



Clerkship Committee (CC) Minutes

Clerkship Committee (CC)

APPROVED

Tuesday March 7, 2023

12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Meeting via Zoom

Attendees: Drs. K. Busche (chair), T. Ayas, J. Desy, G. Gelfand, W. Harris-Thompson, A. Harvey, J. Haws, T. Jablonski, R. Kachra, S. Lopushinsky, J. Lubin, B. Meatherall, A. Mineyko, M. Mintz, C. Naugler, R. Ram, M. Sohn, S. Weeks, S. Wicklum, Mr. V. Joe, Ms. S. Leskosky, Mr. M. Paget, Ms. T. Pander, Ms. S. Tai, Ms. D. Jean (admin)

Regrets: Drs. S. Bannister, R. Brett, K. Darcus, N. Hardcastle, F. Jivraj, N. Johnson, J. LaMothe, S. Mohan, J. Vantanajal, M. Walter, H. Yoon, Mr. S. Bell, Mr. M. Bondok, Ms. K. Fu, Mr. J. Kreutz, Ms. E. Lindquist, Ms. D. Stanojevic

1. Welcome and Thanks

The meeting was conducted through Zoom and was called to order at 12:32 p.m. by Dr. K. Busche (Chair). He informed the committee that Dr. Jeremy LaMothe will be leaving his role as the Surgery Clerkship Director once a replacement is made, 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 January 31st 2023 – Passed unanimously.

4. Standing Updates

4.1 Student Reports

Mr. Joe gave the updates on all three classes. For the Class of 2023 they have finished their CaRMS interviews and are anxiously awaiting Match Day. The Class of 2024 is into their first Clerkship Rotations which had positive reviews so far. The Class of 2025 included that it is an examination heavy period for the class, with Anatomy, Course 3 and the Med Skills OSCE all approaching. They noted having supportive help from preceptors with highlights included having review sessions and practice OSCE sessions. Course 3 seems to be going well for the class and the students are enjoying it. Mr. Joe included that after Dr. Busche's CaRMS presentation that it has got students thinking about the process and how to approach the CaRMS Match when it comes time. The Class of 2025 is also looking forward to their career exploration weeks which does come with a one week break from classes as well before starting into Year 2 and Course 4.

4.2 Undergraduate Medical Education Committee

Dr. Naugler informed the committee that there is anticipation from the Government of Alberta Budget that both Alberta Medical Schools will be asked to increase their enrollment numbers per year, there will be a formal update to come with the student numbers and specific information once it becomes available.

4.3 Pre-Clerkship Committee Update

Dr. Weeks' update included that the Class of 2025 is approaching a very assessment and examination heavy schedule right now, with the Anatomy Year 1 exam, two Course 3 Exams, and the MedSkills I OSCE. Following the exams they have their second of three Career Development Weeks and a week of vacation that have been able to use interchangeably for the students. Dr. Weeks added that going forward there could be different areas where increased capacity could be used in disciplines in community practices, such as radiology, community pediatrics, some surgical specialities that may not be an operating room focus as well. Dr. Weeks also included that RIME is starting in July for the Class of 2026 noting the excitement and nerves for the launch of a new curriculum.

4.4 Student Evaluation Committee Update

Dr. Desy noted that the Clerkship OSCE had recently been completed for the Class of 2023 and went well, with the grades to be distributed in the following weeks. There's been no concerns or major hiccups and examinations are going very well overall.

4.5 Research Committee Update

Dr. Desy informed the committee that the Research committee continues to meet weekly, with a new role added to the Terms of Reference which has been to help inform accreditation discussions when it comes to research. She noted that there have been a number of projects come through the committee that have been approved for dissemination to the students. Dr. Desy also gave a reminder that if there is a project anyone has and would like to recruit students into it to send it the committees' way to offer feedback, approval, and dissemination. Continue to have the student research portal which the students are actively engaged with, feedback from researchers who have used the portal have been quite positive overall and most people have been getting a fair number of students participating in the projects through the portal.

4.6 PGME Update

Dr. Mineyko informed the committee that there is nothing to update the committee on from the PGME office. She did include conversation from the last PGME meeting that included clerkship electives information at the post graduate level both locally and away are supported with discussion and opinions as to length and how many are being done. Dr. Mineyko also stated that interviews are currently still being held virtually which is important for a variety of reasons, however, some programs are still concerned with the number of interviews, and the impact that could have on learners being able to get into the programs that they want.

