



Clerkship Committee (CC)

Minutes

Clerkship Committee (CC)

APPROVED

Tuesday June 20, 2023

12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Drs. K. Busche (chair), T. Ayas, S. Bannister, R. Brett, K. Darcus, W. Harris-Thompson, A. Harvey, J. Haws, T. Jablonski, S. Lopushinsky, J. Lubin, B. Meatherall, A. Mineyko, R. Ram, M. Sohn, M. Thompson, S. Weeks, S. Wicklum, Ms. S. Facchini, Ms. J. Holm, Mr. V. Joe, Ms. D. Stanojevic, Ms. S. Tai, Ms. G. Taneja, Ms. D. Jean (admin)

Regrets: Drs. J. Desy, G. Gelfand, N. Hardcastle, F. Jivraj, N. Johnson, R. Kachra, J. LaMothe, M. Mintz, S. Mohan, C. Naugler, E. Ruka, J. Vantanajal, M. Walter, H. Yoon, Mr. M. Bondok, Ms. K. Fu, Mr. J. Kreutz, Ms. S. Leskosky, Mr. M. Paget

1. Welcome and Thanks

The meeting was conducted through Zoom and was called to order at 12:33 p.m. by Dr. K. Busche (Chair). He informed the committee that there is a new member in attendance today and had her introduce herself, Dr. Mary Thompson a new Resident Representative a Second Year Resident in Obstetrics and Gynecology, to the committee. He then gave a brief overview of what the meeting would entail and thanked everyone for being able to make it.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda –Passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from May 2, 2023 – Passed unanimously.

4. Standing Updates

4.1 Student Reports

Mr. Joe updated the committee that the Class of 2025 had just completed the Course 4 Final, citing the pressures and added stress that Course 4 provided for the students. He added that the class is getting excited for the ICP and Integrative weeks approaching followed by a Career Development week and a week of break which they feel is a much needed one before Course 5 begins. Mr. Joe included that the class was grateful for Dr. Lubin's help with the Introduction to Clerkship and Electives sessions that they have been able to schedule for dates that work for all parties, and thanked Dr. Harvey for his assistance as they have been working together to go through the attendance policy and student questions regarding it. Current issues the students are facing are the costs associated for the students to use the AFMC portal and reached out to the committee to have other financial outlets that can help students who may need it. Mr. Joe also included a fun event that brought really good energy to the class that was held at the beginning of June, the Big Brave Head Shave Fundraiser for Kids Cancer, which has raised almost \$26,000 to date. Mr. Joe informed the committee that he had nothing of note to report from the Class of 2024.

4.2 Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

Dr. Naugler was unable to attend the meeting, there was no update presented at this time.

4.3 Pre-Clerkship Committee Update

Dr. Weeks' update included that the Class of 2025 had just wrapped up their Course 4 final exam, up next for them are the ICP and Integrative week followed by a Career Development week and vacation week before Course 5 begins. She included that having a Career Development week the first week of July is difficult with learners beginning residency but appreciated all the efforts to get the students a placement for their clinical experiences. Dr. Weeks reminded the committee that the new RIME curriculum is rolling out at the beginning of July and there is lots of work continuing on with integrating the materials into the curriculum, she added that there are now 3 OSCE's in Pre-Clerkship instead of 2, new EPAs introduced around attendance and engagement, she highlighted that with his there is more room for individualized learning which will allow more support to each student with their own specific needs.

4.4 Student Evaluation Committee Update

Dr. Desy was not in attendance but Drs. Busche and Meatherall gave an update from the most recent SEC meeting, including the Approval of the ToR change for the Competency Committee including that the meetings are now held throughout the Clerkship year instead of being just at the time of Graduation, some changes to evaluations in Pre-Clerkship, and the approval of the midpoint feedback policy and midpoint ITER's for feedback that were approved at the May 2nd Clerkship Committee Meeting.

4.5 Research Committee Update

Dr. Harvey updated the committee that the Research Committee continues with their weekly meetings, and they have summer students that are aiding to work on projects that will help review and examine what will be done with evaluations in the future, including the timing of information collection after exams and rotations and viewing the outcome potential for the students. He also added that if students are interested in projects to reach out to Dr. Harvey, Dr. Desy or Ms. Irene Ma as there is a list that they do keep for students to match them with projects as they get developed and distributed. As well as, if there is anyone wanting to produce a research project to reach out as well to submit their request to the committee.

4.6 PGME Update

Dr. Mineyko informed the committee that there are no updates from the Post Graduate office at this time.

