Education Council (EC) Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2009


Guest: Jennifer Sauter-MS 4


I. Approval of Minutes
Minutes for the June 16th meeting were approved without changes or additions.

II. Information
Twin Cities Admissions Update
Paul White, Associate Dean for Admissions, provided a Profile of the entering class for Fall of 2009. He reported there were 170 individuals accepted and 169 matriculated this year, one person withdrew before beginning the Orientation process. Associate Dean White’s report included the following details; the number of matriculating Minnesota residents was down slightly by approximately 5-6 fewer, there is a slightly higher number of women than men (53% women, 47% men) in the entering class and several individuals from under-represented minorities chose other institutions. Education Council members asked where individuals in the under-represented group usually elect to go (when rejecting acceptance at U of MN) and Mr. White indicated it is almost always dependent upon which school offers the most money for their program. Julia Wynn is currently evaluating results from a survey of the entering class and from those who did not matriculate; to help determine why students select the University of Minnesota and why they choose other institutions. Mr. White will provide an update in September, of the findings from the survey.

Associate Dean White also reported that the total number of applications is down slightly for entrance in 2010; which is the national trend as well. He went on to say that applications for Minnesota residents and multicultural groups have both increased. In the past generally the response has been “financial aid” amounts. The Duluth entering class will begin the week of August 25th and Dr. Hoffman, Associate Dean for Medical Education/Curriculum-Duluth will provide an update on their program in October. In response to EC members’ questions about scholarships, Mr. White stated that most of our students receive approximately $3000 each year, adding that there are also Dean’s Scholarships and this year MMF began to offer a $26,000 grant to veterans of either the Peace Corp and of AmeriCore. He has made both of these organizations aware of the on-going award in hopes of drawing applicants to the program.

Clinical Competency Assessment (CCA)
Linda Perkowski reported that there are two new assessments which are being introduced for the Fall 2009 semester. They include a formative assessment for the incoming class and the CCA beginning September for the Year 4 students.

Leslie Anderson furnished details of the changes occurring in use of these new assessments. The CCA is replacing the PCC OSCE and 2009-10 is a transitional year where it’s being offered to Year 4 students who have not taken the PCC or the RPAP OSCE. In 2010 the CCA will be given to all Year 3 and 4 students. Aspects assessment included in the CCA include:

- Categories for each case
  - history
  - physical
  - communications
  - overall satisfaction with student
- SOAP notes: 2 cases
- Total score for each case
- Total score for exam

Ms Anderson reported that currently 134 students have signed up and clerkship directors will be notified of their test date, so they are aware that these individuals will not attend their current rotation on that date. In regard to grading and validation, the CCA will take place in the IERC where standard patients will provide feedback. Plans to provide remediation have been developed for those who are not able to pass the CCA, for the time being they will not be required to use these services. The CCA will possibly become the high stakes milestone in the future.

Leslie Anderson continued with a report on the Longitudinal Performance Exam. She noted that it will measure several areas; i.e. where within UME do diagnostic pattern recognition and clinical data interpretation abilities happen and do they accelerate/decelerate; and does that development help students to self assess at the U of MN and/or within the larger pilot group. Ms Anderson noted that the same assessment will be give to every student 4 times; pretest in August of 2009, end of Yr 1, end of Yr 2 and end of Yr 3. She went on to say that this is a formative exam. The schedule is designed to assess the progress of students on both the TC and Duluth campus. The consortium involves six other medical schools in the Midwest. There was some discussion of a new trend, which uses an admission OSCE and the score is considered in conjunction with MSATs and other measures for admission purposes. It may be possible to explore data from institutions using this pretest.

Curriculum Planning
Lindsey Henson, Vice Dean for Medical Education reported that due to the on-going curriculum planning meetings (latest held on August 7th) it is necessary for EC members to review the calendars for 2010 and 2011, which were previously approved.

At the August 7th Curriculum Planning meetings, the practical process of designing a new courses and schedules began. Curriculum Committee members will continue the planning process at monthly sessions through November, 2009. The format for planning has been divided up by semesters and future planning sessions will be divided by courses for more detailed planning. Resources have been identified for use during planning for horizontal integration of courses. Dr. Friedman requested comparison information for the Contact Hours per Student (see meeting materials). This information reflects what is currently taking place.

Dr. Henson noted placement of courses and contact hours will change. As an overall result there will be slightly more contact time throughout the two years, because there are fewer exam weeks and one extra week added to the end Year 1. There will be redistribution from time currently spent in the scientific foundation course lectures to time planned for the more clinical education during Years 1 and 2. Previously the EC had approved a MED 2010 calendar which included 4 one-half days of independent learning. Because of changes regarding MED 2010 and through on-going discussion
with individual course directors, it has been determined by the Education Steering Committee to recommend changes in the Immersion course. After the first 9 weeks the Immersion course will change and as a result 3 one-half days of independent learning time will be available to students.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded a proposal was presented to change the Medical School calendar altering the Year 1 schedule with regard to the independent learning segments. The in the proposed schedule independent learning segments will consist of 4 one-half days for the 1st 9 weeks and 3 one-half days for the remainder of Fall Semester. The proposal for this change for the entering class of Fall of 2010, was approved by the EC. In addition, members agreed that if in the future there is evidence of need for more independent learning time to better serve the curriculum, EC members will revisit the schedule to consider adding additional independent learning hours.

The Education Steering Committee (ESC) determined that the overall structure of the curriculum would be more supportive of the Principles for the Curriculum (revised) with changes to the calendars previously approved. The change to the calendar affects the Fall semester of Year 1 in 2010 for the TC campus. This would create a 17-week semester with 3 courses; Immersion-Human Structure and Function, Immersion-Science and Medical Practice and Essentials of Clinical Medicine. The timing for the Milestone 1 exam remains the same as in the previous calendar. Upon a motion duly made and seconded the proposal to accept a change in the Medical School calendar to meet the change in structure for the Year 1 Fall Semester, was approved.

Dr. Mark Paller, Executive Vice Dean
Dr. Paller spoke about the importance of the Medical School and his support for moving the program into the 22nd Century and initiatives to deliver knowledge to medical students. He talked about areas that are important to the progress of the School and a curriculum that enhances how medical students will learn. Issues of concern for the future may involve admissions, space concerns, a blend of classroom structure and e-learning, clinical sites, class size and how Schools across AHC can work together in some subject areas.

The next Education Council meeting will be held on September 15, 2009

Approved by EC members September 15, 2009