

UGMS Committee

Minutes

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, March 10, 2010, 4:00p.m.

PLACE: Professional Development and Conferencing Services Boardroom

PRESENT: Lindsay Glynn (Chair), Drs. T. Adey, G. Farrell, C. Donovan, L. Gillespie, S. Moffatt, S. Murphy, S. Shah, A. Goodridge, Ms. S. Ackerman, Mr. G. Beckett, Ms. E. Hillman.

Regrets: Mr. S. Pennell, Mr. P. Richard

Minutes from Previous Meetings

The minutes were approved as circulated.

Business Arising

Dr. Farrell noted that he and Dr. Goodridge met to discuss the 4th year. He noted issues regarding core rotations. For example, if Anesthesia and Emergency Medicine are core rotations, then other core rotations become extraneous. They are reviewing the core rotations and other issues including rural placements and will report back to the Committee.

Reports

Dr. Adey provided a brief Pre-Clerkship report. The Leave Policy that was discussed as problematic at a previous meeting has been updated and is working well with recent changes.

The Patient Safety and HIV/AIDS IPE modules were positively received by students. There was poor attendance for the HIV/AIDS module meetings, as many students understood that attendance was not mandatory. Those that did attend found the sessions to be quite powerful and useful.

Issues regarding the examination for BSMII (Immunology) were recently discovered. The study guide provided for the students corresponds directly to the summative examinations for the last two years and therefore, the examination is not an accurate marker of the students' knowledge of immunology. As nineteen students received 100%, the course chair decided to use the exam as a 10% formative assessment and increase the percentage of the final examination. The Pre-Clerkship Committee decided to use examination reviews for formative assessment only.

IS-14

Regarding the provision of opportunities for research, Dr. Farrell expressed concern that we may not be in compliance with IS-14 and sought advice from the Committee. Dr. McKay noted that CIHR Student Awards are available annually yet there are rarely any applicants. Others noted

that opportunities exist, both funded and non-funded, but perhaps need to be promote more actively. UGMS Committee members agreed that we are in compliance with this standard as the Faculty of Medicine does provide opportunities for students to participate in research regardless the uptake. The following suggestions were made;

1. Identify a faculty member to act as the primary contact for students interested in research. Dr. Farrell offered to take on this role.
2. Increased promotion of opportunities to students, including providing such information in relevant documentation.

It was noted that the plans for the new curriculum include blocks of time during the first two phases of the curriculum during which students are able to pursue research and/or other activities. The student research as it relates to IS-14 should not be confused with the MD/PhD program.

Assessment Committee

Dr. McKay hopes to bring proposed changes to the Summative Assessment Policy to the next UGMS meeting.

An ad-hoc committee has been tasked with investigating new ways to align assessment methods in clerkship. Once the Sub-Committee on Student Assessment (SSA) has accepted and discussed the ad-hoc committee's report, Dr. McKay will bring it to UGMS for approval.

Mr. Beckett inquired about the question bank, and whether or not steps have been taken to address previous concerns regarding the software integrity and the question validity. Dr. McKay informed the Committee that PET is currently being used rather than D2L for the question bank and that a recent version has been purchased. The advantage of using PET rather than D2L is that PET is controlled by the Faculty of Medicine, while D2L in the University is a government-selected tool that can be changed at any time. Funding has been requested to hire a staff person to review the questions in the question bank. Dr. Farrell noted that students are requesting evidence to indicate that tests are valid assessments of their knowledge. We need to be able to provide such evidence, if requested.

Medical Withdrawal Policy

Minor edits were made to this policy following consultation with the University's Privacy Officer and review by the Dean. All changes were approved and the final version was passed (Move GB; 2nd SM). It was noted that numerous methods must be used to communicate this policy with the students especially considering the fact that the Clerkship students are geographically dispersed.

Any Other Business

Dr. Goodridge asked when we can expect to have administrative support again now that Jeannie Haynes has moved to another position. He noted that the UGMS Committee is a high level committee and can use help to ensure that tasks normally taken on by an administrative assistant are completed. Dr. Farrell said that we can expect to have someone in that role within 2 months.

Adjournment at 5:00.

LG/LG