

Minutes of the meeting of Committee on Educational Policy and Curriculum
SUNY Downstate College of Medicine
October 27, 2011
Seminar Room 2-1

Present: L. Eisner, J. Libien, S. Hrabetova, B. Trauner, K. Perkins S. Hahn, S. Regev

Guest: Dr. Miriam Feuerman

Minutes were approved by committee members.

Anne Shonbrun was unable to attend the meeting. Her presentation of the electives registration data is postponed to the next meeting.

Dr. Eisner asked the committee for their ideas on goals for CEPC in 2012, especially concerning the new curriculum and electives. Dr. Feuerman reminded the committee that one role of CEPC is to lend a faculty voice to the new curriculum. The committee had an open discussion on TBL and faculty input into the new curriculum.

TBL

Dr. Feuerman mentioned that she was one of the unit directors for Unit 2 Molecules to Cells and had a TBL session in her unit this year. She felt that the purpose of TBL is to reduce the number of lectures and make learning/teaching more interactive. This format should encourage students to participate more. In the new curriculum there will be an increase in asynchronous learning where students will teach themselves. Currently, Dr. Volkert is the person in charge of organizing TBLs.

Sue Hahn stated she conducted a survey of first and second year students on their views of TBL. The overall student view of TBL was very negative. Sue focused on the Triple I Antibiotic TBL, which some felt was a waste of time. They felt that they were not given the right or wrong answers to questions and therefore they felt that it was not a good use of their time. The auditorium is not conducive to this type of learning experience and students did not like traveling back and forth to a microphone for Q &A.

Students also felt that the Biostats course should not be done in a TBL format either because of the large room and numerous slides the students had to work with.

Students did not appreciate having been assigned 80 pages two days before the Musculoskeletal TBL. They felt rushed and unprepared. In response to that statement, Dr. Libien stated most of the students that she talked to did not have a problem with preparing for it, but they had a problem with the way the course (TBL?) was executed.

Faculty participation in the new curriculum

Dr. Trauner stated the new curriculum will bring a cultural change and it may be hard to adjust to that. Are teaching faculty within individual disciplines included in decision-making of what content and how their discipline will be covered in the new curriculum? It was suggested that some faculty felt they were not included in final decision-making of structure and content in the new curriculum as it pertained to their own discipline, especially if they were primarily involved

in teaching in the current curriculum. Dr. Perkins agreed with the statement. She also added that faculty members who were not involved in the decision-making felt left out, ignored, and angry. Some faculty in the Physiology department felt that TBL was a business school model and inappropriate for medical school. They feared that lectures would be eliminated. The faculty has to be more pro-active in asking for a larger role in final decisions.

Dr. Libien stated that her department was concerned over whether there will be adequate inclusion of Pathology and whether the pathologists will have a say on how and what will be taught. She suggested having Unit directors work together with faculty members of various disciplines.

Dr. Feuerman suggested that CEPC should create a report and present it to the Executive Committee. The report should contain the general sense of how everybody's reacting to what's happening to the new curriculum. Also arrange to meet with faculty of the disciplines individually.

Electives

The CEPC will work on a new MS4 survey of electives. Hopefully the survey will be sent out in January and again in March. Dr. Libien is working on a template for a new elective proposal form. Sophie Christofourou is working on Career Exposure Opportunities. Currently the CEPC committee has not reviewed any new electives or CEOs.