

Clerkship Committee

CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes

DATE & TIME: Thursday, November 9, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Undergraduate Medical Education Boardroom, HSC

PRESENT: Dr. D. Boone (Chair), Drs. J. Harris, G. Sherman, B. Curtis, A. Drover, K. Tompkins, J. Steeves, Ms. M. Kent, Ms. S. Ackerman, Ms. J. Young (Student Representative), Mr. S. Butt (Student Representative) and Dr. D. Fontaine (Invited Guest)

APOLOGIES: Drs. H. White, P. Gardiner and Ms. V. Griffin

Review of Minutes of October 12, 2006

It was noted that Mr. Sheldon Butt should be added as being in attendance at the meeting.

THAT the minutes be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

Business Arising

Update on Family Leave Policy

Dr. Boone suggested that the students meet with Ms. Kent to incorporate the issues into the policy and bring it back to the next meeting for approval.

Accreditation Issues

Dr. Boone noted that all disciplines have now identified their clinical curriculum and he inquired as to how each discipline was collecting the information with regards to what items students have or have not completed. This information needs to be documented and an alternative experience needs to be provided if necessary. He suggested a paper trail and noted that it could also be incorporated into T-Clerk.

Dr. Drover advised that students are completing and passing in the forms which are kept on file in the Pediatrics Office until the final evaluation is sent to UGME at which time they will be

included. Students are also told that if they are in the seventh week and have not seen a particular procedure, etc. they should do the computer case.

Dr. Tompkins advised that her discipline has had some difficulty because they are having problems accessing the WebCT resources that they need. The objectives are on-line along with the nine problems students are supposed to see during the rotation. Students are asked to e-mail their information to the discipline with regards to what they have or have not seen.

Dr. Boone noted that the check form developed by Ms. Ackerman should be used by all disciplines and should be returned to UGME along with the final evaluation. The form will be e-mailed to each discipline coordinator once some minor changes have been made.

Dr. Sherman stated that currently this information is not being documented for Rural Family Medicine but he noted that T-Clerk would be used for this purpose once the program was modified.

Dr. Boone suggested that the form should be given to the clerk at the beginning of the rotation and some way should be found to ensure that it is returned and Dr. Sherman felt that this would be the role of the rural preceptor along with the student and he agreed to look into the issue.

Mr. Butt advised that for the Psychiatry rotation, the form was e-mailed to students by Dr. White's office. Students completed it and passed it back with other paperwork for the rotation. At week seven, students reported any concerns by week seven the experience was provided.

Update on Gateway Project

Dr. Boone advised that he has spoken to Monica Kidd, coordinator for the project, regarding clerks being available and she is happy with one day per rotation. She will provide the schedule to Ms. Moss in the UGME Office.

Update on Inter-professional Education

Dr. Boone felt that the only requirement would be a brief tally of what clerks take part in that could be considered as an inter-disciplinary experience. This information should be provided by each discipline coordinator at the next meeting and Dr. Boone will then pass it on to Dr. Curran as requested.

New Business

Presentation of Lab Medicine and Pathology Theme

Dr. Boone reminded members that approximately 1 ½ years ago, Dr. Wells appointed several people to review various themes through the curriculum and it would be their responsibility to report back to this Committee. The first presentation would be today from Dr. Dan Fontaine who he introduced to members.

Dr. Fontaine stated that in his review of the Pathology and Lab Medicine theme, it seems that pathology is taught more at the beginning of medical school and none at the end. Clerkship is when students are making decisions regarding their postgraduate training and a lot of students are not aware that pathology is an option for them. As well, currently there are some staffing issues which is partially why more time has not been committed to extra teaching and it would probably not be possible to incorporate pathology into all four years of medical school.

Dr. Fontaine suggested that it might be possible to incorporate some pathology into Radiology components if the opportunity exists as well as into the group sessions in pre-clerkship and possibly in the academic half-day for clerkship. It would have to be decided if it should be added to all disciplines or just during one discipline. He envisioned that it could be incorporated into Surgery and thus could be done with existing cases.

Dr. Drover suggested that it may be a good idea to incorporate Pathology into the second year clinical skills course. This would provide directed teaching for one patient which would help reinforce things.

Mr. Butt suggested that the academic ½ days might be appropriate in clerkship and the students would probably find this very helpful.

