



Clerkship Committee (CC)

April 30, 2020

3:00 PM

Attending: Drs. K. Busche (*Chair*), K. Albrecht, T. Ayas, S. Bannister, K. Darcus (*for M. Davis*), J. Desy, G. Greenfield, A. Harvey, J. Haws, C. Hutchison, J. LaMothe, A. Mineyko, R. Ram, M. Slawnych (*for R. Kachra*), S. Weeks, S. Wicklum, and K. Brockman, T. Hawes, J. Holm, W. Kennedy, S. Leskosky, A. Maini, M. Paget, S. Tai, D. Beninger.

Regrets: Drs. M. Davis, G. Gelfand, R. Kachra, M. Louis, C. Naugler, C. O'Shaughnessy, K. Ragan, A. Reso, and S. George, L. Palmer.

Guests: Drs. J. Midgley, M. Walter.

1. Welcome and Thanks

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by K. Busche (*Chair*). K. Busche thanked everyone for coming.

2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

K. Busche asked for any amendments or additions to the meeting agenda, there were none.

3. Approval of the Minutes from April 7, 2020

K. Busche asked if there were any amendments or corrections for the minutes as circulated from the April 7, 2020 meeting of the committee. There were none.

4. Online Curriculum

4.1 Early Issues / Concerns

The committee had a discussion and reviewed early issues and concerns regarding the online curriculum.

A. Maini asked about resources students could access, specifically around utilizing Zoom to ensure their performance aligns with Preceptor expectations. K. Busche mentioned that M. Paget would circulate Zoom resources. M. Paget gave a description of resources that are currently available through the University.

K. Busche said the early issues seem to be minor and the committee would work through: issues with some of the presentations, utilizing Zoom properly, Clerkship Chairs communicating to preceptors around expectations on how to make sessions work best, and outgoing communications around logbook expectations.

4.2 Counting Weeks: 4 vs. 8

The committee reviewed a document that was circulated last week with roughly one Clerkship rotation half-day, per day, over a eight week period. K. Busche gave a background on the various discussions around how to count online content weeks towards a student's Clerkship curriculum time: accounting for extra work students have to put into learning outside of the online curriculum time, what other Universities are discussing doing, accreditation standards to ensure at least 130 weeks of curriculum time in medical school, the precedent for most of the students in the Class of 2020 who missed 4 weeks of in-person training still being recommended for graduation in light of their online learning equivalencies.

S. Bannister brought forward concerns around the timeline as was expressed by her Clerkship rotation Committee: feeling confident students are ready to graduate if the committee chooses to equate the proposed online learning time to eight weeks of in-person clinical activity, residency matching and applications, students in special circumstances who have barriers to online learning during the pandemic.

K. Albrecht gave a comment regarding comparing the 2020 class to the 2021 class in terms of the scheduling: independent study time for one of the Classes at the end of a Clerkship after having clinical experience on how to frame information and how to study, versus a Class who has not had a lot of clinical time yet.

K. Busche appreciated concerns as shared, he mentioned UME agrees a week of virtual Clerkship time is not fairly compared against a week of clinical Clerkship time. K. Busche explained how the accreditation of the medical school does not require a certain number of clinical weeks, so the Committee could vote on the schedule within current proposals before the committee.

S. Wicklum outlined some of the Clerkship schedule proposals on the table, and what those could possibly mean for UME, including how proposals would impact students who end up having absences and need to make it up somehow within a schedule that does not have a lot of wiggle room left.

K. Busche outlined other possible Clerkship schedule proposals, including extending Clerkship to the end of May, having it finish on May 29, 2020 - which could impact students' schedule to move to a new city for PGME residencies, find places to live, get credentialled etc.

T. Hawes expressed students' perspective that they are weighing the opportunity cost of: desiring a high quality medical education, versus graduating on time.

A. Harvey asked what implications on the proposed Clerkship schedule a hypothetical shortening of the CaRMS process had, if any. K. Busche explained different implications possible CaRMS schedules could have, including that if the process was shortened it would not impact the Clerkship schedule substantially.

K. Albrecht asked a question around implications the schedule could have on the Obstetrics and Gynecology Clerkship rotation. K. Albrecht gave a proposal that each Clerkship would propose a ratio for how many days of virtual Clerkship rotations their specific Clerkship felt added up to a comparison of in person Clerkship rotations.

R. Ram asked when other Clerkships end at other schools, K. Busche said it is not very different than UME the CSM UME and that mid-April is pretty common.

A. Maini asked what sort of feedback from PGME has been received around comparing virtual learning to in-person clinical time. K. Busche mentioned A. Mineyko represents PGME on the committee. A. Mineyko thanked A. Maini for the question, and mentioned Residency Directors have not necessarily been formally canvassed, but some concerns are anticipated in residencies like Family Medicine, which is a shorter program, and doesn't have as much wiggle room in Residency to have Clerks catch-up on what they would have missed if they had attended in person. A. Mineyko said, as a spectrum than the Residencies that are longer like 5 years, and have more competency by design, would have more wiggle room to accommodate catching up on things that were missed in in-person clinical activities.

K. Busche mentioned that due to the expressed concerns and suggestions that the committee could move the vote to be done electronically in a few days, which would allow time for the members to discuss things that had been expressed in more thought before voting.

