

Clerkship Committee

Minutes

DATE & TIME: Thursday, October 9, 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Undergraduate Medical Education Boardroom

PRESENT: Dr. D. Boone (Chair), Drs. B. Curtis, N. Duggan, G. Farrell, J. Harris, K. Tompkins, A. Drover, T. Delaney, Ms. M. Kent, Ms. S. Ackerman, Ms. M. Neary, Mr. N. Cheeseman (Student Representative) and Mr. J. Stitham (Student Representative)

APOLOGIES: Drs. H. White, P. Gardiner and M. Raju

Review of Minutes of September 18, 2008

The minutes were reviewed and the following changes were noted on page 3:

Under the heading "Report for Accreditation" the bullets should read:

- Formative assessment program needs to be *reviewed*.
-clerkship objectives and *alternative experiences* available/provided if the *encounters* are not met. It should also be established that there is *a review* of the *clerkship experiences* with a mechanism *identifying gaps and redundancies*.

Second paragraph, second bullet should read:

- Review of clinical criteria across all clerkship rotations to look for gaps and *redundancies*.

CURTIS/FARRELL

THAT the minutes be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Student Research

Dr. Boone noted that he had met with the student's research supervisor who was quite happy that the Committee had approved the student to participate, however, there were some concerns expressed with regards to the restriction on the number of hours the student could participate.

Members were asked to think about alternatives to provide more research time in the future for those students who are interested in this area. Options should be available to students now so they don't have to wait until the new curriculum is introduced.

It was noted that members should also consider how much research would be acceptable in the clerkship and if necessary, consideration should be given to extending the clerkship to accommodate this.

There will be further discussion regarding this matter at a future meeting.

Student Involvement with Patient Transfers

Dr. Farrell advised that he has sent an e-mail to the university lawyer and was referred to Risk Management. A reply has not yet been received. It should be noted however, that there is currently no policy to cover student involvement with patient transfers.

New Business

NBME Pass Marks

Dr. Harris provided a review and explanation for how pass marks were determined for the NBME examinations.

These new pass marks will now be reported to the Class of 2010 and will also be posted to One 45.

Rural Family Medicine Rotation

Dr. Moffatt sent his regrets and requested to be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Fourth Year Non-Core Selectives

Members were advised that there are currently ten students who cannot be placed in non-core selective rotations for fourth year. There is a possibility for placement at some sites outside the St. John's area, however, there may be issues with accommodations. Funding will also have to be secured if students are required to travel for these rotations.

Pediatrics Rotation – Saint John, NB

Dr. Drover noted that there has been an increase in the number of Dalhousie students at the Saint John, NB site for core Pediatrics, but there is still only enough space for one MUN clerk. The Dal rotation is different and MUN students are only permitted to observe the Dal academic half day – they are not permitted to participate. This will become even more of an issue when the medical school expands.

Accreditation Standards – ED-2

Ms. Ackerman reviewed the information on the accreditation standards that had been circulated to members prior to the meeting.

With regards to recording clinical experiences, some members noted that they have been experiencing problems with T-Clerk with regards to obtaining information from the system. All information that has been entered by the students is not always available. As well, students seem to find the internet aspect of the program to be an issue at times and there is no way to easily look at what they have already entered.

Dr. Farrell noted that clinical experiences must be tracked for accreditation purposes, and as well, it must be proven that students are being provided with an alternative for those experiences that they have not seen. It is up to the Committee with regards to how they chose to do this.

After further discussion, the following motion was made:

TOMPKINS/DELANEY

THAT return to using the paper format to record clinical experiences and other systems will be reviewed in April.

CARRIED

Accreditation Standards – ED-24

It was noted that the Committee had to find some way to ensure that residents are accessing the educational objectives when teaching clerks. Access can be tracked on One 45.

After further discussion it was felt that this information should be stressed to the residency directors at the postgraduate meeting. Dr. Boone will request to be invited to the next meeting.

Accreditation Standards – ED-30

Members were advised that they need to report to Ms. Ackerman and Dr. Farrell regarding the system of formative and summative feedback currently being used for students. Ms. Ackerman will e-mail the requirements for this standard to the coordinators and once the information is received, she will be available to meet with each one personally if necessary.

Suture Lab

Dr. Delaney noted that Dr. Gill is currently providing a three-hour suture lab in cooperation with one of the drug reps, and he would like to see this as something that all students can avail of at the beginning of their third year. This would involve 4 to 5 groups for about ½ day each.

Dr. Boone supported this idea and felt that it should be incorporated into a skills lab. He noted that Dr. Gill should be advised to discuss the matter with Dr. Wells with a view to having it added to the new curriculum.

Student Reports**Class of 2009**

Mr. Cheeseman reported that there were no issues for his class at this time.

Class of 2010

Mr. Stitham reported that some of his classmates were having some issues with One 45 with regards to access to the clinic cards for Internal Medicine. Some students have completed clinics but have not gotten cards signed.

Dr. Tompkins clarified that students are suppose to print the clinic cards to take with them to each clinic.

After some discussion it was decided that the clinic cards would once again be printed and distributed to students for their use. Ms. Pelley will be asked to e-mail students to advise them of this and that they can pick up the cards in the UGME Office.

Dr. Farrell advised that there is also an issue with regards to students not attending the Eastern Health site orientation sessions and also not attending orientation with the applicable clerkship coordinator. Students need to be reminded that both are required.

Dr. Farrell agreed to e-mail students to remind them that it is a requirement that they attend all orientations, including those with Eastern Health.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Darrell Boone, M.D., FRCSC
Clerkship Coordinator

DB/mjm