

Education Council (EC) Meeting Minutes

June 16, 2009

Members present: *S Allen, D Anderson, L Anderson, M Baird, K Brooks, T Ebner, A Friedman, L Hansen, L Henson, R Hoffman, J Jochman, A Johns, W Miller, A Minenko, C Niewoehner, J Nixon, L Perkowski (audio call), D Power, T Thompson, T Walseth, D Wangensteen, K Watson, P White, M Woods*

Members absent: *J Adams, J Beattie, B Benson, B Brandt, A Campbell, S Chahla, B Clarke, K Crossley, C Hegarty, M Hordinsky, M Kondrak, L Ling, M LuBrandt, R McCollister, J Miller, C Patow, L Repesh, L Ryan, J Sauter, R Soninno, T Stillman, R Wong, J Wynn*

I. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the May 19th meeting were approved without changes or additions.

II. Discussion

Years One & Two Curriculum Retreat – June 15, 2009 – Preliminary Report

Dr. Lindsey Henson provided a synopsis of ideas that were developed as a result of input from the June 15th Retreat. The Agenda (see meeting materials) format included 4 breakout discussion groups;

- Addressing Integration Across Year 1 & 2,
- Integration in fall semester Year 1,
- Integration in spring semester Year 1
- Integration in Year 2.

Each group's discussion focused on the same set of questions (see Agenda). Group facilitators gave a summary at the end of their small group sessions.

A set of "Common Themes" (see meeting materials) were developed by the facilitators from feedback in the small group discussions, with many common points raised in all of the groups. The summation doesn't include specifics of course content but is more directed toward how to approach the development of content. Bullet #3 under Practical Needs specifically discusses how to organize a structure/process to ensure communication between scientific disciplines and clinical courses. Council members responded with input for some areas of discussion from the Retreat; i.e. faculty development to address skills needed to participate in curriculum changes (organizing courses, fewer course lectures, formative quizzes, assist students independent study time), how to organize the integration of disease with disciplines, possible oversight by "block directors" (someone in charge), and time commitment to manage across several levels of coordinating integration may cause breakdowns in achieving integration. Student input includes a request for more consistent course structure across the Year 2 courses. The Education Steering Committee and the Education Council are the bodies responsible to oversee how courses align appropriately with other courses (coordination of courses between departments).

Further discussion touched on course design, small group requirements, interactive learning within courses, assessment, how to assess professionalism in Year 1 and 2, and how to achieve a change in culture that engages students in active learning. It was pointed out that Duluth's

smaller class size makes it easy to know when a student is there and engaged. Students favor continuing the lectures-on-line that are available for the TC courses and there was agreement that small groups do generate attendance in the TC courses. Council members see active learning within the small group as a stronger model. Members discussed a reduction in exam weeks and possible alternatives for assessing student progress.

III. Action

Twin Cities Calendar and Duluth New Doctor Calendar

Dr. Henson introduced 3 projected calendars for the TC schedule and 2 calendars for Duluth for 2010-11 and 2011-12. The calendars were developed over time with input through the Education Steering Committee and through individual meetings with course directors. Dr. Henson explained the overlap of courses and how redesign of basic science courses mesh with critical thinking cases. She also provided details for how staggering both the old and new curriculum would be accomplished. The schedule establishes an appropriate timeline to provide data for the LCME process. Dr. Henson indicated there are some probable changes that will occur, i.e. ID course content and a few other course changes may take place. She reported that the start and end dates, the winter break and probably the spring breaks will remain the same. There will not be drastic changes for the basic design. Dr. Friedman noted that it is necessary to make the decision today, if there is support for the calendar design.

Dr. Henson provided copies and details for the New DR curriculum in Duluth, noting how their changes will roll-out over the next 2 years. Dr. Hoffman reported that Duluth will continue their current Year 2 for another two years; he also noted that the basic calendar structure is the same as it was when discussed by Council members 6 months ago. Dr. Henson reported that eventually the timing for the calendars for both campuses by 2011-2012, will be very close. There will be some difference between the two campuses in the content of the critical thinking cases, but the Duluth students will develop the same abilities through their cases as the TC students acquire. An important piece is that the TC cases will be continued in Year 3 and 4, and the Duluth students will be required to do those same cases when they transfer for clinical rotations. The plan for cases may be change once a pilot case has been tested. Dr. Watson noted that the new proposed calendar structure will allow more time for study for USMLE Step 2. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the proposal to accept the projected Medical School, calendars for 2010-11 and 2011-12 with the understanding some minor language changes may be made, was unanimously accepted.

Recorder Sue Mowbray

No Meeting scheduled for July 2009

The next Education Council meeting will be held on August 18, 2009

Approved by EC members August 18, 2009