K. Busche asked each Clerkship to do some math around what teaching they are providing, and to give a rough estimate of how much that translates to Clerkship learning, to better inform any upcoming votes.

S. Weeks asked what sort of appetite Clerkship Directors may have about using some days that haven't been traditionally used, such as weekends, over the Christmas break, having exams on weekends etc. S. Wicklum and T. Ayas said that they liked S. Weeks' idea.

K. Busche mentioned Christmas break could be more difficult to utilize as scheduled clinical time as usually there is a skeleton staff and not a lot of availability to schedule students in for in-person learning with them.

W. Kennedy asked about using the CaRMS prep-week. K. Busche mentioned the CaRMS prep-week was usually in October, but that week would not be there this year as a result of modified CaRMS timelines.

T. Hawes mentioned Student work hours policy and voiced support to ensure any proposals fit within that with students' wellness and burn-out in mind.

S. Bannister said she liked the creativity of S. Weeks' idea on using time that is usually not used, and said she thinks there are also possibly other creative ideas out there and encouraged the group to pursue those.

K. Albrecht and S. Bannister asked questions around Course 8. K. Busche answered that Course 8 has been moved into the Fridays of the curriculum, but there will still be some Course 8 days during the curriculum. J. Haws answered that all of the lectures, and about half of the standardized patient experiences have been moved to an online curriculum, so there would be fewer in-person Course 8 days but that simulation and ultrasound training would still need to be completed during in-person learning to cover some content.

A. Maini asked if there could be some canvassing of PGME Residencies to see their opinion on whatever conclusion regarding the schedule that the Committee comes to. A. Mineyko said she would pursue it.

5. Return to Clerkship

5.1 Review of Overall Plan

K. Busche reviewed various proposals for the return to in-person Clerkship learning. K. Busche said the UME is still acting off of the presumption of July 1, 2021 as the start date for PGME Residencies. K. Busche went over potential things that could impact any final plan: the UME needed to have at least 130 weeks of curriculum time (CSM UME curriculum normally has 132 weeks), the schedule was still working with a June 15 date for having students back to a clinical environment, the MSPR cut off being whatever is finished by the end of December, and the CaRMs timeline.

5.2 Clerkship Capacity

K. Busche mentioned that some or all of the rotations would have to be shortened to a degree in order to ensure all the content can be fit in before the presumptive PGME residency start date.

5.3 Presentation of Mockup Schedule (M. Paget)

M. Paget gave a presentation to the committee on how hypothetical time available could be used by UME Clerkship rotations for hypothetical students with different rotations already completed. M. Paget mentioned the presented mockups are attempting to balance hypothetical clinical capacity for rotations to receive Clerks versus allowing students some agency to attempt to address any educational deficits incurred during their time away from in-person learning.

K. Albrecht mentioned using rotations that can run on off hours to make-up time: Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery, Internal Medicine - instead of doing a call shift from 5pm to 8am, they could stagger like an example where: one Clerk could start at 12pm and end at 10pm and a second Clerk could start at 5pm and end at 8am. K. Albrecht said there would be more clinical time available to put Clerks in if something like this was implemented.

T. Hawes asked how this sort of hypothetical proposal would impact UCLIC students. K. Busche mentioned in discussions with R. Ram and Aaron Johnston from DLRI that there is capacity to fit UCLIC students into whatever schedule the Clerkship Committee comes up with within the towns where their program is located.

G. Greenfield passed on feedback from the Emergency Medicine department around efficiencies - that currently the schedule allows for two clerks per day at any of the Emergency Medicine Clerkship rotation's sites - and if they have to double that learner capacity to four clerks per day, it could have implications on slowing down the efficiency of the department.

S. Wicklum floated a proposal where instead of taking away time, Clerkship rotations could potentially be paired up in a creative way to allow for more learning to be covered within the available time. M. Paget said since none of the Class of 2021 has had an Emergency Medicine rotation yet, and as every student still has a pending Family Medicine rotation - it could be an interesting proposal to explore.

6. Other Issues

6.1 Clerkship Exams Used Online

K. Busche mentioned as each of the Clerkships have used an exam online, and as the security of those exams is very different from those written in person, Clerkships should be giving thought to what they will be doing with the questions from the exams that have been used online.

J. Desy mentioned her team is available to sit down with each of the Clerkships to help them rework any exams or exam questions that were used online to ensure they are not identical to the exams that went online. J. Desy mentioned her team will be analyzing data over time to see how student's performance on exams used online compared to the performance of students on exams written in-person in previous years. J. Desy mentioned it is not mandatory for Clerkships to work with her team to rework the exams used online, but that her team is available and willing to help if that is something they want to explore.

6.2 Surveys of Students

K. Busche mentioned UME is doing surveys of students regarding online curriculum and that if any of the Clerkships want to be involved with the surveys to contact him directly.

7. Future Meetings

7.1 Return to Regular Schedule/Content (e.g. Clerkship Reports)

K. Busche mentioned as some of the Clerkship Reports that were previously scheduled to be presented were tabled in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, that he would be working on looking at future committee dates and when the outstanding reports could be delivered.

8. Adjournment

K. Busche (*Chair*) adjourned the meeting at 4:31 PM.

Minutes: Dave Beninger – May 5, 2020

Edits: Dr. Kevin Busche – May 6, 2020