

Clerkship Committee

Minutes

DATE & TIME: Monday, March 12, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Undergraduate Medical Education Boardroom

PRESENT: Dr. D. Boone (Chair), Drs. H. White, J. Harris, P. Gardiner, G. Sherman, A. Gill, M. Raju, Ms. M. Kent, Ms. S. Ackerman, Mr. S. Butt (Student Representative) and Dr. M. Zulfiqar (Invited Guest)

APOLOGIES: Drs. B. Curtis, K. Tompkins, A. Drover and M. Wells

Review of Minutes of February 15, 2007

The minutes were approved as circulated.

Business Arising

Leave Policy

Dr. Boone pointed out that this issue is more involved than deciding what the time off entitlement would be for clerks and will include protected time, etc. according to the LCME requirements. These issues are currently being discussed at the UGMS Committee and Dr. Boone will check with Dr. Peters to find out if there is anything required from a clerkship point of view.

Update on T-Clerk

Dr. Boone advised that he has recently been in contact with the administrator at T-Clerk and they have created a demo template of the new objectives. It is quite a bit different from what was previously used in that it only contains what was provided to them by Ms. Ackerman. They have not been able to put it on a web based platform as yet but are still working on the possibility. Dr. Boone will review it with Mr. Butt and report at the next meeting.

New Business

Presentation on Oncology Theme

Dr. Boone introduced Dr. Zulfiqar to the Committee as the theme leader for Oncology. He noted that the idea is to get a sense of how the identified themes are integrated into the curriculum because they are not separate courses.

Dr. Zulfiqar provided a handout to members and this was discussed in some detail. Concerns were expressed with regards to whether or not there was enough oncology teaching currently in the curriculum and it was agreed that Ms. Ackerman would review the database that has recently been developed with Dr. Zulfiqar in an attempt to discover what is currently being taught.

Clerkship Template

Ms. Kent advised that when the dates were changed on the template for the Class of 2009, it caused a split within a month with one week before Christmas and three weeks after Christmas. This will cause concerns for both students and faculty and will also increase travel expenses. After some review a decision was made by the UGME Office to move the rotations ahead by one week at Christmas, however, this will cause that particular month to be two days short for any rotation at that time. Ms. Kent enquired if this would present a problem for any discipline.

Coordinators agreed that this would be the best option and noted that the decrease by two days would not present a problem.

Clinic Cards – Obstetrics/Gynecology

Dr. Boone stated that there has been some question regarding the clinic cards recently introduced by the Discipline of Obstetrics/Gynecology as to whether or not they were summative or formative.

Dr. Gill clarified that these were a formative form of evaluation and would not be considered in the final evaluation.

Student Reports

Time Designated for Academic Half-Day Teaching

Mr. Butt noted that clerks are under the impression that the half-day designated for teaching is protected time whether lectures are scheduled or not, however, clarification is needed. Recently a clerk had been confronted by a resident who expected the clerk to be on service when a scheduled lecture had been cancelled.

Dr. Boone advised that this matter had been raised at a UGMS Committee meeting during a discussion on protected time and the feeling was that the academic half-day time is not protected time unless students are actually participating in the half-day presentation.

Dr. Harris felt that in clerkship the half-day is a time when students get formal teaching so whether they are learning formally or not, there should be some time for independent study.

Dr. Boone stated that clarification is required on this issue. He felt that there was value to students being available for duty if they are not in formal teaching time.

After some further discussion it was agreed that Dr. Boone would raise this issue at the UGMS Committee meeting under protected time but until the issue is resolved students will be expected to report for duty if a large amount of allotted teaching time has been cancelled or if they are not scheduled for teaching at all.

Student Performance Records

Mr. Butt asked for clarification as to whether or not resident ITERs are included in the student performance record (dean's letter).

Dr. Boone advised that they are only included if the comment is incorporated into the overall evaluation. Resident ITERs specifically are not included but their input is normally considered when ITERs are completed.

Code of Conduct

Mr. Butt noted that pre-clerkship is currently working on a code of conduct and he wondered if clerkship has representation with regards to deciding on what the final code will be.

Dr. Boone clarified that many of the issues that have come up are unique to pre-clerkship however, he felt they would be happy to have clerkship input into this matter. The code will encompass all aspects of medical school and all students. The matter arose because of some questionable professionalism issues and it was felt that it was worthwhile to re-do the guidelines into a formal code of conduct. The Committee will have an opportunity to review the document before it is approved so if there are any concerns it can be discussed at that time.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Darrell Boone, M.D., FRCSC
Clerkship Coordinator

DB/mjm