4.7 Accreditation Update

Dr. Mintz updated the committee that the accreditation website is almost ready to go live and is looking good, and thanked all that have been involved in that process. Dr. Mintz informed the committee that the website will have facts, timelines, and documents available from the accreditation committee among other things, and asked for input about what others would like to see be available on the website, she gave some suggestions on a spotlight for different accreditation elements, what the elements are and give information about these elements or any other things that the committee would like to see available for ease on the website. Dr. Mintz included that the student survey has been available since the beginning of January, looking for over a 70% response rate from each class and is currently under that but hopeful to get to the desired response rate before the end of March. Dr. Mintz added that there has been some work done on element 3.7 which is for elective students and the question is that they understand how they can report mistreatment.

Dr. Busche added a request for the clerkship directors on updates for how and when you provide the rotation objectives to all of the preceptors and residents for accreditation.

5. Arising from the Minutes

5.1 Clerkship Feedback Policy

Dr. Busche informed the committee that the Clerkship Feedback Policy is to provide useful and timely feedback to our clerks and provides documentation to support the kind of feedback that was given to the learner (both for learning and in case of an appeal of an unsatisfactory rotation). With the varying types of clerkship rotations and feedback requirements to the students prove to make the concept of a policy that approaches all of these topics difficult. Current suggestions include adding a midpoint ITER to the rotations that currently do not have one, this would be a short ITER where the main ask is finding out whether or not a student is at risk of failing, and if so, why. Work will continue to craft a new policy that better addresses these disparate types of rotations.

6. New Business

6.1 Class Size, Class of 2025

Dr. Busche informed the committee that the Class of 2025 has accumulated a fair number of additional student for various reasons. This happens regularly, however this class will have more than the usual year when they are in full capacity in clerkship with 192 students. Dr. Busche informed the committee that the average number in clerkship is around 160, he also included that in discussions with other UME Deans across the country there has been some increases but not large increases so this should not affect the match numbers, but could make it more competitive across the country. He informed the committee that Sibyl has started to reach out to the clerkship administrators about these increases and finding spaces for these clerks so will have to make it work for every rotation.

6.2 Medical Records and Learners

Dr. Busche introduced the topic brought forward by Dr. Mineyko of concern over electronic medical records and note taking consisting of copying and pasting of others' notes at all levels of medicine, from students to attendings. Dr. Mineyko gave some background on her role of handling and helping learners that are struggling or having difficulties as well as some background on the electronic medical records. She pointed out two of the main concerns of the medical records with learners, the first being copy-paste, copy-forward -- this runs a risk of medical errors and medico-legal issues, learners should be using notes and records as learning tools and experience over ways to create shortcuts in learning through this method, and issues regarding professionalism and academic integrity are at risk due to clinical plagiarism from copying someone else's notes and signing off on them as ones own. Notes and records should be viewed as an ideal way of showing your work, showing your progress, and showing your development as a learner and as a professional. The second concern is note bloat, she indicated that at the UME level there is an understanding for a beginner learner to have notes that are overly inclusive with extra information than relevant or necessary, but as the student progresses in learning through their undergraduate and the residency levels the notes are expected to improve to shorter notes with improved clarity. The risks with note bloat include the possibility of medical error and medico-legal issues through extraneous information that people will see as long and could miss pertinent information regarding patients both positive and negative with assessments. The notes are also to show critical thinking and clinical reasoning to come up with impressions and plans for each patient, which when written by the learners are able to be reviewed and given feedback for from attendings to better enhance learning and knowledge through their education. Dr. Mineyko informed the committee that she is working on this at the PGME level and looking for collaboration with the UME for cohesive and effective learning opportunities. Dr. Busche included the idea of requiring clerks to write their own notes during clerkship citing that it promotes good writing and good writing requires good thinking and it would be beneficial in developing these habits and the knowledge for the students. Discussion included how to look at this going forward, explaining to students how to dictate, how to do it properly, and why doing so is important need to be addressed. The responsibility levels for input and output accuracy due to stage of training and stage of career of the learners with what needs to be considered and put in notes and

dictations need to be taken into account when instructing and training. The example given by Dr. Mineyko for this process was a showing your work aspect from a mathematical view point of using a calculator once you have proven that you are able to do the math the long handed way. Learners in early stages of training will have longer hand done notes and dictations without the ability of using templates or other people's dictations, with more senior learners being able to use templates or shorter form once achieved an appropriate level of dictation competence. Consideration of an added EPA for 'Note Taking, Writing from Scratch' to be a thought for this issue going forward.

