



Clerkship Committee (CC)

September 15, 2020
12:30 - 3:00 PM

- Attending:** Drs. K. Busche (*Chair*), K. Albrecht, T. Ayas, K. Darcus, G. Gelfand, W. Harris-Thompson, J. Haws, R. Kachra, A. Kassam, J. LaMothe, M. Louis, S. Weeks, S. Wicklum, and S. George, M. Paget, L. Palmer, S. Tai, D. Beninger (*Admin*).
- Regrets:** Drs. S. Bannister, M. Davis, G. Greenfield, A. Harvey, K. McLaughlin, A. Mineyko, C. Naugler, C. O'Shaughnessy, K. Ragan, R. Ram, A. Reso, and T. Hawes, S. Leskosky.
- Guests:** Dr. S. Mohan.

1. Welcome and Thanks

The meeting was called to order at 12:30 PM by K. Busche (*Chair*). K. Busche thanked everyone for coming and everything they have continued to do throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

K. Busche welcomed new committee member A. Kassam who will be the inaugural holder of the 'Diversity Champion' membership role.

2. Approval of the Meeting Agenda

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

K. Busche asked for a motion for the Clerkship Committee to accept the meeting agenda as circulated.

First: G. Gelfand
Second: J. LaMothe
Passed Unanimously

3. Approval of the Minutes

3.1 Approval of Minutes from May 26, 2020

K. Busche asked if there were any amendments or corrections for the minutes as circulated from the May 26, 2020 meeting of the committee. There were none.

K. Busche asked for a motion for the Clerkship Committee to accept the minutes from May 26, as circulated.

First: S. Weeks
Second: J. LaMothe
Passed Unanimously

3.2 Approval of Minutes from June 30, 2020

K. Busche asked if there were any amendments or corrections for the minutes as circulated from the June 30, 2020 meeting of the committee. There were none.

K. Busche asked for a motion for the Clerkship Committee to accept the minutes from June 30, as circulated.

First: S. Weeks
Second: S. Wicklum
Passed Unanimously

4. Standing Updates

4.1 Student Reports

S. George provided a student report to update the committee: The Class of 2022 'Tanukis' have finished a series of exams that were ongoing throughout the summer. The Tanukis were anticipating a class update via Zoom from Dr. Busche and Dr. Weeks tonight on the status of their upcoming schedule and Clerkship. The Tanukis also have pre-clerkship electives starting this week, and another week beginning at the end of November.

K. Busche mentioned one of the silver linings of the COVID-19 pandemic transitions is the Tanukis will have more of their pre-clerkship done than they would have, when their upcoming clerkship lottery is run - which will allow students to make better decisions about their preferences for the clerkship lottery.

4.2 Undergraduate Medical Education Committee (UMEC) Update

C. Naugler sent regrets to the committee. K. Busche updated the committee that the annual reports from the Clerkship Committee, Pre-Clerkship Committee, and Student Evaluation Committee had been delivered to UMEC on September 11, 2020 and were approved. K. Busche mentioned the committee's Terms of Reference were also presented to UMEC and approved. K. Busche mentioned that an updated UME Shadowing Policy – including the changes previously developed by the Clerkship Committee for allowing limited shadowing in clerkship – was presented to UMEC, and also was approved.

4.3 Pre-Clerkship Committee (PCC) Update

S. Weeks updated the committee on the Pre-Clerkship Committee's work: The Class of 2023 'Baby Animals' have started and together with the Class of 2022 have recently resumed in-person experiential learning activities. The Med Skills I OSCE was run last week with COVID-19 precautions and went well. Currently it is unknown what January 2021 will look like, in terms of expanding in-person experiential learning activities. S. Weeks mentioned UME is working together with AHS to look at when and where shadowing experiences will be allowed, although they are currently not allowed. S. Weeks mentioned Anatomy had been separated from the numbered Courses curriculum and it is going well. S. Weeks also socialized the Pre-Clerkship Committee's retreat this week on topics around diversity and inclusion, specifically within medical education and UME.

