

VCU School of Medicine  
**Faculty and Instructional Development Committee**  
***Curriculum Under Construction***

March 30, 2009, 12 – 1:30

Sanger 1-050 (MCV Campus) & Conference Room 1, Claude Moore Bldg (Inova Campus)

**Attending:**

**MCV Campus:** Dr. Alan Dow (representing Dr. Isaac Wood), Mrs. Kim Fisher, Ms. Carol Hampton, chair, Dr. Eddy Ishac, Mr. Justin Jones, Dr. Deb Lebman, Dr. Bennet Lee, Mr. John Priestley, Mr. Boyd Rawles, Dr. Curtis Sessler, Dr. Tim Van Meter

**Inova Campus:** Dr. Craig Cheifetz, co-chair, Dr. Alicia Freedy, Dr. Chapy Venkatesan

**Absent:**

**MCV Campus:** Dr. Jonathan Ben-Ezra, Dr. Stephanie Call, co-chair, Dr. Steve Cohen, Mrs. Judy Gary, Dr. Indra Kancitis, Dr. Jeff Kushinka, Dr. Michelle Whitehurst-Cook, Dr. Isaac Wood

**Inova Campus:** Dr. Samantha Buery, Dr. Cynthia Gauss

C. Hampton called the meeting to order 12:05 pm, and handouts were distributed. Committee members introduced themselves. The minutes of February 17, 2009, were approved (Dr. Sessler moved to accept; Dr. Lebman seconded). C. Hampton advised that the “Faculty Teaching Competences” developed and recommend by the Committee were posted on the “curriculum under construction” website, and restated the committee goal to further refine the competencies to then be submitted to Dr. Wood and SOM leadership to support SOM teaching.

**Evidence based medicine (EBM) competencies:** Dr. Freedy

Dr. Freedy presented for discussion and further refinement the EBM competences that were developed by a working group composed of Drs Kushinka and Venkatesan and herself. Life-long learning will be a requirement in the new curriculum and use of EBM is an essential part of that. Committee consensus is that this list is a strong and efficient. They mirror the competencies needed by our student and residents and our faculty must become competent in order to teach our students. Dr. Cheifetz suggested that a user’s manual be developed, perhaps 1 – 2 pages, on how to teach the competencies to residents and students. Several committee members mentioned specific EMB assignments currently for medical students in M1 Genetics, M1 Population Medicine, M2 FCM (Mr. Jones), and M3 internal medicine, which are taught by several of faculty, including some from Tompkins McCaw Library (Margaret Henderson), and librarians from the Inova Campus. Dr. Freedy teaches pediatric residents to use PubMed. There are assignments for Internal Medicine interns/residents as well, per Dr. Lee. Dr. Kushinka is attending his second conference on informatics/EMB at Duke at this time for teaching in IM residency program. Mr. Rawls suggested the development of online resources to teach how to design clinical questions and access journal articles and commented on the needs relating to how to construct effective clinical questions. Dr. Sessler offered that perhaps the user’s manual could be titled “EBM for Dummies.”

**Decision**

The Committee recommended that the working group develop a user’s manual on how to teach EBM. Additional faculty suggested to work with the current group includes Dr.

Alex Krist, Family Medicine, Fairfax. Dr. Feedy will confer with Dr. Kushinka to consider this request. In addition, C. Hampton will ask representatives from the library to review the list and offer comment. Next step: Determine who will take responsibility to prepare a “users manual” and proceed with development.

**Technology competencies:** Dr. Ishac, Mr. Priestley, Mrs. Fisher

The Committee reviewed the Technology Competencies. Next steps to consider include: 1) development of resources to facilitate faculty achievement of the competencies and 2) how to help faculty self assess to determine where they are and where they need to go to achieve their goals. J. Priestley demonstrated an on-line assessment as a sample to help respondents develop their profile. Discussion included:

- “nice menu”
- How best to define the categories? Slight? Average? How does one analyze the abilities?
- There are too many competencies.
- Medical student Committee members commented that many of these competencies are very basic skills that all faculty who teach should have them.
- Is anyone looking at integrating/sharing resources across the enterprise? Sometime technology planned for cannot be used. The clinical faculty often use technology on the VCUHS/MCVH side during their teaching, and resources saved on the computers may very well be wiped off (for example link to cultural competency resource material). VCUHS and university computer support systems are managed separately, however, there is collaboration.
- On the university side, units are working so that the same technology is available in classrooms across the MCV Campus and easy to use by faculty.

**Decision**

The Committee members complimented the self assessment tool and thanked the development team. The “self assessment” will be piloted with the SOM M1 and M2 Course directors to gain feedback for guidance about use of the format. Preliminary data will be analyzed as part of needs assessment for future planning for instructional resources to support faculty development.

**Plans for the new medical school building:** Dr. Dow

Dr. Alan Dow gave an overview of plans for the building of a new School of Medicine building which will be located in the space currently occupied by the AD Williams clinic. Dr. Dow presented the schematics located at [http://www.fmd.vcu.edu/vcu\\_new\\_som.pdf](http://www.fmd.vcu.edu/vcu_new_som.pdf) (48 images are posted). Some of the goals are to provide flexible teaching facilities (large group and small group) for a class of 250 through advanced learning technologies; to serve as the symbolic home for currently dispersed SOM facilities; and to provide enhance Center for Simulation and Patient Safety. The plans are impressive and the Committee was excited about the possibilities. Much discussion ensued about facilities to support the ideas for the new curriculum and innovative teaching. Thanks to

Dr. Dow for his presentation and the work of Dr. Wood and others working with the architects and planners.

**VCU CTE programs/resources:** Dr. Van Meter

Dr. Van Meter distributed a "Summary of CTE Faculty Development Programs and Utilization," March 30, 2009. He had talked with Dr. Zack Goodall, CTE Director, to obtain the information. The purpose is to help the Committee identify potential resources and services from the University's Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE) which may be available to help our SOM faculty achieve teaching competencies and avoid duplication of effort. For example, CTE kindly assisted the SOM last summer in teaching two faculty workshops on the effective utilization of clickers for more interactive instruction. The discussion will be carried over to the next Committee meeting.

The remaining agenda items will be carried over to the next meeting, which will be scheduled in May:

- Outcome of committee's work:
  - a. To recommend core competencies for medical school teachers (Stanford teaching competencies, technology, EBM) to enable faculty to teach effectively in the new curriculum and beyond
  - b. Next steps:
    - i. Who will be the teachers?
    - ii. How to implement teaching competency expectations of faculty?\*
    - iii. What resources/support services will be needed to facilitate faculty achievement of the competencies?
    - iv. How can faculty be recognized?
- Teaching academies: references

The meeting was adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Prepared by C. Hampton