4.7 Accreditation Update

In Dr. Mintz' absence Dr. Busche informed the committee that there will continue to be requests coming from himself and the accreditation team for documents and other information that the departments can provide regarding the upcoming 2024 Accreditation. Dr. Busche added that continuing the accreditation process currently includes filling out all the documents that demonstrate the different areas and information that the accreditation is going to look at, this project is the Data Collection Instrument (DCI) after that is complete the next task is finding a writer for each section of the Medical School Self Study (MSS), which compiles the data from the DCI to a critical review document.

4.8 EDI Update

Ms. Taneja informed the committee that the office rebranded and is now the Precision, Equity, and Social Justice Office. She included that the work is focused on EDI objectives for policy, communication, education and grassroots initiatives. Dr. Busche advised the committee that if there are members reviewing or developing content, to reach out to Ms. Taneja to have her assist with getting that objective for all materials.

5. Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Request for Different Assignment Policy

Dr. Busche informed the committee that this policy was discussed after an edit was brought forth by Dr. Wicklum at the last meeting, he wanted to follow up and ensured that the policy will be updated and put on the website

5.2 Clerks with Accommodations

Dr. Busche gave an overview of the two different types of accommodations that students have available, exam accommodations and workplace accommodations. Currently both of these are assessed by the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office on main campus, these are things such as extra time for written exams needing a chair during some clinical rotations and other things regarding the health and wellbeing of the students; he indicated that there are some current difficulties with this including the length of time it takes to get a recommendation from the SAS office. Dr. Busche informed the committee that he has met with the Associate Dean of the PGME office, Dr. Melinda Davis, and she expressed how they do their own accommodations for the residents through their office and is open to having our students go through their office as well to ensure that the correct accommodations are being granted. The PGME process is currently being adjusted, so any switch for UME students will have to await these updates. Dr. Busche added the second difficult part of the accommodation process is the communication of the students' accommodations to each of their rotations, preceptors and others that they could encounter when in Clerkship. Dr. Harris-Thompson included that there has been some human error in the administrative processes through rotations not having a safety net or follow up for students that have accommodations and the procedures that need to be in place for each student. There were many discussion points showcased by members of the committee for how this should be handled, some of the concerns being the broadcast of students' accommodations to a larger group of people that the student may come into contact with, the uncertainty of the day to day in rotations and what could be needed or able to be granted at any given time. Some of the ideas proposed were having the students advocate for themselves at the start of their rotations and shifts with each preceptor letting them know they have accommodations and what they are or handing them their documents as necessary. Another suggestion included giving the students information packages with accommodation information with things such as how they are communicated, who gets the information, and if their accommodations aren't being met the steps to take from there this also led to the question if the default should be that each preceptor believes that each student has accommodations until told otherwise. More discussion included that feasibility for written exam accommodations is not an issue however, being in the clinical environment there are many variables that can arise making things more difficult to predict or provide accommodations for when something comes up. Dr. Busche also prompted the students that believe they may need an accommodation for Clerkship in the Class of 2025 to reach out to the SAS office over the summer to get what is needed in place before they begin Clerkship in January.

5.3 Exam Question Overlap

Dr. Busche informed the committee that Dr. Desy will be reaching out to the clerkships that have some of the same questions on both versions of the exams to work towards making each exam completely different from the other.

5.4 Implementing Clerkship Feedback Policy

Dr. Busche reminded the committee that this policy was approved at the last Clerkship Meeting for the reason that it encourages faculty to provide feedback to the learners, this has created midpoint ITER's for the rotations that did not have them in place yet. He informed the committee that the Class of 2025 will be the first class to have the mid-point ITER in place for all rotations. He also added that the feedback element was flagged for improvement at the last accreditation so this is done in hopes that it will improve this element for the accreditation in 2024.

6. New Business

6.1 Red Deer Core Clerkship

Dr. Busche informed the committee that regarding previous conversations through past committee meetings around the class size expansion has found that reaching out through programs and looking at the challenges arising of using Red Deer as site for students to attend for clerkship rotations and electives going forward. Some of these challenges include, preceptors needing to have a faculty appointment through the University of Calgary, pay for teaching, and housing will then be an issue for students as there isn't the capacity for a larger number of students to be able to stay while doing rotations, could be competition with the University of Alberta potentially wanting to use Red Deer as a site as well, another issue could be finding ways to have the faculty development done for education styles, EDI, and any other information needed. At the moment, Dr. Busche informed the committee that there will not be clerks going in the immediate future for core rotations but a good site to promote for electives as the class sizes continue to increase. Discussion included the reference letters for the CaRMS match and potentially not having the same opportunity to have letters as preceptors may not be a direct part of the school or a program which may be perceived by students as a disadvantage. Dr. Busche thanked everyone for their contributions to this discussion and will continue to update the committee with the information as necessary.

