



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., January 22, 2008 - 4:00 to 5:30 pm, Aud. F

Voting Members Present: Rich Comi, Scottie Eliassen, Brian Guercio (Yr. 2), 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, Andy Daubenspeck, Tom Frandsen (Year 1), 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: Lori Alvord, Bill Garrity, Diane Grollman, Brian Reid, and Rand Swenson
(n = 5)

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. G	Aud. A

I. Final Report on Ad Hoc Group to Study Options for Year 3 Clerkships and Electives (Attachments A and B)

A. Rich Comi presented the activities of the Ad Hoc Committee as follows:

1. The Committee, chaired by Rich Comi and comprising students Brian Guercio, Susan Kelly, and Laura Reis, and faculty Eric Shirley, Roshini-

Pinto-Powell, Petra Lewis, and Lorna McCollum met three times. Its mission was to complete the charges as follows:

- 1 To examine the lottery system used to assign third year clerkships and determine if the use of a software program could improve the flexibility of scheduling offered to the students
 - 2 To determine the demand for elective rotations in the third year of training at DMS
 - 3 To review possible avenues to provide a third year elective, depending on the demand for it
2. Rich Comi presented their findings as follows:
- a. **Lottery system:** The Committee found that the current scheduling system was working well for the students. The Committee does not recommend purchase of a software program for scheduling the third year. There may be advantages for a tracking/scheduling system , such as OASIS or using additional capabilities of our Banner system, for Year 4 courses and electives, if other curricular and rotation changes allow more flexibility in the rotation system.
 - b. **Demand for elective rotations:**
 - i. There appears to be significant student interest for an elective in the third year, primarily for career planning purposes, especially if done in the second half of the year and if a major clerkship does not need to be delayed into Year 4.
 - ii. DMS is unusual in not offering a third year elective. This may put the school at a competitive disadvantage with prospective students who compare school schedules.
 - c. **Possible avenues to provide a Year 3 elective:** The Committee looked at three practical options for providing an elective in the third year. The three options were:
 - i. Ending the second year early and starting Year 3 a month or two early.
 - ii. Reconsidering the “7 X 7” plan or a variation of it
 - iii. Shortening several clerkships to six weeks
3. Rich presented the final conclusions of The Committee:
- a. The current scheduling system for Year 3 rotations meets the students needs and expectations well
 - b. The Year 3 curriculum should be changed to allow each student to have an elective rotation
 - c. As flexibility in the clinical rotation schedule increases due to additional training sites and electives in Year 3, the option of purchasing or developing a computerized system to track and register for courses and electives should be pursued.

- B. After the MEC discussed the issues of time constraints, capacity, pre-requisite clerkships, faculty support, and the involvement of the Dean, the following possibilities for restructuring the architecture of Year 3 were proposed:
- 1 Original 7 X 7 structure (with one clerkship straddling the holiday break);
 - 2 A revised 7 X 7 structure (which would begin and end in July and start with an ICE course)
 - 3 A revised 7 X 7 structure that would begin a month early (which would require Year 2 to be completed in April to allow for students to study for Step 1)
 - 4 An 8-8-6-6-6-6 + Elective structure (which would reduce some clerkships from seven to six weeks)
 - 5 Combining Years 3 and 4 into a 6 X 4 (24 weeks) Core + 1.5 Yrs. of Selectives and Electives
 - 6 An 8 X 6 structure (which would require students to pick up four more weeks of required clerkships in Medicine and Surgery)
- C. The members came to the conclusion that any plan that is chosen must be strongly supported by the MEC for educational value, and must provide the least possible difficulty for the faculty.
- D. Dave Nierenberg will form a task force to work out scenarios for each of the proposed structures and possibly present them at the March MEC meeting.

II. Update of New California Pacific Medical Center Affiliation

Dave Nierenberg reported that two DMS students began a rotation in psychiatry at Cal Pacific and that, based on communications from them and faculty, after two weeks, the new affiliation is already exceeding expectations.

III. Course Review: Cells, Tissues, and Organs (CTO)

Based on Student Evaluations and other information on this Year 1, First Term course, Brent Harris presented a review of the Cells, Tissues, and Organs (CTO) course that recently ended (Attachment C). He reported that the class was well-liked, especially the use of electronics and the availability of faculty. There were some negative comments on exams and quizzes, to which Rand Swenson commented that they were currently being worked on.

IV. Agenda for February 19 (Aud A):

- A. Course Review: Biochemistry (John Hwa)
- B. (To be determined)