After some further discussion, Dr. Boone agreed to pass this information on to the UGMS Committee and he will also discuss it with Dr. Wells in order to determine if there is any support for this.

Privacy Act

Dr. Boone noted that Ms. Kent had attended a workshop on this matter and was left with the impression that the forms used for collecting any personal information may need to be altered, or at least students will need to be informed why the information is being collected and for what purpose it will be used. He felt that this decision should be made at a level higher than this Committee and that body can decide what the statement should say and which forms it should be included on.

Fourth Year Evaluations

Dr. Boone advised that it has been suggested that the evaluations for fourth year rotations should be graded as pass/fail only, and any academic awards that are currently given in fourth year should be taken out because there is no way to evaluate fairly.

Ms. Young felt that a down side to this would be the fact that if a student is considering a certain discipline for postgraduate training, the fourth year rotation that is graded as pass/fail may not be taken as seriously as it would be with the current designation. Rotations may be considered as electives by other schools if they are not evaluated on the same scale as other rotations here.

Dr. Tompkins felt that this would take away from the incentive for students to work hard and do well during fourth year and Dr. Drover agreed stating that in the past there have been issues with accountability and this may make things worse.

Dr. Boone noted that the consensus of the Committee seemed to be that moving to a pass/fail system would be of no benefit and he would pass this information on.

Student Feedback

Dr. Drover stated that she has been reviewing the feedback from the Class of 2007 and there seems to be the same problems as last year with regards to distribution. She expressed concern that the information is supposed to be provided to the discipline coordinators three times per year and a summary at the end of the year and wondered why distribution needs to be delayed with Diana Deacon. The information needs to be distributed as soon as possible so issues can be dealt with if necessary.

Student Report – Class of 2007

ITER Issues

Ms. Young advised that she has contacted her class with regards to ITER problems and the following was noted:

- Students expressed concerns regarding evaluations not being submitted by supervisors for 8 to 9 months after the rotation has been completed and as a result, students may not get a fair evaluation because the supervisor may not remember them.
- Quite a few students suggested that exit interviews from the rotations might be useful to address concerns regarding the rotation.
- There was concern regarding the fact that for certain teams there is a designated evaluator and students feel that this person cannot always evaluate them properly because they have not worked with the student. Because of this, students feel that they are automatically being graded as average and are receiving no feedback on their performance.

Dr. Tompkins stated that it may be the perception that only one evaluator completes the ITER but even though there is only one name on the form, the result is from the whole team – it is a group effort.

Dr. Drover felt that ideally coordinators should have time to meet with the clerks midway and at the end of the rotation and also meet with their supervisors.

Dr. Tompkins agreed stating that the resources are not available for coordinators to do a proper job and the university should intervene with those who do not complete the forms on time.

Dr. Boone noted that this is probably the responsibility of the discipline chair and he would be happy to pass on these concerns as necessary.

Ms. Young noted that another concern expressed by a student was that the mark given by a rural preceptor is sometimes different from what is given overall.

Dr. Sherman advised that the evaluations for rural family medicine are not as objective as the ITERs, there is no examination and it is very difficult to differentiate between the different levels.

Dr. Steeves also noted that as well, if a student does a rotation at the beginning of clerkship as opposed to the end of clerkship, the expectations from supervisors would be different and if supervisors are only getting students intermittently, this would also make it much harder to make a comparison.

Fourth Year Schedule and Changes

Dr. Boone advised that there have been some problems with requests for changes to the fourth year schedule in the past. The procedure that was provided to the students was followed in order to be fair to everyone and also to ensure that supervisors are not lost and this is especially a concern with rural family medicine. However, students should be permitted to do the rotations that they want to do to help get them into their program of choice. A meeting had been arranged with Ms. Young to get a sense from the class regarding fairness if changes were permitted and to ask if there were any requests for changes and a deadline was given to make these requests.

Ms. Young noted that no one had a problem with it and about 1/3 of the class responded. There are currently four requests for changes and the deadline is November 10.

Dr. Boone felt that students should be accommodated as much as possible while still keeping supervisors happy.

Student Report – Class of 2008

Students on Promotions Committee

Mr. Butt stated that he took this matter back to his classmates for feedback and there was an overwhelming response that they did not want to have student representation on the Promotions Committee.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Darrell Boone, M.D., FRCSC
Clerkship Coordinator

DB/mjm