4.4 Student Evaluation Committee (SEC) Update

K. McLaughlin sent regrets to the committee. K. Busche deferred the SEC Update until the next meeting.

5. Arising from the Minutes

5.1 EPA Assessment Update

K. Busche explained that because the last four weeks of the Class of 2020's Clerkship was not completed in-person due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a Competency Committee was formed by UME to look at all Class of 2020 students in terms of their readiness to be graduated. The Competency Committee mapped the 12 entrustable professional activities (EPAs) of the AFMC against the student's ITERs and determined if they were ready to be recommended for graduation or not using this information, as well as other information. For the Class of 2021, the Competency Committee asked, and UMEC approved - using a data collection instrument during their Clerkship to compile information around the Class of 2021 students' EPA competency.

K. Busche gave more background: starting in mid-August the Class of 2021 have been asked to start requesting for preceptors to fill out EPA assessments on their performance, this is incorporating competency based education into the Class of 2021's assessment. Using this process, the students are being asked to complete 43 EPA assessments successfully before the end of their Clerkship - there are 12 EPAs and they are asked to do each of them between 1-8 times depending on the EPA.

6. New Business

6.1 Site Outbreak Planning

K. Busche referenced a document sent out in the summer to Clerkship Rotations asking for thoughts on site outbreak plans around how a COVID-19 outbreak would be handled in Calgary, similar to how the COVID-19 outbreak in the Misericordia Hospital in Edmonton necessitated pulling University of Alberta UME Clerks out of the hospital and redistributing those learners to other sites. This ‘thought experiment’ did result in a plan within UME for rapid communication with clerks if required through a pager group system developed and implemented with AHS support. We can now page all clerks simultaneously if required.

T. Ayas asked about the COVID-19 contact person provided to the Clerkships and if the number provided would be open 24/7 if in theory a Clerk tested positive for COVID-19 after hours. K. Busche mentioned another Physician-specific phone number for COVID-related issues had been provided to him that Clerks could also utilize after hours, K. Busche mentioned this resource would be added to the UME website as an additional resource for learners.

K. Darcus asked if there had been any direction to students to avoid units with local outbreaks, like the Medical Surgical Unit or Psychiatry Unit at Peter Lougheed Hospital. K. Busche mentioned students can interact with patients who are COVID+, as long as they are wearing appropriate PPE. K. Busche mentioned the presence of a patient on a unit who is COVID+ does not preclude students from interacting with patients who are COVID+ or are on a unit with another patient who is COVID+, as long as the appropriate precautions are followed.

6.2 Class of 2022 - Clerkship Planning

K. Busche gave background that new Clerks normally would begin their Clerkship in the middle of January, and typically have front-loaded electives where the majority of them occur over the first couple weeks of their Clerkship - to help address capacity for rotations to take Clerks (remembering that the class ahead of them are still in clerkship and we don’t have the capacity to have two full classes on rotations in Calgary at one time). For the Class of 2022 the national group of UME Deans have made the decision that the Class of 2022 will not have any visiting electives at the beginning of the 2021 calendar year. K. Busche said that he believes, depending on COVID-19 numbers, there may be the possibility for visiting electives to re-open up sometime later in the 2021 calendar year.

K. Busche asked the committee to consider ways to move elective blocks later into the Clerkship schedules to allow students time for visiting electives, should they open again. K. Busche emphasized that the CaRMS cut-off timeline will impact the discussions and decisions, to ensure that all visiting electives and mandatory rotations that students prioritize - make it onto their MSPR letter.

K. Busche referenced the first draft timeline for the Class of 2022 Clerkship which had been circulated to the committee. The draft floated the idea of a two week “Junior Clerkship” where the students join another area of clinical service where other more senior Clerks are already scheduled, where after the two weeks they would move to four weeks of electives in Calgary, followed by a mandatory four week Clerkship rotation, followed by a four week period which would include some online learning and some Course 8 learning - this is being done to address a lack of clinical capacity for Clerks. Students would then proceed through the rest of their mandatory clerkship rotations as capacity will be made available by the Class of 2021 finishing their Clerkship and no longer being assigned to rotations.

