

**Year Three Curriculum Committee  
October 27, 2008  
Minutes**

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**Present:**

Regina Kovach, MD  
Hossum AbdelSalam, MD  
Erik Constance, MD  
Susan Hingle, MD  
Debra Klamen, MD, MHPE  
Fran Kovach, MLIS  
Tracy Lower, MD

Nancy McCann-Stone, MA  
Gary Myers, PhD (Proxy)  
Robert J. Pary, MD  
Nicole Roberts, PhD  
Gary Rull, MD  
Dustin Stehling, MD

**Absent:**

Peter Borgia, PhD  
Reginald Bulkley, MD  
Aisha Covington (Class of 2009)  
Christina Doerr, MD  
Gary Dunnington, MD (Proxy)  
Gary Johnson, MD (Proxy)  
Harald Lausen, DO (Proxy)  
Kerri Lockhart (Class of 2010)  
Lauri Lopp, MD  
Erica Nelson, MD  
Sandra Shea, PhD

**Guests:**

Jean Afflerbach  
Cheryl Ashburn (Proxy-Johnson)  
Cherie Forsyth  
Ivajeane Mitchell

Cathy Schwind (Proxy-Dunnington)  
Jwa-Seop Shin, MD, PhD  
Tracey Smith (Proxy-Lausen)  
Julie Varns

The October 27, 2008, Year Three Curriculum Committee Meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM.

**1.0 Review of Minutes**

The minutes of the September 22, 2008, meeting were reviewed and approved with one abstention.

**2.0 Curriculum Reports**

**2.1 EPC/Executive Committee**

Dr. Kovach reported that at the last EPC meeting a vote was called on the policy regarding absences without approval during exams; the group approved a policy in which students who were unexcused from the exam would be awarded a zero.

**2.2 Departmental Reports**

All of the clerkships reported things were going well. Short clerkships are nearing completion of the third rotation of the year. The second rotation of the long clerkships is at the mid-point.

Neurology – Dr. AbdelSalam reported that the subject exam for the last rotation did not arrive on time. Students had to be rescheduled to take the exam and the matter has been resolved with everyone's cooperation. Dr. Constance reminded the group that if similar problems are encountered, the Chief Proctor, Nancy Calvert, in the Office of Student Affairs should be contacted.

FCM - In Dr. Lausen's absence, Ms. Smith questioned how she should respond to students who requested to be gone during a portion of the FCM Clerkship orientation because they were taking boards. Dr. Constance reiterated the policy that students are not allowed to miss regularly scheduled clerkship activities to sit for USMLE Step 1 or Step 2CK. Dr. Kovach indicated that although this has been a long-standing policy, she would underscore this issue at the Year Three general Orientation Session.

**2.3 Doctoring Team Report**

Dr. Klamen announced that a replacement for the Doctoring Curriculum Coordinator position has been hired, Leslie Montgomery. Ms. Montgomery's start date is being negotiated and a smooth transition is anticipated.

**2.4 Student Reports**

Neither of the student representatives was able to be present at the meeting.

### 3.0 **Curriculum Issues**

#### 3.1 **SIU Medical Students – Identification of Role to Patients**

Dr. Roberts called the group's attention to the documents that were distributed prior to the meeting. She indicated that the suggestions of the members regarding wording had been incorporated into this new document. It was the consensus of the group that name badges should appropriately identify the individual's role, as well as her/his name. Drs. Kovach and Roberts will meet with representatives of SIUSOM Security to determine the viability of issuing new badges to residents and attendings with the appropriate identifying information.

It was also suggested that wording be added to encourage patients to ask about the role and responsibilities of providers when they are uncertain. Following these refinements, it will be presented to Dean Dorsey for his input.

#### 3.2 **Response to Student Feedback (Neurology, Psychiatry, & Surgery)**

Dr. Kovach called the group's attention to the report of Responses to Student Feedback distributed previously which summarized the presentations that would be made by Drs. AbdelSalam, Pary, and Dunnington.