7. Clerkship Reports

7.1 Course 8 Report

Dr. Haws presented the Course 8 Report to the committee. She gave an overview of the members and the background of Course 8, including that it was introduced for the Class of 2011 because of accreditation, graduation questionnaire's, focus group research and the examination performance through clerkship, it was introduced with the goal of filling the gaps in knowledge and skills through rotations in clerkship. She included that it covers 78 Must See Presentations for content while being hands on. Course 8 is delivered through the clerkship for all students through small groups, simulations, lectures, podcasts, procedures, POCUS, standardized patients, and having interprofessional components when possible. Regular assessments are included through the use of EPAs. The class is divided into 24 small groups of five to six students in group and have sessions every four to six weeks on Friday afternoons for nine sessions in total, UCLIC students come in for three Course 8 specific days. The Clerkship OSCE for the Class of 2022 had eight stations with a must pass of six, seven students were unsatisfactory but all successful on the rewrite. The Clerkship OSCE for the class of 2023 had nine stations with a must pass of six, one student was unsuccessful but passed the rewrite. Due to limited data, feedback was minimal, but the strengths Dr. Haws included are weekly evaluations were given a higher rating for lectures over small groups, simulations, bedside teaching, procedural skills, application of knowledge, a variety and quality of preceptors, mix of lectures, small groups and hands-on learning. Some weaknesses included being unable to attend due to rotations or electives, post call, out of town and other reasons, it does take students out of a clinical environment, the well physician curriculum, quality and consistency of standardized patients case feedback and correlation with OSCE, and the Zoom experience through COVID. Changes coming up include the road mapping of content with RIME to help fill the gaps from the new curriculum, reviewing of the Course 8 content through EDI, incorporate Goals of Care, breaking bad news, more management decisions, practice of presenting cases to preceptors, and reformatting SIM cases to EPA-based.

Proposal: Dr. Busche proposed to accept the Course 8 Report as it was presented today.

First: Mr. V. Joe
Second: Dr. A. Harvey
All in favour.

7.2 Pediatrics Report

Dr. Bannister presented the Pediatrics Report to the committee. She gave an overview of the rotation and included that the mission is to deliver integrated generalist pediatrics curriculum across the entire three years, emphasizing clinical experiences, support preceptors, evaluate programs and work towards improvement. The ratings from 2022-2023 had a 4.2 overall with 191 responses, over the two different classes that were part of this data. The rotation was in two blocks a four week and a two-week block, the four-week block includes neonatology for one week for each student, can also include inpatients, nights, admitting, regional sites or community pediatrics. The two-week blocks include sub-specialties including community, emergency, and other sub-specialties. Each rotation includes Academic half days, interprofessional simulation sessions, formative exam online, passport, and a final MCQ exam. The strengths identified by the students include, felt safe and secure at teaching sites, treated professionally and respectfully by faculty and staff, and sensitive issues related to patient care were appropriately discussed. Preceptors and staff are supportive and enthusiastic, a good exposure to a variety of settings and patients, hands on ability to practice assessments, with a good level of responsibility. Program strengths include the preceptors and residents, meeting with clerks each week is beneficial, the core document, helping students in distress, the passports, interprofessional simulation sessions, and objectives with resources. The weaknesses indicated by the students include the opportunity to learn and perform procedures, the core document, and satisfaction with the administrative organization of the rotation. Clarity around scheduling, rotations with limited contact with staff or residents, more SIM training, and more structure to the academic half days were also included. The challenges the program noted were ensuring adequate clinical exposures, students doing different rotations, no assessments on ACH CTU admitting and nights, loss of a regional site, and the four plus two system for some logistical information that can be passed onto the students. Dr. Bannister noted that the Paeds portal is useful and helpful.

There was discussion regarding the hours worked question parts of the survey, looking into removing the second question of having two-24-hour periods off, and possibly rewording the other two questions around daytime work hours, and the call the evening before an exam citing the policy of must be off call no less than 14 hours prior to a final exam.

Proposal: Dr. Busche proposed to accept the Pediatrics Report as it was presented today.

First: Dr. B. Meatherall
Second: Dr. W. Harris-Thompson
All in favour.

Dr. Busche thanked everyone for attending and for their discussion. He reminded the committee that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday September 12th at 12:30 pm where Surgery will present.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:35 p.m.

Minutes by: Danielle Jean
Edited by: Dr. Kevin Busche