K. Busche asked the committee for their feedback and suggestions on the first draft of the timeline. M. Louis stated she was in favour of any ideas that spread the elective time out more, to recognize some departments' capacity does not allow them to take students all at once, but can take them if they are spread out more. M. Louis also commented on the “Junior Clerk” role asking if they would be assigned to a “Senior Clerk” who they would follow for the time period as a ‘buddy’ and alleviate the Staff Faculty from feeling like they are responsible for another clinical learner. K. Busche mentioned he liked M. Louis’ ideas and a lot of it would

depend on Departments agreeing to accept the amount of learners, and how the pairings will work best.

S. Wicklum mentioned Family Medicine was considering pairing the “Junior Clerk” with a Resident rather than a “Senior Clerk” recognizing that their Clerkship Rotation had a greater capacity to operationalize this plan than the other Departments. S. Wicklum asked if every rotation would have to agree to the same plan. K. Busche mentioned he is willing to be flexible on how the Junior/Senior Clerk process will work if it is in the best interest of the students, and is practical for the rotations capacity and process.

K. Darcus mentioned he thinks the Junior/Senior Clerk plan could be difficult for the Anesthesia Clerkship rotation to operationalize as it would increase the amount of non-essential people in the Operating Room, which is trying to be minimized at the current time. K. Darcus also pondered if it would be a valuable experience for a Junior Clerk in Anesthesia to see what a Senior Clerk is doing. K. Busche asked if there were any other Clerkships where this could be the same.

K. Albrecht mentioned it is difficult to agree to a specific plan as it is unknown what Obstetrics and Gynecology, as well as other clerkship rotations, will be facing at the time when the proposed timeline will come into effect - it could be worse, or it could be better. Considering that it does not get any better, Obstetrics and Gynecology may need to be told how many learners they need to take and when, so they can go to their Department with the information and ‘make it work’ in a way that keeps the learners, patients, and Faculty staff.

J. LaMothe mentioned he has a similar position to K. Albrecht that being told what the Surgery rotation needs to operationalize, including how many Clerks they need to take, will still be a challenge - but give them a better idea of what they need to make happen in a safe way and how.

The committee had a discussion around how this will work from the perspectives of what a student wants to achieve and what a rotation wants to achieve, and how to marry the two goals in a way that works for both.

S. Weeks brought up the idea around experiences that have not been offered to learners from UME before: Dermatology, Radiology, Public Health, Physiatry, Laboratory Pathology, etc. K. Busche agreed this could be a good option, specifically as part of the “Junior Clerkship” plan. M. Paget mentioned these proposed areas all have Clinical Faculty which would be a good resource to tap into to help alleviate demands on the current mandatory clerkship rotations from Faculty members and Departments.

S. Weeks floated the idea of after the mandatory clerkship rotations exploring the potential for students to do some sort of “Community Engagement Learning” time. K. Busche agreed this is a possibility that can be explored.

K. Busche asked J. Haws if she would be open to the idea of running some kind of online version of Course 8 again in part of February and again in April, as this would be key to operationalize some of the plans being proposed. J. Haws mentioned she is open to the idea of it and that Course 8 could do something similar to what was done for the Class of 2021, including presenting all the Standardized Patient cases online. J. Haws mentioned Course 8 is usually on a Friday afternoon, but as long as they can find preceptors and collaborate to find which components can be offered when - she is open to it being done on a different day.

S. Wicklum mentioned she supported S. Weeks’ idea around offering learning in areas that are not traditionally offered to students, and would support broadening it even further: Assisted Living, Long-term Care, Indigenous Health Centres - this would help spread capacity out. S. Weeks also mentioned allied health, social workers, occupational therapists - not for the whole two weeks, but pairing learners up with allied health workers. J. Haws brought up the Complex Care Hub which sends community paramedics to patients’ homes and still service them as in-patients, rather than bringing them into the hospital. J. Haws mentioned this could expose students to a lot of non-traditional opportunities for learning: clinical assessments, physical examinations, ride-alongs, donning and doffing PPE, procedures: IV starts, check blood pressures, J. Haws made herself available to liaison the Clerkship Committee and the Complex Care Hub if they want to proceed

down this route. R. Kachra mentioned he is also supportive of this idea.

