD
Peter Borgia, PhD
Erik J. Constance, MD
Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE
Fran Kovach, MLIS

Harald Lausen, DO
Tracy Lower, MD
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA
Gary Myers, PhD
Erica Nelson, MD
Nicole Roberts, PhD

Absent:

Reginald Bulkley, MD
Aisha Covington (Class of 2009)
Gary Dunnington, MD (Proxy)
Richard Embrey, MD
Susan Hingle, MD
Robert Knudson, MD
Robert J. Pary, MD
Paul Phillips, MD (Class of 2006)
Catherine Rapp (Class of 2008)
Gary Rull, MD
Sandra Shea, PhD

Guests:

Jean Afflerbach
Cheryl Ashburn
Maggie Boehler (Proxy-Dunnington)
Cherie Forsyth

Julie Robbs
Randall Robbs
Theresa Waters

MINUTES

The December 17, 2007, Year Three Curriculum Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:00 PM.

1.0 Review of Minutes

The minutes of the November 26, 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 the topics for discussion included the EPC Annual Retreat, which is scheduled for February 4, 2008, the potential changes to the USMLE Steps 1 and 2, the Graduation Questionnaire, a report on the future of Medical Education, EHR for students, and the SOM Strategic Plan. Additionally there are four new LCME standards that will need to be implemented, three of which are being addressed by the Strategic Plan, and the fourth deals with a requirement that is already in effect at SIUSOM through the MedPrep Program.

2.2 Departmental Reports

Several clerkships reported that all was going well; students in the short clerkships were taking their final clerkship exams during this week; students in the long clerkships were finishing the second week of the 2-week Doctoring Medical Humanities segment.

2.3 Doctoring Team Report

Dr. Rull was participating in the Year 2 examination and could not attend the meeting. Dr. Myers noted that the first of two 2-week Doctoring Medical Humanities clerkships was underway with one-half of the Y3 Class, while the remaining half of the Class would begin the second semester with the MedHum Clerkship upon return from the holiday break.

2.4 Student Reports

Neither of the student representatives was present.

Dr. Constance reminded all Clerkship Directors that anyone having an end-of-clerkship gathering where alcohol is served must complete an official permit. He indicated that this policy pertains to all SIU events for faculty, residents, and students. The SIUSOM Legal Department has reiterated that this document must be signed and submitted for approval at least 2 weeks prior to the event. There were discussions among several of the members that they had either not received the information or that it was not clear that the policy pertains to all SIU events, not just those with students. This information needs to be disseminated to all faculty and should come from the Dean's office. Dr. Constance will work with Ms. McCann-Stone to ensure that all Clerkship Directors receive this important information.

3.0 Curriculum Issues

3.1 Clerkship Performance Results

Mr. Robbs called the group's attention to the information distributed which provides a longitudinal comparison of clerkship performance over the past six years. The data presented represents means for the six Year 3 Clerkships (Family and Community Medicine, Internal Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, and Surgery). He explained the chart detailing the means for each Class on the categories of: Overall Clerkship Rating, Clinical Performance, Knowledge and Clinical Reasoning, and Non-Cognitive Behaviors. Also included were the percentages of students receiving Honors in one or more clerkships and percentage of students receiving Unsatisfactory in one or more Clerkships. The minimum, maximum, standard deviation, and the mean for Classes from 2003 through 2008 also included a breakdown by specific skills, including History and Physical Examination, Diagnosis and Patient Management; Technical and Procedural Skills, Communication Skills, Background Knowledge, Knowledge of Discipline Based on Performance, Knowledge of Discipline Based on Tests, Problem-Solving and Application of Knowledge, Self-Directed Learning, Interpersonal Relationships, and Motivation, Dependability and Responsibility.

In addition, Mr. Robbs provided graphic depictions of the Clerkship means, drawing attention to the trends observed over this period of time. A thoughtful discussion ensued regarding the information presented to determine what factors could be contributing to the noted differences between Classes. Mr. Robbs stated that data specific to each Clerkship were sent to the Clerkship Director recently.

Dr. Kovach thanked Mr. Robbs for his presentation. There was further discussion regarding the possibility of correlating these data with USMLE Steps, CCX, and MCAT.

3.2 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 today, Dr. Kovach indicated that this issue will be tabled until the next Y3CC meeting, at which time he can provide additional information on this topic.

3.3 What really Counts on Final Clerkship Evaluations?

Dr. Kovach reminded the group that discussion on several topics identified on the student feedback had been held until all responses had been presented. One such discussion item was the oft lamented lack of study time to prepare for the subject exam. Several comments were noted that stated less clinical work and more study time should be afforded during clerkships since it is on the basis of the exam score that pass/fail and honors are awarded. A contemplative discussion followed regarding the weight that is given to the subject exam and methodologies which could be explored to assign a higher priority to the clinical skill experiences students have in the clerkships. Dr. Kovach asked all Clerkship Directors to be diligent in their grading decisions to ensure that students do not receive Honors or even pass, if they are not able to meet at least the minimum clinical standards.

Dr. Lower provided additional information regarding the grading schema utilized in the Pediatrics Clerkship. It was also recommended that more information on the grading process be shared with the students during the Year Three Orientation session. This presentation should explain the fact that Honors cannot be awarded based solely on the shelf test score.

3.4 Peer Assessment of Professional Conduct

Dr. Kovach stated that Clerkship faculty may not always observe the same behaviors apparent to peers. At times student feedback may provide insight into peers that are different from faculty observation. At other times, peer assessments may confirm untoward behaviors noted by faculty. In a brief discussion that followed it was affirmed that students must learn and practice the skill of critically critiquing their peers in preparation for full participation in a profession which self-regulates. Those clerkships currently using peer assessments indicated that the weighting of peer reviews varied from 20-30%. The recommendation was made that information be shared with students at the Y3 Orientation which affirms that Honors will not be conferred if there are concerns expressed by one's peers regarding aberrant conduct displayed in the area of non-cognitive behaviors.

3.5 Graduation Questionnaire (Class of 2007)

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to the Graduation Questionnaire recently received from the AAMC for the Class of 2007. During a review of this document at the last EPC meeting, Dr. Kruse asked that each of the Curriculum Committees discuss the results contained within this report. Several survey items related specifically to the Clerkships, therefore, it was felt that a comprehensive discussion was warranted. Dr. Kovach noted several specific items that students rated highly regarding the clerkships and others areas, which were rated lower and stated that further detailed discussions on this survey would be held at upcoming meetings.

4.0 Announcements

Dr. Roberts reminded the members to reserve the following date on their calendars for a very important Academy session:
Friday, May 16, 2008, 9:30 AM-12:30 PM in the SCLF Conference Room and teleconferenced to Lindegren 310 in Carbondale. Gregory Northcraft, PhD, Professor, Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations and Harry Gray, Professor of Executive Leadership, will present a workshop on Negotiations in Conflict Management.

5.0 Other

- 5.1 Next Meeting – Monday, January 28, 2008, 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.