



Present:

Tracy Lower, MD
Robert Abrahms, MD
Peter Borgia, PhD
Erik Constance, MD
Mark Francis, MD
Susan Hingle, MD
Regina Kovach, MD
Karen Lee, MA

Fritz Lower, MD
Nancy McCann-Stone, MA
Erica Nelson, MD
Drew Peterson, Class of 2009
Nicole Roberts, PhD
Gary Rull, MD
Carol Thornton, MLS

Absent:

Reginald Bulkley, MD
Phillip Davis, PhD
Holly Hoefgen, Class of 2008
Debra Klamen, MD, MPHE
Jody Lack, MD
Sandra Shea, PhD
Nicole Sommer, MD

Guests:

Cherie Forsyth
Ivajeane Mitchell
Theresa Waters

MINUTES

The March 3, 2008, meeting of the Year Four Curriculum Committee was called to order at 1:06 PM.

1.0 Review of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held December 3, 2007, were reviewed and approved unanimously.

2.0 Announcements/Reports

Dr. Constance announced that the NBME continues to discuss the possibility of combining USMLE Step 1 and Step 2CK into one exam which would be taken at the end of Year 3. If approved, tentative plans are for this to become effective for the Class of 2012 (students entering Y1 in the Fall of 2008). No firm decision has been made on this matter; updates will be provided at future meetings.

2.1 EPC/Executive Committee

Dr. Lower announced that Feb 3 was the EPC Retreat; she gave a brief overview of the agenda and indicated that she would be providing more detail on what she had presented on behalf of the Y4CC later in the meeting.

2.2 Departmental Reports

None of the departments present had significant issues to report.

2.3 Doctoring

Dr. Rull reported that the Y4 Medical Humanities Clerkship begins today and runs through March 14th. This rotation is for the Class of 2008 and is entitled, "Society, Law and Healthcare." Also, the Y4 Doctoring Geriatrics session, Aging (Couple) Across the Curriculum, is scheduled for this afternoon from 2:15 PM to 4:15 PM; the focus is on Driving and Aging, and will feature a panel of Elder Specialists.

2.4 Student Report

Mr. Peterson reported that there were no significant problems to report at this time. He indicated that the Class of 2009 was looking forward to the Year Four Orientation on March 26th when they could begin planning for their fourth year.

3.0 Curriculum Issues/Updates

3.1 Year Four Orientation

Dr. Lower called the group's attention to the Agenda for the Y4 Orientation session scheduled for Wednesday, March 26th. The session will begin at 3:00 PM with PPD Administration and Fit-Testing of masks. The Year Three Clerkship Directors have been asked to release students early from their clerkship duties in order that they may attend this mandatory event. Every effort will be made to

dismiss students early so they may study for their final clerkship exams. Dr. Lower also invited all members to attend the meeting if their schedules permitted.

In a related discussion, Dr. Constance reported that there are some issues yet to be resolved with regard to the Certificate of Insurance for students doing extramural (away) electives. He stated that he was continuing to work with the Legal Department to resolve this matter; however, this may be especially problematic for students wanting to do electives in another country.

3.2 Recommendations for Elective Program – AY2008-2009

Dr. Lower called the group's attention to the "Recommendations" packet for the Elective Program for Academic Year 2008-2009, which includes information for both the Year Four (Class of 2009) and Year Three (Class of 2010) as submitted by the Elective Subcommittee. There are six new elective offerings in the Departments of MD/JD, Medical Humanities, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Psychiatry. In addition, a previously offered elective in the Department of Internal Medicine (Hematology/Oncology) has been refashioned for the upcoming year. The descriptions for these seven electives were included for the group's review and discussion.

It was noted that there were 221 elective offerings for the upcoming year; 87 of these are available to Y3 students as well. There are 19 Intensive Clinical Electives from which the Y4 students can choose. The group was reminded that students must take at least one course from this list to meet Graduation Requirements. The Basic Science Elective offerings were also reviewed; it was noted that students can choose from 102 BSE offerings, 54 of which can be taken by Y3 students. Graduation requirements include at least 4 hours of BSE coursework. There were no changes to the Specialty Pathways at this time. Lists of Half-Time (AM & PM) and Extended Electives were also a part of the packet. The list of electives that had been dropped for the upcoming year totaled 18. Several members commented on the wide variety of courses available to students. The group engaged in a lively discussion regarding the elective program for SIU and the fine work accomplished by the Elective Subcommittee members in the preparation of these recommendations to the full Y4CC. The group voiced unanimous assent to accept the proposed elective program as presented.

3.3 Intensive Clinical Elective (ICE) in Y4

Dr. Lower indicated that since this item was brought to the table by the student who could not be present because of the Doctoring Medical Humanities session, this matter will be tabled until the April meeting.

3.4 EHR Update

Ms. Waters reported that a Subcommittee of the EPC has been formed, with Lauri Lopp, MD serving as Chair, the first meeting would be held this coming week. It was noted that all rising Year Four students will have had the training by the beginning of the new Academic Year (2008-2009).

3.5 Graduation Questionnaire

Dr. Lower informed the group that she had reviewed the Graduation Questionnaire and comments from the Class of 2007, and that overall, they were favorable with respect to the issues germane to Year Four. A brief discussion ensued regarding the data from SIUSOM as compared with those from other schools.

3.6 EPC Retreat – Year Four Report

Dr. Lower referenced the written document that was distributed to the members detailing the information she presented to the EPC at their Annual Retreat in February. She detailed the general overview she had presented, which included basic graduation requirements, data for the Elective Program for Year 4 and Year 3, and opportunities available to students including extended electives, half-time courses, and Individually-Designed and Extramural Electives. She also detailed the number of electives offered by each department for both Y4 and Y3. A breakdown by elective discipline was also provided which included the number of students scheduling extramural electives and the total number of weeks, noting the four specialties with the most student weeks of extramural elective coursework as Emergency Medicine, Ophthalmology, Orthopedics, and Radiology. A comparative analysis of the Specialty Pathways (between Class of 2007 and Class of 2008) was also detailed and she reminded the group that a research project on this matter was currently underway.

The issue of providing electives in languages (specifically Spanish for the Medical Professional and sign language) was also explored. The group identified the lack of these two important electives as a weakness that should be addressed by the Committee. It was noted that the School may need to hire professionals to provide adequate training in these specialties. A suggestion was made that the Spanish instructor at Lincoln Land Community College might be an appropriate resource. Several members noted that there needs to be some action and follow-up on this important matter.

3.7 Neurology Clerkship – Update

Dr. Lower informed the group that there had been many students who requested several days off during their Neurology Clerkship in order to interview. The policy states that there shall be no interviewing during the Neurology Clerkship; however, in reality, there may need to be less rigidity because of the gravity of the interviewing process. This flexibility should be at the discretion of the Neurology Clerkship, as well as a determination of what options are available for making up work lost due to absences. The lottery for the Neurology rotations is near completion, and Dr. Constance stated that he would talk to the Class at the Y4 Orientation session, encouraging students to work together to resolve problems related to the prime interview times, e.g., students with early Match could help peers by taking their Neurology rotation during December and January. Even after the lottery is finished, students have the option of trading rotations with another classmate if both parties agree.

4.0 Other

4.1 Next Meeting: Monday, April 7, 2008

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20 PM.