



### Clerkship Committee (CC)

April 7, 2020

1:30 PM

Virtually, via Zoom

**Attending:** Drs. K. Busche (*Chair*), K. Albrecht, T. Ayas, M. Davis, G. Greenfield, A. Harvey, J. Haws, F. Jivraj (*for R. Ram*), R. Kachra, M. Louis, C. Naugler, C. O'Shaughnessy, S. Weeks, S. Wicklum, and K. Brockman, S-A. Facchini, S. George, T. Hawes, W. Kennedy, S. Leskosky, A. Maini, M. Paget, L. Palmer, S. Tai, D. Beninger.

**Regrets:** Drs. S. Bannister, J. Desy, G. Gelfand, J. LaMothe, K. Ragan, R. Ram, A. Reso.

**Guests:** Drs. A. Di Ninno, C. Hutchison, M. Slawnych, and N. Begert, J. Holm.

#### 1. Welcome / Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM by K. Busche (*Chair*). K. Busche thanked everyone for coming, and for their ongoing work to keep the UME Clerkships up and running. K. Busche asked for unanimous consent to approve the committee minutes from the March 27, 2020 meeting as circulated.

**PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

#### 2. Eight Week Curriculum

##### 2.1 4x2 Weeks

The committee discussed a draft 'sample calendar' that had been circulated to the group last week, to support a proposal for a four week curriculum, run twice for each Clerkship. The proposal includes a 'Group A' and a 'Group B' for UME clerkship teaching that is currently being set up for the Class of 2021. The draft included an eight week curriculum that would repeat itself, once for each of the groups. The proposal divided the UME clerkships into two groups: a) Emergency Medicine, Psychiatry, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Surgery and b) Anesthesia, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine and Pediatrics. Approximately half the Class (around 80 students), would begin in group a, and then do group b. The other half of the Class would begin in group b, and then do group a. Course 8 would run longitudinally over the eight week period.

##### 2.2 Changes: Anesthesia, Peds/FM Swap, Others?

K. Busche mentioned he had a conversation with M. Davis, the Anesthesia Clerkship committee did not think they could develop something to support the plan as outlined in agenda item 2.1 within the timeline being proposed. Anesthesiologists are in the midst of a lot of clinical changes in support of addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. K. Busche mentioned although Anesthesia could remain in Group B technically, they may not have any educational material included as part of the proposal.

K. Busche mentioned both Pediatrics and Family Medicine had requested changes to the schedule as proposed, so S. Bannister and S. Wicklum respectively have agreed to swap times: Pediatrics on Tuesday mornings and Family Medicine on Thursday afternoons.

K. Busche mentioned Obstetrics and Gynecology for the first week, would run two separate half-days on the Monday and the Tuesday (for the first round only), so they could record some of the content that would normally be provided during their block week or bootcamp - to be used later on.

K. Busche asked if any of the other Clerkships had concerns about the timing as proposed in agenda item 2.1. There were none.

### **2.3 Start Date for First Round: April 13 vs. April 20**

The committee discussed start dates for the proposal, two possibilities were: an April 13 - May 9 first round, with a May 12 - June 5 second round. or an April 20 start date. or; an April 20 - May 16 first round, with a May 18 - June 12 second round.

J. Haws mentioned preferring an April 20 start date, with additional clinical service demands due to COVID-19 the additional time would help Course 8 preparations. G. Greenfield mentioned preferring an April 20 start date, as preceptors were already lined up. S. Wicklum and K. Albrecht also preferred April 20. T. Hawes preferred April 20 and asked whatever is decided be communicated to students as early as possible.

R. Kachra mentioned a lot of IM Physicians being occupied with COVID-19 response, and if preceptors become unavailable it may become an issue for providing an educational experience. K. Busche mentioned the curriculum would have to be responsive to whatever happens, recording is a possible way to mitigate some of the impact, but some holes in the plan may need to be addressed as time goes by. S. Weeks mentioned utilizing a list of potential preceptors who are off pending COVID-19 testing, but who were not 'too sick to teach'. R. Kachra agreed this was a potential resource, but recognized that list was also being used by other areas like: PGME, CME, committees, and call-shifts from home.

### **2.4 Content / Duration / Format**

K. Busche mentioned the content, duration and format of how the half-days should be filled would be left to the individual clerkship committees to decide. Components for a clerkship's half-day: how much via podcast, how much via interactive learning, if all of the half-day hours (or only a certain proportion) needed to be filled up, if there were only enough preceptors to fill three of the four weeks etc.

