



Present:

Tracy Lower, MD
Reginald Bulkley, MD
Erik Constance, MD
Phillip Davis, PhD
Mark Francis, MD
Holly Hoefgen, Class of 2008
Sharon Hull, MD, MPH

Regina Kovach, MD
Karen Lee, MA
Fritz Lower, MD
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA
Erica Nelson, MD
Nicole Roberts, PhD
Carol Thornton, MLS

Absent:

Peter Borgia, PhD
Debra Klamen, MD, MPHE
Jody Lack, MD
Mary Pauza, PhD
Gary Rull, MD
Sandra Shea, PhD
Nicole Sommer, MD
Elizabeth Steffen (Class of 2007)*

Guests:

Charlotte Lofgren (Proxy for Ms. Steffen)

MINUTES

The December 4, 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 October 2, 2006, were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2.0 Announcements/Reports

Dr. Lower announced that two dates have been set for CPR recertification for the Class of 2007. These sessions will be held on Thursday, January 18, 2007 and Thursday, February 15, 2007; both sessions will be held from 5:15 to 7:30 PM. A note will be sent to the Class providing further details.

Dr. Lower also announced that early planning information for Year Four would be presented to the Class of 2008 during their respective Medical Humanities segments in December and January.

2.1 EPC/Executive Committee

Drs. Constance and Kovach reported that at the last EPC meeting, Dr. Nelson presented a report on the CCX results, Curriculum Committee Operating Papers were reviewed, and a brief discussion was held regarding the progress on the formation of the two new subcommittees, Future of Medical Education and Master-Teachers/Succession Planning.

2.2 Departmental Reports

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

2.3 Doctoring

Dr. Hull informed the group that there would be two presentations forthcoming during the Medical Humanities segment. For the Theodore R. LeBlang Distinguished Lectureship in Law and Medicine, William M. Sage, MD, JD, will present "The Wal-Martization of Health Care" on February 27, 2007, at 8:00 AM in the Wedeberg Conference Center, MMC/Room E-72. Dr. Sage is the Vice Provost for Health Affairs, and the Executive Vice President and Provost, University of Texas in Austin. The other presentation will be by Carolyn M. Clancy, MD, Director for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), US Department of Health & Human Services, Rockville, MD. Dr. Clancy will present, "Transparency, Transformation, & Value Exchange: New Opportunities for Quality Improvement," on March 7, 2007, at 5:00 PM in the 801/South Auditorium. Both presentations are open to the public and all are invited to attend.

2.4 Student Report

In Ms. Steffen's absence, Ms. Lofgren reported that all was going well with her Class; interviews were underway and students were very busy.

Ms. Hoefgen reported that students in the Class of 2008 are actively engaged in Clerkship duties and there were no significant problems to report at this time.

2.5 LCME Site Visit – Update

Dr. Lower reminded the group that plans were on schedule for the LCME Site Visit. Dr. Klamen is planning a session on January 9, 2007, to provide additional details. Members were encouraged to review the website for more information specific to the visit. It was also noted that all departments should check their websites to make certain they were up to date.

3.0 Curriculum Issues/Updates

3.1 LCME – New Proposed Standards

Dr. Lower called the group's attention to the new Standard that is being proposed by LCME on Service Learning. If approved, this Standard would likely go into effect next Spring. She informed the group that there are already some electives in the catalog that would provide this type of experience. In a thoughtful discussion, the group explored the perceived intent of the proposed Standard, possible implications for the curriculum and potential efforts toward a reflective phase of service sessions.

Dr. Lower summarized the discussion and indicated that Elective Coordinators might view the renewed and new electives in their departments with an eye toward this focus. She indicated that this matter would continue to be monitored by the group.

In a related discussion, it was also brought to the group's attention that a recent listserv subject was that of offering online courses. It was noted that one course was already offered to students online as an extended elective. As others may be developed over the next years, careful attention should be paid to the policies and procedures to ensure that curricular objectives and time spent in pursuit of learning were suitable for students. Dr. Lower indicated that further discussion on this matter would be forthcoming.

3.2 Elective Subcommittee Report – Call for Electives

Dr. Lower informed the group that the Call for Electives for Academic Year 2007-2008 had been issued in early November and that there were already many renewals which had been returned. She reported that there were some elective renewals still outstanding and asked Elective Coordinators in each department to work with their elective faculty to get these returned by the December 22, 2006, deadline. She also encouraged faculty to develop new course offerings for the upcoming year.

The Elective Subcommittee meetings have been scheduled to begin in January for review of new electives and revisions to current offerings. At the end of their review process, the Elective Subcommittee will bring recommendations to the full committee for the Elective Program to be offered during Academic Year 2007-2008.

3.3 Policy for Conference Attendance

Dr. Lower called the group's attention to the excerpt from the Year Four Policies and Procedures that detailed the Individually-Designed Electives students could create, and specifically item 6.7, which addresses the issue of Conference Attendance. She informed the group that a faculty member had recently asked that this matter be addressed by the Y4CC to determine the appropriateness of allowing students to earn credit for attending conferences. There have been very few instances of this matter over the past several years and each was judged on its individual merits. After a pensive discussion by the group, it was recommended that the policy remain in effect as it is currently stated. Dr. Lower will continue to meticulously scrutinize Individually-Designed Elective applications and make a determination based on the merits of the conference proposed. If there is an instance that

she feels is particularly troublesome and additional input is needed, she can bring it before the Y4CC for discussion and recommendation. It was reiterated that the Policy as currently written is adequate and handles this matter. Because there are already safeguards built into the IDE process, the fear of student abuse of this coursework was negligible.

3.4 CCX Results (Dr. Nelson)

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 comprised the Senior Clinical Competency Examination (SCCX) for the Class of 2007. Ten of the cases used the CCX program while the last 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 last 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 mandatory remediation course for students who do not pass the CCX; this course is now four weeks in length, with Dr. Klamen as the responsible faculty. She summarized her presentation detailing the goals for the coming year. A criticism from students indicates that we must continue to strive for greater consistency among Standardized Patients; also, the group will revisit the merits of utilizing the 37-item Patient Satisfaction form to explore available options for this somewhat lengthy instrument.

Dr. Lower thanked Dr. Nelson for the informative presentation.

4.0 Other

4.1 Next Meeting: Monday, February 5, 2007

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.