Curriculum and Instruction Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday August 20, 2015

Attendees
Tina Thompson, PhD, Chair
Jeff Ignatoff, MD
Ed Grimsley, MD
Marshall Angle, PhD
Robert Weintraut, MD
Bob Visalli, PhD
Susan Cline, PhD
Roy Russ, PhD
David Parish, MD
Zach McGalliard, MSI

Robert Donner, MD
Steve Williams, MD
Edward Klatt, MD
David Baxter, MD
Curran Dalal, MSII
Grady Carter, MD
Alice House, MD
Michael Smith, PhD
Edward Klatt, MD

Absent
Joshua Masdon, MSII
Mahesh Patel, MD
Carolyn Klatt, MLIS
Kristjan Thompson, PhD
Blanca Lopez, MD

Jacob Beltz, MSIII
Butch Wolff, MD
John Buckholtz, MD
Carol Pryby, MD
Dominique Broccoli, PhD

Visitor
Larry Nichols, MD

Call to order
Dr. Tina Thompson, Chair of the CIC Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

Approval of Minutes
The minutes from the July 16th, 2015 meeting were presented for approval of the committee. The minutes were approved by acclamation.

New Business

1. Dr. Thompson introduced Zach McGalliard, the new student member of the committee.
2. The proposal for class expansion was introduced to the committee. In the academic year 2016-2017 20 additional students will be added to the Savannah campus for a total of 60. The Macon campus will remain at 60 for a total of 120 students for the class. To accommodate the class increase in Savannah, the facilities are being modified to accommodate all Mercer student education spaces, faculty, staff and administration offices, research labs and the library. The modifications will be completed in January 2016. There will also be an increase in faculty and staff to accommodate the change in student numbers. Clinical education for the 120 students will be accommodated by 51 students in Savannah, 51 in Macon and 18 in Columbus. The proposal
was opened for discussion. With an overall increase in class size, there was concern expressed about the potential impact of repeating students on the clinical rotations. This is something that will need to be monitored. It is critical that students know on acceptance on which campus they will spend their clinical years. An opportunity to switch campuses between students is also important. This proposal will go to the LCME for approval.

3. All new residents on all three campuses go through MUSM’s Residents as Teachers program during orientation. Residents are given the competencies and learning objectives for their discipline and given guidance on being an effective teacher of MUSM students. In addition a Residents as Teachers blackboard course is available with numerous discipline specific and general teaching resources for the residents. The CIC is responsible for monitoring resident participation in these sessions. All but 2 residents attended the sessions on the three campuses. Those residents have been contacted and required to view the materials on blackboard. There must be 100% attendance. Departmental educational activities will be available throughout the year and program topics and participation will be forwarded to the MUSM Dean’s office for documentation.

4. 2015 Step 2 CK final summary report was presented. As noted last year, there was a high failure rate for the Class of 2015. The report will be sent to all of the clerkship directors after the CIC has had a chance to look at the information. The committee members expressed concern about the students that struggle and how they can be helped. Identifying the underlying issue is the greatest concern. Is the problem associated with study skills and/or test taking or is the issue more a deficit in knowledge. Important to have available a learning skills specialist to diagnose and develop treatment strategies for our struggling students.

Old Business

1. Dr. Klatt gave the curriculum update. The committee is consolidating the plans and materials and finalizing the schedule. Topic outlines that identify what populates the blocks have been decided. The next step is to identify block committees. The foundations block will serve as the template for the rest of the blocks. Dr. Thompson has been given a copy of the foundations block and will present it at the dean’s retreat next week for their comments.

2. Dr. Smith gave the assessment update. The committee determined that the 65 cut off for pass/fail cannot work for all exams. The cutoff will differ for each exam based on content and difficulty. The SOCA exam is changing. It will now be called the MPRA – Medical Practice Reasoning Assessment. It will consist of a clinical reasoning and oral exam. The students will see the SP, write up their note. Faculty from Savannah and Macon will score the notes and then students will present their case the next day. This provides opportunities to study and learn more about the case.

Campus Specific Curricular Issues

1. Savannah (Tina Thompson) – None
2. Macon (Steve Williams) – None
3. Columbus (Alice House) – None
Subcommittee Reports

1. BMP (Ed Klatt) – Reviewed the neuro phase, overall went well
2. CS (Bianca Lopez) – Not Present
3. CM (David Parish) – Orientation is set up for site selection for the 1st year students.
   Continuing to recruit for the CM Director is Savannah.
4. Year 3 (David Baxter) – EPIC process is in place and working well.
5. Year 4 (Steve Williams) – Continuing to work on selecting more selectives for 4th year students. Also looking at Ambulatory Care Sub I rotations.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Minutes recorded by Katie Davis