

Minutes of the meeting of Committee on Educational Policy and Curriculum

SUNY Downstate College of Medicine

February 23, 2012

Seminar Room 2-1

Present: L. Eisner, J. Libien, M. Erogul, S. Ostrow, R. Ovitsh, S. Hrabetova, B. Trauner, S. Hahn, S. Regev, J. Odackal, J. Lampert

Minutes were approved.

Dr. Eisner stated that future agendas will contain information on meetings that took place between monthly general meetings (and therefore not included in the Minutes).

Invited Guest: Dr. Macrae on Clerkships 2013-2015

Students that begin their clerkships in July 2012 there will be students who will have finished all of their core clerkships by July 2014 with the exception of emergency medicine. (EM will be considered a third year core clerkship in new curriculum.) They will still have emergency medicine left to do and they will have already taken four weeks of electives in the third year. The plan is to add some required elements into the fourth year. There will also be an additional month in the fourth year where students can do electives because the Emerging Concepts course has been canceled starting 2013. The Transition to Residency course in the second half of March will still exist.

For the next few years the fourth year will still start in July. It won't be until 2015 that the first class of students who start the new curriculum will finish their Foundation courses, ready to start clerkships in April. For the school year of 2013, 2014 and 2015, the students beginning fourth year are still starting it in July. Therefore, there will be three months in which two COM classes overlap their clerkship year.

Dr Macrae expressed other concerns with scheduling of the clerkship. The Sophie Davis students have to pass the boards before matriculating in the program. Downstate does not want to assume responsibility or provide any remediation for the Sophie Davis students. Students who are enrolled in the MD/PhD-MD/MPH students may also have conflicts with scheduling.

Dr. Macrae presented a proposal for the Advanced Clinical Year (Fourth year) schedule for 2013-2015. See appended sheet. Dr. Macrae felt that the proposal would be an easy transition for students. CEPC members voiced their concerns on the following:

1. Duration of the electives
2. Location of the selectives
3. Difference between elective and selectives
4. Why is there an EM selective (4 weeks) if they are adding EM into the clerkship year?
5. Students should have at least 2 weeks of vacation.
6. Choice of electives

After discussing the pro and cons, Dr. Macrae stated she would meet with the steering committee to address the concerns.

New Electives

Dr. Gabbur's elective has been approved and will be implemented this year. It is being pushed into April because of programs already scheduled this year.

Surveys

Dr. Papp's student evaluation of elective rotation form is online. The decision was made to invite Klara Papp to discuss and finalize three surveys: elective evaluation, residency program director and PGY-1. [A meeting was scheduled for March 8.]

Block Director Guidelines

Block director guidelines have been written by the ad-hoc committee to evaluate the Hem-Onc block. They were initially written for the new block director of Hem-Onc but it was decided that it would be useful to send these guidelines to all block directors. It has already been sent to Dr. Carol Luhrs. However, it has not yet been approved by the Executive Committee or the Dean's Council. Dr. Libien offered to edit it and clarify when block directors could start contacting the class

Request for More CEPC Meetings

CEPC is increasingly being asked to review and approve more and more curricular issues and documents for the new curriculum. There is a need to meet more frequently, at least twice a month. The unit teams of the new curriculum are developing the specific week by week content and structure of the future units. This is a good time for CEPC to give input into these units. So far, the most work has been done in Unit 1 and Unit 2. There are many concerns about the structure and content of Unit 1, especially the first subunit Systems Overview. The Office of Education agrees that CEPC committee can review the plans for the new curriculum in order to help start integrating more faculty who teach this material. Dr. Sass wants to set up a schedule to meet with each unit team. At the meeting, Drs. Lewis, Sass and Williams can talk about specific units and subunits that are being planned. Some felt that this committee does not have the expertise necessary for this task. It was decided to invite some discipline experts who would be teaching in Unit 1 to attend the first meeting. It is important that the student members attend.

Dr. Ovitsh expressed concern about an outside body making recommendations to a unit that has spent months thinking about this. However, not having unit director meetings can cause ill feelings because decisions will be made without involving faculty from relevant disciplines. It was suggested that CEPC meet with the first subunit and see how it goes. If the meeting does not work well, then we will come up with another structure. There has to be some curriculum oversight that is outside of the core group of people and before the new plans are fixed. After a discussion of the pros and cons, the committee decided to have an additional meeting [which was scheduled on March 15 Thursday at 4pm].

CEPC Elections

There has been discussion that CEPC should be an elected committee and have an elected chair. Currently, the presiding officer of the executive committee appoints the chair of CEPC and they selected a committee consisting of old and new members.

