Curriculum and Instruction Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, December 16, 2010

Attendees:

William Bina, MD, MPH, Dean
David Burtner, MD
Grady Carter, MD
Marie Dent, PhD
Robert Donner, MD
Wade Fletcher, MD
Ashley Horner, PhD
Carolyn Klatt, MLIS

Edward Klatt, MD
Blanca Lopez, MD
Patrick Roche, MD
Allison Scheetz, MD
Abhi Saxena, MSIV
Tina Thompson, PhD, Chair
Jerry Tift, PhD

Absent

Wayne Glasgow, PhD
Michael Smith, PhD
Umang Patel, MSIII
Erin Meehan, MSII

Joseph Harmon MSI
Klugh Kennedy, PharmD
McKinley Thomas, EdD

Call to Order

Dr. Tina Thompson, Chair of the CIC Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 2, 2010 meeting were presented for the approval of the committee. Dr. Tift recommended adding the topic line “Physiology Review” above the following paragraph so it no longer looks like the statement is part of the ER Review: Dr. Thompson updated the CIC on an e-mail which Dr. Leeper-Woodford sent to the students on 11/24/2010 concerning the CIC review of physiology. Dr. Thompson informed the CIC that a clarification e-mail was sent to the students by Drs. Thompson and Donner on 11/29/10.

A motion was presented, made, seconded and approved to approve the minutes with the above mentioned correction.

Old Business

Update on Year 3/Year 4 Proposal
At the November 18, 2010 meeting, Dr. Donner presented a year 3/Year 4 review subcommittee report to the CIC. At that meeting, the CIC members were asked to send their thoughts, comments, or suggestions to Dr. Donner or Dr. Thompson by December 15th for further review. Dr. Donner noted that four CIC members did send their thoughts, comments, concerns and suggestions to him and Dr. Thompson. Due to technical difficulty, Dr. Donner was unable to give an electronic presentation of these comments. He offered to send the presentation to the CIC members electronically.

Dr. Donner reported that the most commented on issue was why and how selectives would be added to the third year curriculum. The most compelling reasons to consider these selectives are:

1. The educational component that they would provide for the students, allowing broader and deeper coverage of clerkship objectives/topics. Selective examples are: Neurology, ID, cardiovascular disease, rural medicine, rural surgery, endocrine and renal disease.
2. The site of the selectives would play an important part. These would be non-hospital based, set in ambulatory care clinics and/or private offices helping to decrease the impact of increasing number of students in the hospital setting.

Several solutions were recommended:

- No change in clerkship structure and content. Incorporate increased number of students into present structure
- Outsourcing students to hospitals and incorporating same curriculum.
- Outsourcing students to ambulatory/out-patient settings with standard curriculum.
- Outsourcing students to ambulatory/out-patient settings with sub-specialty curriculum that will complement and enhance the primary core curriculum.
- Modify length of clerkship to create Selective blocks
- Some of each.
- Other

The floor was opened to discussion of the proposals by the CIC members. Due to time constraints, it was suggested that the committee devote additional time at the January 6, 2011 meeting to discuss this issue.

New Business
Update on Physiology Review

Dean Bina reiterated that he gave the charge to the CIC to review all components of the curriculum as indicated in the MUSM faculty by-laws. He made it clear that it was not his intent to discredit one particular discipline, but to improve the curriculum and provide the best education for the students. He asked that the CIC continue their curriculum reviews as scheduled and thanked the committee members for their dedicated service. He will continue to take responsibility for working on personnel issues.

Dr. Klatt stated Mercer University School of Medicine is a professional school, and ultimately exists to serve citizens of the State of Georgia by educating students to enter the practice of medicine. Medicine is a calling that requires a commitment to excellence. That excellence is upheld by professional standards and supported by professional behavior. We must also uphold national standards for medical education. Postgraduate training programs seek medical students who have achieved appropriate standards in their education with mentoring through role models who value excellence. When this institution fails to uphold professional standards, it fails to achieve its mission. When students train in an environment with poor professional behavior, their future success, the success of the health care system, and the health of their patients is threatened. At Mercer University School of Medicine we have an established governance process that functions to uphold standards of excellence and address problems that could potentially lead to failure. Legislators apportioning Georgia taxpayer dollars, contributors to Mercer University, and potential students seeking a Mercer University education will consider how we support excellence in education.

The CIC members thanked Dean Bina for his continued support of the Committee as they continue to review the curriculum.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 5:30 PM.

Minutes recorded by:
Debbie Brickner