

MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

May 6, 2009

PRESENT: Darryn Appleton, Nirjhor Bhowmik, John Bigbee, Kate Bowers, Craig Chiefetz, Linda Costanzo, Steve Crossman, Bob Diegelmann, Alan Dow, Doug Franzen, Margaret Grimes, Mark Kovacs, Richard Krieg, Amanda Layne, Maryann Martinovic, Charles Nottingham, Evan Reiter, Jeanne Schlesinger, Ike Wood.

ABSENT: Georgia Blackwood, Mary Ellen Cleary, Cindi Cornelissen, Susan DiGiovanni, Adriana Faulkner, Frank Fulco, Michael Goldsmith, Sahar Lotfi-Emran, Julia Messina, Virginia Pallante, David Reines, Vibin Roy, Russ Seneca, Crystal Shrestha,

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. by Ike Wood, Committee Chair. Minutes of the April 15, 2009 meeting were approved.

Dr. Wood thanked Mark Kovacs and Crystal Shrestha for their work on the committee. This was their last meeting before graduating. New student members were welcomed and all committee members made introductions.

Dr. Dow presented the report from the subcommittee on the core clinical rotations. The core clinical rotations will span 48 weeks and be comprised of the four blocks. Six to eight times per year, a 1-1-2 day intersession will be scheduled to emphasize general medical topics. The objectives for each block will be defined by the knowledge, skills, and attitudes required by a General, Undifferentiated Medical Provider (GUMP) for that clinical arena. Each block will end with a comprehensive assessment period utilizing various testing modalities. Any objectives not accomplished during the 48 week core clinical rotation period will be revisited during the spring of the third year.

The four blocks are:

- Inpatient Objectives (16 weeks)
 - Surgery
 - Internal Medicine
 - Neurology
 - Gynecology

- Outpatient Objectives (16 weeks)
 - Family Medicine
 - Internal Medicine
 - Pediatrics
 - Neurology
 - Gynecology
 - Psychiatry

- Inpatient Psychiatry
 - Objectives (4 weeks)

- Elective (4weeks)
- Maternal-Child Objectives (8weeks)
 - OB
 - Newborn Nursery
 - Inpatient Pediatrics

After discussion within the committee, the consensus was that this was a reasonable framework for the core clinical rotations which could be expanded upon at a later date.

The next item on the agenda was standard setting for pre-clinical curriculum. Dr. Wood explained to the committee that it would be important that we set parameters for the development of the pre-clinical curriculum and recommended that we consider the items provided by Dr. Costanzo:

- Hours of lecture/day vs small group or interactive lecture
- Syllabus, books, and powerpoints -- what combination?
- Frequency of assessment/examinations
- Style of examinations
- Frequency and style of self-assessments
- Number of different teachers, using best teachers for larger blocks
- Evaluations
- Grading -- pass/fail?

Dr. Wood suggested that the committee count off to form four groups, each group coming up with suggestion for two topics. The four teams covered:

1. Hours of lecture/day vs small group or interactive lecture
Syllabus, books, and powerpoints -- what combination?
2. Frequency of assessment/examinations
Style of examinations
3. Frequency and style of self-assessments
Number of different teachers, using best teachers for larger blocks
4. Evaluations
Grading -- pass/fail?

Each team met for 30 minutes. Team 1 reported back first. Dr. Krieg brought to the committee's attention the blocks of time in each organ system when the anatomy lab would be available and the number of days currently assigned to those blocks. A major problem would occur in the endocrine/GI/reproduction block where 10 days of anatomy would be need and the lab would not be available for two months. Also, there was a problem in that the students would not have access to gross study of the kidney until the peritoneum was dissected which means in the cardio/pulmonary/renal block, they would not have seem a normal kidney. Kate Bowers suggested that the cardio/pulmonary/renal and endocrine/GI/reproduction blocks be switched which would address both problems. The committee discussed this briefly and the consensus was that this would be a logical solution to the problem.

The team began presenting recommendations regarding the items in number 1. A recommendation was made to limit the number of hours of lecture to two hours/day. Dr. Crossman suggested that there be some allowance for variability by stating there would be no more than 10 hours of lecture per week, and no day may have more than four hours of lessons. The committee discusses and was in consensus. Team #1 recommended that there be no more than two resources for each block. There was much discussion about the need for multiple textbooks versus a syllabus, and no consensus was achieved. Also, the time allotted for the meeting had been expanded.

Dr. Wood asked each team to email him their recommendations to be distributed electronically and also allowing all members time to analyze the suggestions.

Dr. Wood noted that the committee will meet again in two weeks.
The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ike Wood, M.D.
Committee Chair