

UGMS Committee

Minutes

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.

PLACE: Professional Development and Conferencing Services Boardroom

PRESENT: Ms. L. Glynn (Chair), Drs. D. Boone, D.W. McKay, S. Moffatt, A. Goodridge, S. Shah, C. Donovan, G. Farrell, S. Murphy, A. Dorward, Mr. G. Beckett, Mr. S. Pennell, Ms. S. Ackerman, Ms. E. Hillman, Mr. J. Thorburn (Student Representative) and Mr. N. Sowers (Student Representative)

APOLOGIES: Drs. N. Bandrauk and T. Adey

Members were advised that Dr. Goodridge has agreed to act as vice-chair for this Committee and as such, he will chair the next two meetings. It was noted that a needs assessment for the Undergraduate Program has been posted on the home page and members were asked to make a point of reading it as it would be discussed at the June meeting.

It was noted that today's meeting would be dedicated to discussion of the report by the Pedagogy Review Committee.

Recommendations Section of Report

Members felt that item #1 stating *Blended teaching and learning methods should be used, with the most appropriate methods selected according to content and objectives* was a very broad statement. It was thought that this statement should be considered more specifically and more complete examples should be provided.

It was also felt that item #5 which states *Physical resources – space, furnishings, and equipment – appropriate for the numbers of students and educational methods must be in place in time for the start of the renewed curriculum*, seems to imply that everything has to be here and in place before anything else can be done and this is probably not the case. This would probably be best handled on a piece-by-piece basis and it might be appropriate to have a pilot project to use as a guideline.

Dr. Boone pointed out that at the clerkship level students and supervisors will be more distributed throughout the province and if a particular standard of teaching is to be provided, the appropriate technical infrastructure will be required to accommodate this.

Members were advised that Janice Cooper has been hired by the medical school to look at this issue and the faculty needs to ensure that if students are part of this program they must have the same experience with teaching no matter where they are. Even though the clerkship is not the main focus for Ms. Cooper, it is hoped that a framework can be constructed that will provide guidelines that preceptors in the community must follow if they wish to supervise students. Up to this point, it has been left to the regional authorities to make these decisions, however, control of this should be with the medical school so that students can be better informed with regards to what to expect when they are off-site.

Some members had concerns with regards to the resources that will be required because it seems that there is a directive towards small groups which is very resource intensive, however, others felt that a pilot project would be feasible as everything will probably not be small group based. The suggestion is caseload based which doesn't necessarily mean small groups.

It was noted that one of the major issues involved will be proper faculty development which will need to begin very soon. A needs assessment should also be available as a directive for any training that may be needed.

When asked by the chair what members felt the next step should be, some members still felt that a pilot project would be the best way to proceed at this point. Dr. McKay agreed to draft the parameters of a pilot project and it was felt that the Division of Biomedical Sciences would be a logical division in which to test the pilot.

Dr. Farrell pointed out that some of the things that will be required for the new curriculum have already been implemented into the Women's Health Course. Feedback will be available from this course which can be made available as a report; if members want to take some of this material and apply it to existing courses, they should proceed because it should be tested before it has to be applied to the curriculum across the board.

It was also noted that the spiral application for the curriculum has already been approved by Faculty Council so there is nothing to prevent any course chair from applying this format immediately. One semester could be used as an example which would provide a start on implementation of the change for development of the curriculum. It was felt that everything in the report would be required but a plan would also be needed, and implementation would facilitate this. This will also provide a sense of the amount of work that will be involved and how many extra faculty will be needed. From the clinical point of view and going forward, to make this work well there needs to be a huge buy-in with the health authorities and government with regards to the human resources that will be required.

Dr. Goodridge advised that if the Committee is considering Women's Health as the pilot project, it should be looked at very quickly because the feedback that has been received by the Program Evaluations Sub-Committee has not been favorable. Dr. Farrell suggested that the Committee should wait for the report from Ms. Deacon and additionally, statistics will be required from HSIMS.

It was noted that part of the purpose for this meeting today and for moving the chairs along in the process is to make people more aware and to allow them to develop the mindset that this will happen and not if it will happen. Dr. Farrell advised that he was working on various initiatives that may make this process easier but there could be issues with Eastern Health who sometimes consider students in the context of emergency room human resources only. Decisions will also need to be made with regards to whom, when and how this message will be distributed and there should also be consequences for faculty if they are not willing to improve their skills.

Dr. Farrell reminded the Committee that the accreditors have told the medical school that there will likely be no accreditation if the curriculum is the same when they visit again. This will force us to approach government with regards to a new building, and it will allow Eastern Health to be informed that the medical school will want to take back some of the time that they are currently using from the teaching curriculum. He also noted that there will be three committees working over the summer to develop objectives and the phases as well as the clinical cases.

It was felt that this Committee should send a letter to the dean with recommendations with regards to Eastern Health and other health authorities regarding teaching responsibilities for clinicians.

After some further discussion, the following motion was made:

BECKETT/SHAH

THAT the recommendations provided in the Report by the Pedagogy Review Committee be accepted as circulated.

CARRIED

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Ms. L. Glynn
Chair

/mjm