K. Busche thanked the committee for all of their ideas and stated the conversation was very helpful and promising to work on the second draft of the timeline.

6.3 Accreditation Update: Element 5.6 “Sufficiency of Educational Resources”

For the purposes of Accreditation, K. Busche asked the committee if any of them knew of any students bringing forward concerns at any of the Clinical learning sites (Hospitals, Operating Rooms, anywhere where students would be working in Clerkship etc) concerns raised around students access to: computers, spaces to store personal belongings, access to facility resources.

S. Wicklum mentioned there had been some mention around this, but mostly related to COVID-19 capacity. No other clerkships expressed concerns.

6.4 Exam Question Sharing among schools

K. Busche updated the committee that the national Pre-Clerkship and Clerkship groups had been discussing the idea of sharing exam questions for multiple choice exams amongst Canadian Medical schools. K. Busche mentioned UME does seem to support this idea in some capacity - which would bring in new questions, some of which would require editing, and even as a method of filling student’s desire for more practise exam questions.

K. Albrecht mentioned that the national Obstetrics and Gynecology group had been discussing this for a number of years, but up until now her rotation had chosen not to participate due to exam question security concerns.

K. Busche mentioned UME supports the idea, at least from a philosophical angle - and will begin to look at how the security around this would be handled. K. Busche offered to include K. Albrecht in the process to see her thoughts on what plans are put in place, K. Albrecht agreed she would like to be involved.

S. Weeks let the committee know that K. McLaughlin had made himself available to work with the various clerkship rotations on editing any questions that are shared from other schools to ensure they work for UME.

K. Busche thanked everyone for their input and mentioned he will keep the committee involved in what is decided upon.

6.5 Clerkship Directors Orientation Session - October 2, 2020 - Keep or Change?

K. Busche reminded the committee that every year the Clerkship Directors do a session for the students where each of the Clerkship Rotations introduce what their rotations are like. K. Busche said this is currently scheduled to occur on Zoom on October 2 in the afternoon, and asked the committee if the date should be delayed in light of the Clerkship lottery not happening until the CaRMS timeline is known.

S. Tai asked if the site/selective ranking part should be taken out of the session - as the students usually do that at the session. K. Busche mentioned that it probably should be taken out, information on it could be given to the students, but they shouldn’t have to select them at that time.

The committee decided to keep the session on October 2, 2020 as a Zoom session.

7. Clerkship Reports

7.1 Anesthesia

K. Darcus delivered the Anesthesia report and presentation to the committee. K. Busche thanked K. Darcus for the report and asked if any committee members had questions or comments. There were none.

K. Busche asked for a motion for the Clerkship Committee to accept the Anesthesia report as presented by K. Darcus.

First: R. Kachra
Second: J. Haws
Motion Passed

7.2 Internal Medicine [2020]

R. Kachra delivered the Internal Medicine [2020] report and presentation to the committee. K. Busche thanked R. Kachra for the report and asked if any committee members had questions or comments.

M. Paget and K. Darcus brought forward support around the idea of housing ICU in a different way than current, as it has a lot of learning opportunities and Faculty capacity. R. Kachra agreed ICU does not fit seamlessly in Internal Medicine, but is blended across Emergency Medicine and other components.

S. Weeks mentioned ICU is not an entry discipline, which may not lend itself well to the MCC Objectives in regards to producing an undifferentiated physician.

K. Busche asked for a motion for the Clerkship Committee to accept the Internal Medicine [2020] report as presented by R. Kachra.

First: S. Weeks
Second: M. Paget
Motion Passed

8. Next Meeting

K. Busche mentioned that the committee's next meeting would be on October 20 from 12:30 - 2:30PM and that the committee would be receiving a report from the Surgery clerkship rotation.

9. Adjournment

K. Busche (*Chair*) adjourned the meeting at 2:31 PM.

Minutes: Dave Beninger – October 6, 2020
Edits: Dr. Kevin Busche – October 8, 2020