



**DARTMOUTH MEDICAL SCHOOL**

**SENIOR ASSOCIATE DEAN FOR MEDICAL EDUCATION**

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**To:** Members of Medical Education Committee  
**From:** David W. Nierenberg  
**Subject:** Minutes - Meeting held Tues., Dec. 18, 2007 - 4:00 to 5:30 pm, Aud. A

**Voting Members Present:** Rich Comi, Andy Daubenspeck, Scottie Eliassen, Brent Harris, Horace Henriques, John Hwa, Susan Kelly (Yr. 3), Bill Kinlaw, Gene Nattie, Dave Nierenberg, and Eric Shirley  
(n =11)

**Voting Members Absent:** Narath Carlile, Tom Frandsen (Year 1), Brian Guercio (Yr. 2), Greg Ogrinc, Michelle Oullette (Year 2), Jim Price, Rebecca Pschirrer, Laura Reis (Yr. 4), Alan Rossi (Yr. 4), and Erin Sullivan (Year 1)  
(n = 10)

**Guests and Non-Voting Members:** Diane Grollman, Beth Harwood, Joan Monahan, Brian Reid, Kalindi Trietley, and Kristen Yurkerwich  
(n = 6)

**Scheduled Meetings:**

Sept. 25	Oct. 16	Nov. 27	Dec. 18	Jan. 22	Feb. 19	Mar. 25	Apr. 15	May 20	June 17
Aud. B	Borwell 658	Borwell 758	Aud. A	Aud. F	Aud. A	Aud. A	Aud. A	Aud. A	Aud. A

**I. Report on Year 2, Term 0**

Dave Nierenberg explained that the “Year 2, Term 0” course that is held in mid-August is created to introduce subjects or “themes” that are incorporated into other Year 2 courses, but have no course of their own.

A. The following themes have been or will be introduced:

1. Neoplasia
2. Imaging
3. Improvement of the Healthcare System
4. Nutrition
5. Genetics
6. Pediatrics (the newest theme)

## II. Report on the Results of the 2007 AAMC Graduate Survey

Dave Nierenberg presented the results of a survey conducted by AAMC in March of Year 4. He and Diane Grollman had distilled the extensive data into a PowerPoint presentation that compared results among the graduating class of 2006, the graduating class of 2007, and the 2007 graduating classes of all participating medical schools.

A. The following topics were presented and discussed:

1. General Program Information
2. Views on Premed Courses
3. Preclinical Education (Years 1 and 2)
4. Special Content Areas of Curriculum
5. Clinical Education (Years 3 and 4)
6. Geriatrics and Gerontology Education (special topic)
7. Cultural Competency Issues
8. Electives or Volunteer Activities
9. Communications Skills
10. Technology Skills
11. Preparation for Residency
12. Summary - Overall Satisfaction Measures
13. Future Plans of Graduates
14. DMS Support Services
15. Mistreatment of Students at DMS
16. Average Debt of Students

B. Results on two topics were of particular interest to the attending membership and are earmarked for discussion in future Committee meetings. They are:

1. The concern raised by graduating seniors that DMS administration is not concerned with the needs of students (two attending students opined that the score is likely to be a reflection on the failure of the 7X7 program to pass).

2. The concern that several students had reported some type of mistreatment, and that several of these few students felt that DMS did not have an optimal reporting system.

### III. Preliminary Report on Ad Hoc Group to Study Options for Year 3 Clerkships and Electives

Rich Comi reported that the Ad Hoc Committee has nearly completed its mission.

A. The charges to the Ad Hoc Committee (with the Committee's findings) are as follows:

1. **To examine the lottery system used to assign Year 3 clerkships and determine if the use of a software program could improve the flexibility of scheduling offered to the students.** After extensive research, the Committee found that the current scheduling system with two cycles of the lottery was working well for the students. However, as flexibility in the clinical rotation schedule increases, there may be a need to purchase or develop a computerized system to track the availability of offerings, especially elective openings in Years 3 and 4.
2. **To determine the demand for elective rotations in Year 3.** After surveying DMS students at various class levels, the following conclusions were reached:
  - a. There is significant demand for an elective in Year 3, primarily for career planning purposes.
  - b. DMS is unusual in that it does not offer a Year 3 elective, which may put the school in a competitive disadvantage with prospective students who compare curricula.
3. **To review possible avenues to provide a third year elective, depending on the demand for it.** The Committee strongly recommends restructuring Year 3 to enable each student to take an elective in that year. Three options were presented:
  - a. Ending Year 2 a month early and starting Year 3 a month early;
  - b. Reconsideration of the "7X7" plan;
  - c. Shortening several rotations.

Rich Comi will present the final report at the January MEC meeting.

### IV. Agenda for February 19 (Aud A):

- a. Course Review: CTO (Brent Harris)
- b. Final Report on Ad Hoc Committee for Yr. 3 (Rich Comi)