



**Year Four Curriculum Committee
October 2, 2006
Minutes**

Present:

Tracy Lower, MD
Peter Borgia, PhD
Reginald Bulkley, MD
Erik Constance, MD
Phillip Davis, PhD
Mark Francis, MD
Sharon Hull, MD, MPH
Debra Klamen, MD, MPHE
Regina Kovach, MD

Jody Lack, MD
Fritz Lower, MD
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA
Mary Pauza, PhD
Erica Nelson, MD
Nicole Roberts, PhD
Gary Rull, MD
Elizabeth Steffen (Class of 2007)
Carol Thornton, MLS

Absent:

Holly Hoefgen, Class of 2008
Karen Lee, MA
Sandra Shea, PhD
Nicole Sommer, MD

Guests:

Lisa Waldeck

MINUTES

The October 2, 2006, meeting of the Year Four Curriculum Committee was called to order at 1:05 PM.

1.0 Review of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held August 28, 2006, were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2.0 Announcements/Reports

Dr. Lower introduced Jody Lack, MD, and welcomed her to the Committee. Dr. Lack, a recent SIUSOM graduate, will be filling the vacant position of Resident representative.

2.1 EPC/Executive Committee

Drs. Kovach, Constance, and Lower reported that at the last EPC meeting, two new subcommittees were formed, Future of Medical Education and Master-Teacher/Succession Planning groups. Reed Williams, PhD, gave a report on the results of the Longitudinal Performance Assessment exam that was administered to all four classes during the summer.

2.2 Departmental Reports

None of the departments present had any significant problems or issues to report.

2.3 Doctoring

No report at this time.

2.4 Student Report

Ms. Steffen reported all was going well with her Class. Dr. Lower commented that Ms. Steffen's Class had been doing an admirable job of meeting deadlines for submission of documentation, and they have been completing online evaluations in a timely manner.

2.5 LCME Site Visit – Update

It was reported that final plans were underway for the LCME Site Visit in January and that an SIUSOM website would soon be available. Dr. Klamen will conduct a workshop on January 9, 2007, providing greater detail on the process that is involved with an LCME Site Visit. More information on this matter will be forthcoming.

3.0 Curriculum Issues/Updates

3.1 Empathy Sessions in Year Four

Dr. Rull and Dr. Hull informed the group that they had recently discussed with the Dean various options for the Empathy sessions. Optional sessions were being planned during the Year Four Doctoring Medical Humanities segment. Relevant articles would be distributed to students to generate interest in and discussions on the issue of respect for patients. Attendance would continue to be on a voluntary basis, and small group discussions would be facilitated by Dr. Dorsey. The goal is to give students an opportunity to share at the mid-year point some of the experiences they have had personally or situations they had observed during their clinical rotations. Depending on the success of this approach, a "Blog" may be developed which would enable students to exchange ideas, problems, and solutions; however, the details were still under consideration. Of specific concern is the problem of how issues could be addressed, while still allow students to participate anonymously. It was noted that this initiative continues to be under the purview of the Dean, however, Doctoring and Medical Humanities were assisting with efforts to facilitate better student participation.

It was observed that there continues to be a need for addressing the issue of respecting patients on the resident and faculty levels, as well.

3.2 Elective Subcommittee Report – Call for Electives

Dr. Lower informed the group that preparations were underway for the Call for Electives which would be issued in early November, with a submission deadline for new applications and renewals of current electives in late December. The Elective Subcommittee will begin the review process in January.

3.3 Academic Year 2007-2008 – Calendar Proposals

Dr. Lower called the group's attention to the calendar proposals that had been prepared for Academic Year 2007-2008, detailing how the calendar would differ if students began on July 2nd versus July 9th, 2007. The advantages and disadvantages of each proposal were discussed. It was noted that the Year Three Curriculum Committee had discussed this matter at their last meeting and a decision was made at that time to begin Year Three on July 9, 2007. Following the discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously that the Year Four Academic Year 2007-2008 should begin on July 9, 2007. It was noted that although the Academic Year would officially begin on July 9th, students would be allowed to take an elective course beginning July 2nd pursuant to faculty's availability and willingness to provide such offerings.

Additionally, Dr. Davis expressed concern that flexibility would be needed to reschedule the Year Four Doctoring Medical Humanities segment if Match Week fell within that timeframe. Dr. Constance, Dr. Lower, and Ms. McCann-Stone will review the options available should the calendar need to be revised slightly to reschedule the Year Four Doctoring segment.

3.4 Radiology – Update

Dr. Lower informed the group that at the request of the Radiology Department Chair, Andrew Sherrick, MD, all Radiology electives' open timeframes have been closed. However, they will continue to allow students to register for these courses, but students will be requested to obtain permission from faculty before a new radiology course can be added to their schedule. Because there are limited spaces available, faculty would like to closely monitor the individuals requesting these courses to afford all students an opportunity to avail themselves of the offerings.

4.0 Other

4.1 Next Meeting: Monday, November 6, 2006

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 PM.