

UGMS Committee

Minutes

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, January 9, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Professional Development and Conferencing Services Boardroom

PRESENT: Ms. L. Glynn (Chair), Drs. S. Moffatt, D. Allison, N. Bandrauk, J. Kibble, G. Farrell, A. Dorward, S. Shah, A. Goodridge, Ms. S. Ackerman, Ms. E. Hillman, Mr. G. Beckett, Mr. A. Kennedy (Student Representative) and Mr. J. Thorburn (Student Representative)

APOLOGIES: Drs. D. MacPhee and D. Boone

Agenda Additions

There were no agenda additions at this time.

Review of Minutes of December 5, 2007

Mr. Thorburn noted that under the section entitled "Policy on Student Health", his name had been spelled incorrectly. This correction will be made.

BANDRAUK/THORBURN

THAT the minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Response Regarding Request for Deviation from Protected Time Policy

Ms. Glynn advised that a response had been received from Dr. Harris regarding her request for deviation from the Protected Time Policy. The letter noted that some sessions will run until 5:30 pm but Dr. Harris is unable to provide further details at this time except to say that these sessions will occur in April and May and each student will be required to do two 5:30 sessions. The sessions will occur on Monday, Wednesday or Thursday.

A letter will be written to Dr. Harris advising that this has been approved by the Committee.

Intellectual Property Rights

Members were advised that this issue is being dealt with at another level and there will be a report to this Committee at a later date.

Wireless Communication

Mr. Thorburn noted that a survey has been developed and is ready for distribution to the students. There will be an update at a future meeting.

New Business**Adoption of CanMeds Roles**

Dr. Farrell advised that he had met with Dr. Peters to obtain clarification regarding the concerns of this Committee expressed at the last meeting. The idea would be to replace the MSOP objectives with CanMeds for the new curriculum beginning in 2010.

Concerns were expressed regarding the fact that CanMeds are specialty based objectives and given the mission of the medical school, the four principles of family medicine should also be considered. It was felt that a letter should be written to this Committee by Drs. Moffatt and Miller expressing these concerns and the matter would then be brought to the attention of Dr. Peters.

Ms. Glynn indicated that MELT would like a decision regarding this matter as soon as possible so they can proceed with their needs assessment. It was also noted that any issues regarding this should be dealt with by the MELT group as it is only the responsibility of UGMS to advise them of the problems and concerns that have arisen.

It was agreed that a letter would be written to the MELT group outlining the issues and concerns of the UGMS Committee.

Pandemic Policy

Dr. Bandrauk expressed concerns regarding the possibility that a medical school policy may be overridden by another group, such as Eastern Health or the University as a whole, if they should develop a policy as well. She felt it may be premature for this Committee to consider putting something in writing at this time. It was suggested that it might be better to consider guiding principles for safety issues and guidelines for infection control for medical students instead of a policy. There may also be some question with regards to educational advantage in pandemic situations and this would need to be addressed as well.

It was felt that a decision should be made regarding what a policy should contain to meet the needs of the medical school and these suggestions should be forwarded to the University. There were concerns that MUN would be more concerned with a general level policy which will not meet the needs of the medical school.

It was suggested that a mechanism should be put in place that would facilitate decision making with regards to safety vs. work and educational experiences. Because the medical school has a unique population, in the absence of a university policy, decision makers will need some general guidelines when making the necessary decision.

Mr. Thorburn noted that there is some concern among students that in the event of a pandemic they will be put in charge because they happen to be on service, but that their skills and academic background may not be advanced enough to handle such a situation.

After further discussion it was agreed that Mr. Beckett and Dr. Bandrauk will develop and post a draft on the Committee homepage for review and a more focused discussion at the next meeting.

Curriculum Proposal CH-1

A copy of Dr. Farrell's curriculum modification proposal was circulated and reviewed by members. It was noted that Dr. Farrell is attempting to reintroduce two hours into the Community Health curriculum to provide an introduction to information technology in health care including access to an electronic medical health record. If this is approved, Memorial would become the first medical school in Canada to teach electronic medical records.

The chair noted that there is support from Community Health for this proposal but it has not been discussed at the Pre-clerkship Committee level, however, there is a general sense that it will be supported. She also noted that there was one concern expressed with regards to the information provided to support this proposal. A search for information on other schools providing this type of lecture had been completed. Only one US school was found and it did report positive results. It was felt that Dr. Farrell has provided all available information on this initiative.

It was pointed out that Dr. Goodridge provides a lecture on charting skills during the Clerkship Preparation course and it was suggested that consideration could be given to joining this lecture with Dr. Farrell's proposal. Drs. Farrell and Goodridge will meet to discuss this possibility.

After some further discussion, Dr. Farrell was excused and the following motion was made:

BANDRAUK/SHAH

THAT Curriculum Proposal CH-1 should be accepted.

CARRIED

Policy on Student Health

A revised policy has been posted to the homepage for review.

Dr. Moffatt noted that at the last meeting there had been discussion and changes were suggested which have now been incorporated into the new document. As well, the link to the MUN calendar was added.

Mr. Thorburn advised that feedback from students indicated that they would prefer to have a small committee make the final decision rather than just one person. Students also expressed concern with regards to what the school would do to ensure the well being of the student while away and the process for helping to bring the student back.

It was noted that the university requires a medical certificate stating that a student is medically fit to return before a student can return to school. As well, when the assistant dean is making the final decision, the independent assessments would be taken into consideration.

After further discussion, the following suggested change was made for item #1 under the policy section:

“A medical student who *manifests* a physical or mental illness will be *required, at the discretion of the Assistant Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education*, to withdraw either temporarily or permanently from the MD program....”

It was agreed that Dr. Moffatt would make the suggested changes and the new document would be posted to the homepage for discussion. As well, because there were some issues with regards to one person making the final decision, Mr. Thorburn will take the matter back to the MSS for further discussion.

LCME Standard MS-31-A

Deferred to the next meeting.

Curriculum Proposal Policy

Deferred to the next meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Ms. L. Glynn
Chair

LG/mjm