



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY

Clerkship Committee Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

Tuesday, October 30th, 2018

Present: Drs. Kelly Albrecht, Tim Ayas (teleconference), Melinda Davis, Janeve Desy, David Fu, Adrian Harvey, Jolene Haws, Rahim Kachra, Martina Kelly, Kevin McLaughlin, Suneina Mohan, Mike Slawnych, Adrian Harvey, Rahim Kachra, Pamela Veale (chair), Mr. Parthiv Amin, Ms. Kate Brockman, Mr. William Kennedy, Ms. Shannon Leskosky, Ms. Emily Macphail, Mr. Mike Paget, Ms. Sibyl Tai, Jane McNeill (admin assistant)

Regrets: Drs. Laurie-Anne Baker, Susan Bannister, Kevin Busche, Sylvain Coderre, Karl Darcus, Gary Gelfand, Farah Jivraj, Nicole Johnson, Kathryn Kenny, Michael Kwan, Jeremy LaMothe, Irene Ma, Rithesh Ram, Artan Reso, Jimmy Vantanajal, Sonja Wicklum, Na'ama Avitzur, Yuan Burton, Ms. Sarah Smith

1. Welcome

Dr. Veale suggested that committee members introduce themselves as there are a few new members and a few role transitions within the committee membership. Some of the positions that are in transition are: Dr. A. Harvey is stepping down as Surgery Clerkship Director and Dr. Jeremy LaMothe is resuming the position as of November 1st, 2018. Dr. David Fu has assumed the position of Emergency Evaluation Co-ordinator. As of October 1st, 2018 Dr. Tim Ayas has assumed the position of Psychiatry Clerkship Director. Dr. Suneina Mohan is the new Psychiatry Evaluation Co-ordinator. Dr. Jolene Haws is the new Course 8 Chair.

Dr. Veale informed members that certificates will be presented to Drs. Desy, Fedwick and Ayas in recognition of their past roles on the Clerkship Committee.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

The October 30, 2018 minutes was approved.

- Motion: Dr. R. Kachra Seconded: Dr. K. McLaughlin

3. Approval of Minutes

The September 18, 2018 minutes were circulated. A few small spelling corrections were made.

- Motion: Dr. A. Harvey Seconded: Mr. P. Amin

4. Arising from Minutes

There was no further discussions with regard to the September 18, 2018 minutes.

5. New Business:

Dr. McLaughlin gave a couple of important updates regarding some of the activities that the Student Evaluation Committee is doing that is relevant to the Clerkship Committee:

Closing Clerkship Formative Exams Prior to Summative – Dr. McLaughlin proposed to make a change to the online Formative Clerkship exams starting with the class of 2020 (Clerkship). He informed members that presently the UME has a “must complete by” and “close by” date for the Clerkship Formative Exams. For the Class of 2020, there will be a “must complete by” date for each formative examination. The examinations will remain open for review throughout the rotation.

- a) Academic Assessment Reappraisal** – Dr. McLaughlin reviewed the current UME appeals process with the Clerkship Committee. The current appeal process has been found to be a bit traumatic for all involved. The Student Evaluations Committee (SEC), with the assistance of legal advice, has made some important changes with regard to the current appeal process. Going forward, Dr. McLaughlin outlined that the committee will no longer hear appeals, but rather that a student

may request a reappraisal. With the new proposed reappraisal process in place, there will not be direct questioning between the student and the Clerkship Director or rotation representative (all questions will go through the Chair of the Reappraisal Committee). As well, the Chair of the Reappraisal Committee is able to gather further data to determine whether the Reappraisal may be granted. Dr. McLaughlin noted that legal counsel should not be necessary for the reappraisal process. Dr. McLaughlin informed members that students may take an appeal to the University of Calgary (with legal counsel). The Reappraisal process is currently being finalized and approved by SEC.

b) Moving to a Four Week Exam Structure – Dr. Veale reminded members that UMEC has approved for clerkship to go to a four-week block system (starting with the class of 2021). Dr. Veale commented that the SEC Committee has asked for input from the Clerkship Committee regarding the exam logistics. She would like to bring forward the Clerkship Committee’s ideas to the upcoming SEC meeting (Nov 2, 2018). