

Committee on Educational Policy and Curriculum
SUNY Downstate College of Medicine
August 6, 2018 at 4-5:30pm Conference Room 2-5 BSB

AGENDA and MINUTES

Present: S Eisner, B Trauner, S Ostrow, J Libien, JM Alarcon, A Amarnani, M Hirsch

Old Business

- Ongoing planning and development for Foundations EBM curriculum – R Ovitsh will update us at future meeting.
- Reviewed Results of CEPC Faculty Survey Fall 2017 – 102 respondents
 - About 50% teach more than 30 hours/year and 54% of those teach both in Foundations and clinical years
 - 83% want to maintain their number of teaching hours.
 - Some comments express concern about Downstate faculty who have minimal to no contributions to the teaching or research mission of the institution. They call for assigning these faculty with teaching responsibilities in every unit.
 - Faculty enjoy their contact with students; 87% rate their teaching experiences as positive. Negative comments pertain to: 1) low attendance in lectures and 2) general student disinterest to give constructive feedback to faculty on weekly evaluations. CEPC members suggest that students are burned out from too many feedback surveys.
 - Faculty know which leaders to contact about curriculum and teaching issues.
 - The greatest number of comments concerned reflecting on the improvement/or no improvement in performance of students in Core Clinical Years. Results were split (55% vs 44%). Students are more collaborative, have better doctor-patient relationship skills, more empathetic, but engage in less critical thinking. There is too great an emphasis on standardized exams.
 - Faculty want more communication and tangible evidence of appreciation from unit director, Chairs, Deans for their teaching contributions.
 - Recruit more faculty with an interest in teaching. Train faculty to become better educators.

New Business Discussion

1) What are the ramifications of the budget cuts on the medical school vs the hospital beyond an expansion of class size? What is the impact of the increase in class size on faculty and the curriculum?

2) How to improve the process of documenting and computing the Faculty Profile which is a statement of faculty effort/work. There are many errors on this official document and it takes considerable faculty effort to recalculate and revise the form. Corrections do not appear to make their way to a revision of the previous year's data. Yet, administrators are using this data to make decisions about faculty more than ever before.

3) What is the potential proposed curricular structure change to move the Step 1 exam date? CEPC members are concerned that so many students are delaying to take Step 1, but were generally loathe to consider breaking apart the curriculum to such a great degree to accommodate a change in the Step 1 study period. CEPC members would be interested in a report from R Bianchi after further research and discussion is done and there would be a strong possibility for a favorable proposal for change to be submitted to the Dean's Council.

4) A Amarnani presented a new proposal for a research pathway/opportunity for medical students jointly with the Internal Medicine department and residents. CEPC members considered it more a research opportunity than a potential curriculum pathway. It would be open to three students.

5) A significant amount of time was spent on how faculty have been impacted by changes in basic science department structure and changes in medical school curriculum structure and leadership. Although challenges were raised for both clinical and basic science faculty, it appears that the changes for basic science faculty are less transparent, more ambiguous and deeper.

DRAFT Proposal for CEPC Action Plan in the 2018/2019 Academic Year

- **Minor Academic Activities**

- 1 Get a follow up update on the Medicine and Pediatrics Sub-Internships.
- 2 Renew a call for renovation of the 5th floor of the HSEB so that the 5th floor carrels can be used interchangeably with the 6th floor for both Foundations classes.
- 3 Call for renewal of the Downstate COM PGY1-2 survey to be sent out to graduates (in addition to Residency Program Directors) to elicit information on adequacy of preparation for residency. DONE The Downstate survey is still being distributed. I will send you the current survey soon,
- 4 Renew plea to Unit Directors and R Bianchi to call for more within unit faculty meetings and communication from Foundations unit leadership and with clerkship directors (curriculum planning, within unit and cross unit issues, assessment outcomes, evaluation outcomes, feedback from CFA and SLC).
- 5 Improve the system to collect data from Ilios and other sources on faculty effort for direct and indirect student contact teaching and curriculum planning hours.
- 6 Renew a call for recruitment of enthusiastic junior clinical and basic science educators.

- **Major Academic Activities**

- 1 Review the impact of change in medical school curriculum and departmental structures on faculty educator role and professional life: supervision, mentoring, assignments, support.
- 2 Review the objectives, implementation and effectiveness of the return to basic sciences curriculum in MS4. Survey post-clerkship programs implemented at other medical schools.
- 3 Review support and goals of preceptor program in Foundations. Is it achieving its stated objectives and contributing to preparing students for clinical rotations?
- 4 Review practical preparation, administrative support and supervision of MS3 students in clerkships. Are students being prepared for their practical responsibilities on the floors? Is there adequate administrative support and health systems sciences education for students making the transition to clinical responsibilities?

(Choose between #3 and 4)

Committee on Education Policy and Curriculum (CEPC) Roster

Dr. Juan Marcos Alarcon (Pathology)
Dr. Stacy Blain (Cell Biology)
Dr. Laura Bruno (Pediatrics)
Dr. Lee Eisner, (Cell Biology)
Dr. Jenny Libien (Pathology and Neurology)
Dr. Steven Ostrow (Radiology and Cell Biology)
Dr. Rikki Ovitsh (Pediatrics)
Dr. Bram Trauner (Medicine)

Student Members:
Ms. Melissa Hirsch MS4
Mr. Abhi Amarnani MD-PhD MS3
Mr. Shane Dluzneski MS3
Mr. Nicholas Suss MS2