

MINUTES OF THE CURRICULUM PLANNING COMMITTEE

October 15, 2008

PRESENT: Darryn Appleton, John Bigbee, Georgia Blackwood, Kate Bowers, Craig Chiefertz, Marey Ellen Cleary, Linda Costanzo, Steve Crossman, Bob Diegelmann, Susan DiGiovanni, Alan Dow, Doug Franzen, Margaret Grimes, Mark Kovacs, Richard Krieg, Sahar Lotfi-Emran, Julia Messina, Virginia Pallante, Evan Reiter, Vibin Roy, Jeanne Schlesinger, Ike Wood

ABSENT: Cindi Cornelissen, Frank Fulco, Crystal Shrestha

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. by Ike Wood, Committee Chair. Dee Fink's book was distributed to committee members. Following introductions, Dr. Wood explained the ground rules for the meeting:

- During the meeting we will only focus on the overall structure or "skeleton" of our ideal curriculum—we will not examine methods of instruction.
- There will be no discussion of obstacles—only what would be our ideal curriculum

Prior to the meeting, the following materials had been distributed to all members:

- Agenda
- List of committee membership
- Results from faculty and student focus groups on valued outcomes
- A structural model of the current curriculum
- A AAMC Curriculum Directory describing medical schools in the United States and Canada that were reporting innovations in curricular design

All members were asked in advance to review this material looking for best practices and innovations.

The committee reviewed the valued outcomes to determine which they believed best applied to the structure of the curriculum. There was consensus on the following three:

- Ability to integrate scientific foundations of medicine
- Ability to function in systems and to teach each other (teams)
- Be active learners

It was determined that these values would serve as a compass in the initial planning of the structure of the curriculum.

Committee members were asked to count off forming four working teams (Dr. Chiefertz served as his own team at INOVA). Each team selected a project manager, recorder and reporter. The teams were asked to construct the "skeleton" of an ideal curriculum based on the information provided or information they had obtained individually. The teams

were then asked to develop a consensus on one curriculum and to diagram the curriculum.

Teams were as follows:

1. Krieg, Schlesinger, Grimes, Roy and Cleary
2. Franzen, Pallante, Dow, Bowers, Diegelmann
3. Appleten, Lotfi, Messina, Costanzo, Bigbee
4. Reiter, Blackwood, DiGiovanni, Kivacs, Crossman
5. Chiefetz

Each team presented their ideal curriculum to the entire group. Common elements in four out of the five presentations included:

- Shortening the preclinical years to approximately 1 and ½ years.
- A prologue course at the beginning of the preclinical phase that would focus on the scientific principles of medicine.
- Building upon these principles with an integrated systems approach for the remainder of the preclinical phase.
- Clinical experiences, ethics, professionalism, and medical humanities would run in parallel with the basic sciences.
- Work in small groups, teams, societies and learning communities.

Team #4 had some elements common to the other teams. The curriculum they presented was based on the University Of Calgary School Of Medicine and based on symptom presentation as the stimulus for learning the basic and clinical sciences in tandem.

Each team was asked to provide a detailed written description of their curriculum which is to be submitted to the Committee Chair by next Wednesday. It was explained that these descriptions would be distributed to all members with the intent of them examining each model for strengths with the goal of developing consensus on one common curriculum.

It was explained to the Committee that meetings would be on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 3-4:30 p.m. in Sanger 1-050. Because the next scheduled meeting would occur during the AAMC meeting, it was announced that we would convene again on Wednesday, November 12 from 3-4:30 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

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