6.3 Night Call on Match Day

Dr. Busche informed the committee that he and Dr. Naugler received an email from the Class of 2023 President for a request of not having Night Call on Match Day. Dr. Busche reminded the committee that traditionally the night before Match Day there are no clerks on call between 2300h and 1700h on Match Day, the request came in asking for the possibility to have the night of the match off as well. The students indicated that celebrations and personal reasons including added distractions that may not be able to have students focus and give the best patient care possible. Discussion continued for both sides, and the thought of what to do for the Match Day fast approaching and other years to come as well.

Motion: Mr. Joe motioned that on Match Day, March 22nd 2023, the students from the Class of 2023 will not be required to return to work at 5:00 pm (1700h) until the following morning.

Second: Dr. G. Gelfand
6 In Favour 12 Against
Motion: **Not Approved**

7. Clerkship Reports

7.1 Clerkship Electives Report

Dr. Lubin presented the Clerkship Electives Report to the committee. He gave an overview of what electives are, including that there are a mandatory 14 total weeks with a maximum of eight-weeks per CaRMS entry-level discipline for each student, the timeline of when the electives were scheduled and took place for the Class of 2023, the processes of electives including where to find elective information and the encouragement to meet with advisors from the SAW Hub, and how to request electives from each department including rural electives and Visiting Electives, informing the committee that there were no visiting electives for the Class of 2023. Dr. Lubin gave a breakdown of how many electives happened, what discipline the electives were in, how long each elective was, and where the electives took place with the biggest changes over the last five classes being from before Covid where there were visiting electives held in other parts of Canada and Internationally to 99% of electives being held in Alberta for the classes of 2022 and 2023. The overall student rating for all electives was 4.5/5 with 1.2% saying they experienced or witnessed mistreatment. Concerns indicated include not enough time to do independent learning with long days of clinical work, working with different preceptors each day in some disciplines which makes it harder to get letters of reference for CaRMS, and a lack of clarity in student's schedules in advance of the rotation. The biggest challenge being faced currently is the process is complicated for students to apply for electives with having three separate ways, one way for local electives, one way for rural electives, and another way for visiting electives which causes complexity and creates stress for the students. The second challenge is the elective process for local electives is often seen as unfair to the students and labour-intensive for the program administrators with very little transparency on capacity limits and the variability in how the different departments handle these requests. Visiting electives have slowly restarted across Canada for the Class of 2024 using the new AFMC Student Portal, this system has encountered glitches and tech problems as well as a learning curve for the administrators and students causing some concern and challenges with

this process, going forward looking at the portal for booking local and visiting electives through one tool and getting the glitches sorted out. Dr. Lubin included some challenges around the cancelation of electives from the department and administration side with students canceling inside of the eight-week cut off, he noted that this is common and it is difficult for the departments but did state that these things do happen in the best interests of their career paths.

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

First: Dr. A. Harvey
Second: Dr. T. Jablonski
All in favour.

7.2 Psychiatry Report

Dr. Ayas presented the Psychiatry Clerkship Report. He gave an overview of the rotation including sites, structure, goals and key administrative staff and faculty of the program. The largest change was the shift back to a four week Adult Psychiatry rotation and a two week Child and Adolescent Psychiatry that is partnered with a two week pediatrics block. The overall rating was 4.29/5, slightly below the last two years which were both 4.33, Dr. Ayas informed the committee that there were no unsatisfactory students and no appeals. Strengths included the professional and respectful treatment by faculty and staff, sensitive issues related to patient care were discussed, students felt safe and secure at teaching sites, fair call expectations, great preceptors and good work/life balance. The weaknesses included lower opportunity to learn procedures, problem solving schemes used, and the students didn't find the core document useful. Some changes that occurred were an update of the core document, adding the slides for Wednesday sessions put in Osler, and the expansion of the Child and Adolescent rotation to two weeks. Dr. Ayas included that the biggest change this year was that Dr. Nancy Brager retired from the Education Director position for Psychiatry.

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

First: Dr. J. Lubin
Second: Dr. M. Sohn
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 May 2nd at 12:30 pm where Pediatrics and Obstetrics and Gynecology will present.

Meeting adjourned @ 2:33 p.m.

Minutes by: Danielle Jean

Edited by: Dr. Kevin Busche