K. Busche mentioned he would send a revamp of the schedule proposal to the Clerkship leaders outlining all four weeks of the first round, and the second round, for each of the two groups - and asked for the Clerkship leaders to edit the proposal and get it back to him to circulate to the students as soon as possible.

K. Albrecht asked who would be responsible for circulating URLs etc for the educational sessions within each Clerkship. K. Busche said he thought the UME program coordinators should be the people to be doing that work. S. Leskosky agreed she felt the UME program coordinators should be the people involved with setting up the zoom meetings, circulating the links to students etc.

### **2.5 Recording Sessions**

K. Busche updated the group that UME wanted to utilize UME program coordinators to wherever possible, record the online educational sessions, to be put on the password protected OSLE website. The recordings would not be available to the general public. K. Busche mentioned if something happened prompting a Preceptor to not want the recording to be posted, the request could be facilitated by UME. The group discussed the benefits of recording: allowing students with child or family care obligations to still review the session, allowing unwell students to make up the sessions, a back-up way to continue teaching sessions in case preceptors are unavailable due to COVID-19 clinical demands, allowing students to review sessions they did attend when they eventually are on that clerkship's clinical activity in the future.

J. Haws mentioned certain sessions: students not performing well, students having a difficult interaction with a standardized patient, something dealing with sensitive content - should they be recorded as well. K. Busche mentioned it would be left to the discretion of the clerkship leaders to review what is posted. The group had a discussion around what it would take to record and post sessions, and what should not be posted. The group discussed what could help make students and preceptors more comfortable with being recorded.

The group agreed to work through the logistics of recording and posting on OSLE.

## **2.6 Mandatory - Excused Absences**

K. Busche mentioned the sessions would have mandatory attendance, just as if they were part of a Clerkship Rotation in any other year. Excused absences would be allowed for a plethora of reasons: students doing important volunteer work, students caring for sick family members, students being sick themselves, students with childcare responsibilities etc.

K. Busche mentioned that excused absences would be tracked using the usual mechanism through OSLER.

## **2.7 Later "Attendance" Recording**

K. Busche mentioned that UME can track who watches the sessions posted online after the fact, and this would allow for tracking the attendance of students who are unable to attend sessions at the scheduled date and time.

## **3. Rewrite and Deferral Examinations**

K. Busche said D. Desy, S. Weeks, C. Naugler and himself had a conversation around students who have scheduled rewrite and deferral examinations outstanding - and that UME would be communicating with these students the plan for moving forward.

## **4. Return to Clerkship**

K. Busche updated the group that June 15, 2020 was still the planned return to clerkship date, but a number of variables were in the equation: 1) consent of the Medical Officer of Health, 2) approval of the University of Calgary, 3) approval from the various Clinical Departments that Clerks are safe to return to their clinical environment, 4) the timing of CaRMS, and 5) PGME proposed start date for post-grad training. As of now all electives are cancelled until September, so if clerkship does return in June - all electives may have to be done locally to start off with. K. Busche mentioned as the return date approaches, UME will reach out to clinical departments to identify their capacity for accepting Clerks, especially if there are no incoming elective students to that department from outside of Alberta.

## **5. Longer Term Planning: Clerkship Capacity**

K. Busche mentioned if everything goes according to plan, UME plans to have students prepared as undifferentiated physicians from any other graduating year, and be ready to start their PGME program for July 1, 2021. If: the return to clerkship date changes, or a second wave of COVID-19 hits - it may impact having students ready by July 1, and will have downstream impacts on other Classes, as there is not capacity to having two classes in mandatory rotations for an extended duration during clerkship or capacity to have two classes enter the CaRMS match at the same time.

The group had a discussion around how timing could impact: what students could list on their CV, electives, CaRMs matching (the process and timeline).

K. Busche mentioned he would communicate with students and clerkship leaders in the coming days with the currently proposed plans and schedules as amended.

## **6. Next Meeting**

K. Busche mentioned he hoped to avoid meeting every two or three weeks as a lot of the work that needs to get done can be done through email in between the meetings to save the committee members time for their other responsibilities. K. Busche mentioned that the next meeting's details would be circulated to the committee once determined.

## **7. Adjournment**

K. Busche (*Chair*) adjourned the meeting at 2:30 PM.