

## MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

May 19, 2010

PRESENT: Georgia Blackwood, Joel Browning, Craig Cheifetz, Mary Ellen Cleary, Bob Diegelmann, Jeff Dupree, Kim Fisher, Doug Franzen, Sahar Lotfi-Emran, Julia Messina, Virginia Pallante, Evan Reiter, Vibin Roy, Jeanne Schlesinger, Ike Wood

ABSENT: John Bigbee, Nirjhor Bhowmik, Kate Bowers, Linda Costanzo, Steve Crossman, Susan DiGiovanni, Alan Dow, Adriana Faulkner, Frank Fulco, Michael Goldsmith, Margaret Grives, Richard Krieg, Amanda Layne, Maryann Martinovic, Charles Nottigham, David Reines, Sane Fereshteh, Russ Seneca, Raphael Sun.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Ike Wood, Committee Chair.

Dr. Wood reviewed progress made since the curriculum renewal process began in the summer of 2008:

- Valued outcomes
- Overall structure of the curriculum
- School of Medicine Objectives
- Scientific Foundations of Medicine Course
- Hematology/Oncology Course
- Musculoskeletal Course
- Translational and Clinical Research Course
- Application in Course Director's Report
- Application in evaluation of faculty and course
- Application in Curriculum Council Review
- Application in Peer Evaluation
- Application in Course Evaluation
- Teaching competencies

Dr. Wood led a discussion about the longitudinal curriculum and an article by Kitzes et al. on cross-cutting themes. After discussion, the committee decided that the following cross-cutting themes would be implemented in the new curriculum:

- Career development
- Clinical skills
- Communication skills
- Cultural competency and diversity
- Ethics and professionalism
- Evidence-based medicine
- Genetics
- Growth, development and aging
- Integrative medicine/complementary medicine
- Knowledge management/informatics
- Patient safety

- Physical and psychological comfort of the patient
- Population health
- Social and behavioral context of health and illness
- Wellness and prevention

Joel Browning and Kim Fisher presented a demonstration of the Curriculum Inventory System and how it may be used to track items in the new curriculum.

Dr. Wood led a discussion on changing the grading in the new curriculum, and more immediately, in the M1 and M2 years to pass/fail. An article by Bloodgood et al. was discussed. The authors noted that a change in the grading system in the first two years of medical school conferred distinct advantages to medical students, in terms of improved psychological well-being and satisfaction, without any reduction in performance in courses or clerkships, USMLE test scores, success in residency placement or level of attendance. Dr. Wood noted that a valued outcome of the new curriculum, which is underscored by the expectations of the LCME, is that curricula are competency based and driven, and that, at least in the pre-clinical years, rather than “pass or fail”, after a course students should be noted as “competencies achieved or competencies not yet achieved.” Concern was raised that this would impair the ability to rank students which would impact AOA status and class ranks which are needed by residency programs. Dr. Wood explained that a numerical score for each course would remain with or without a statistical derivative of performance relative to the class (e.g., t-score or standard score), and this would enable the school to continue to provide these functions for our constituents. Dr. Wood talked about the need for changing the culture of the school from one where students are focused on grade to one where they are striving to improve their competencies as physicians. Dr. Franzen noted on the respiratory course review by the students they indicated wanted to be told what they “need to know and what would be nice to know.” In general, students on the committee were in agreements that this change should occur. It was also noted that it would help with adjustment to the M3 year where there is a broader distribution of grades as opposed to the M1 and M2 years where there is a larger preponderance of student receiving Honors and High Pass. Faculty on the committee was ambivalent about the change and felt the need for more data. There was a suggestion to disseminate this to all faculty for input. However, concerns were raised that without the background context, faculty could not provide educated input. A second suggestion was that this be disseminated to M1 and M2 Course Directors and M3 Clerkship Directors for review and discussion. Dr. Wood informed the committee that he would disseminate the article and background information to the Course and Clerkship Directors for additional feedback.

Dr. Wood led a discussion on creating an Academy of Medical Educators. Dr. Cheifetz had already described the teaching and technology competencies developed by the Committee on Faculty and Instructional Development including the recommendation that an academy be formed. Dr. Wood emphasized that in order to develop faculty as educators in the School of Medicine, it is difficult given that over 200 faculty teach in the M1 and M2 years. A discussion ensued about the value of teaching particularly in terms of compensation for teaching time. Dr. Wood briefly described the ARTS

(Administration, Research, Teaching and Service) Compensation Plan that had been disseminated to the Chairs. The committee recommended that this be sent back to the Faculty and Instructional Development Committee for more specific information including:

- Goals of the academy
- Criteria for membership
- Activities of the academy

Dr. Wood explained that over the summer subgroups would be formed to complete the content of the Applied Medical Sciences. In addition, the Clinical Concentrations component of the curriculum could begin development. Dr. Wood recommended that Drs. Cheifetz and Dow co-chair this subcommittee with assistance from Drs. Franzen and Reiter. In addition, the current M3 students on the committee asked to participate. Dr. Wood also suggested that a “point person” be assigned to each of the cross cutting themes to begin content integration.

Dr. Wood thanked the M4 students who have served on the committee and will be graduating. He suggested that they be replaced by the rising M2 Curriculum Representatives. Sahar Lotfi-Emran recommended that his be opened up to other students who may have an interest.

Dr. Wood noted that the Curriculum Planning Committee will meet on a quarterly basis for progress reports.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

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