**Neurology:** Dr. AbdelSalam reminded the group that since the majority of students take the Neurology Clerkship during Year Four, most of the responses were from the Class of 2008. He discussed the strengths students identified, including outpatient service, case lectures, approachable faculty, and more opportunity for study time. Weaknesses included inpatient experience, orientation, and residents as teachers. The services are busy and faculty members do devote as much time as possible to teaching. He noted that additional faculty recruitment efforts are in process. He also detailed some of the changes that they are undertaking to improve the clerkship including such things as discontinuing Morning Report and the Neuro/Psych Report for students, and changing the textbook. He indicated that the observed neurological exam was not particularly favored by students; however, it is extremely important that faculty observe each student's exam techniques to ensure they are learning the appropriate processes. He summarized indicating that they continue to refine various aspects of the clerkship to make this a comprehensive educational experience for all students.

**Psychiatry:** Dr. Pary compared the results from the Y3 Appraisal over the last several years noting specific areas where improvements have been observed. He called attention to the common themes among the strengths students identified such as faculty and residents as good, approachable teachers who provided quality feedback; friendly, helpful staff, organizational issues, adequate range of patient responsibilities, and opportunities to have interviews observed. He also spoke to the issues of perceived inequities in clinical schedules and value of resource sessions, indicating that these matters will be addressed further at their Educational Retreat to be held in December. There were also some student suggestions regarding combining the Neurology and Psychiatry Clerkships. Although this idea has been considered in the past, no change is planned at this time. He concluded by indicating that there should be additional opportunities for inpatient experiences when there is an agreement with the new children's psychiatric hospital

**Surgery:** In Dr. Dunnington's absence, Ms. Schwind reported that the student feedback for both the Year Three Appraisal and the End-of-Clerkship consisted of three strengths and three concerns. The strengths included the value of the core conferences, the students being part of the team, and the faculty and residents enthusiasm for teaching. The students expressed concern of the lack of study time, lack of faculty contact, and undesirable behavior of the general surgery residents. She explained that the students are given 2 weekday evenings, Saturday following morning patient rounds, and all day Sunday as protected study time. Dr. Dunnington and Nurse Educators met with residents from all specialties to discuss student issues during Residents as Teachers course and Intern Orientation. Faculty have one-on-one time with students during every surgery and weekly clinics; however, they do not participate in team rounds on a regular basis and that is not expected to change.

Other general complaints from the students related to the need for pagers since they are rarely used and an expense. After some discussion among the committee members, it was concluded that pagers will remain a requirement for Y3 medical students, and the students need to be accessible by pager. This topic will be reemphasized at the Y3 Orientation meeting in March.

**3.3 Minor Holidays in the Clerkships**

Dr. Kovach inquired of the Clerkship Directors their policy of allowing students to be off for minor holidays. With a few exceptions, the consensus was that if the University observes the holiday, the clerkships give that time off to students. It was maintained that closing for minor holidays would be left to the discretion of the clerkships.

**3.4 Year Three Informational Meeting – Class of 2011**

Dr. Kovach announced that the Year Three Informational Meeting for the Class of 2011 has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2009. She reminded the group that this session helps students begin pre-planning for their third year. The Departments of Family and Community Medicine and Psychiatry present valuable information students need for their respective clerkships. Additionally, students are informed of the opportunities available to them during the Year Three Option Periods. This is also the time designated for students to take care of the annual Infection Control requirements. Dr. Kovach invited members to suggest other important issues that should be addressed during this session.

**4.0 Announcements**

**November 10, 2008** – 4-5 PM in Telehealth C/R (1252), 913 N Rutledge & VC to Wheeler 104, Carbondale *“Experiences in Education at SIU”* will be presented by **Michael Kim**, M.D., Education Fellow in the Department of Surgery.

**December 8, 2008** – 12-2 PM. Telehealth C/R (1252), 913 N Rutledge & VC to Lindegren 310, Carbondale *“Residents in Trouble”* will be presented by **Rebecca Hoffman**, M.D., MSPH, Assistant Prof, FCM.

**January 22, 2008** - *“Web 2.0 and Learning in Medicine”* will be presented by **David Huang**, Ph.D., MBA, Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Resource Education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The event will be held Thursday, January 22, 2009 from 12-1pm in the Lincoln Conference Room 2190 at 801 N Rutledge, with VC connection to Lindegren 310 in Carbondale.

**5.0 Other**

- 5.1 Next Meeting – **Monday, November 24, 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 4:10 PM.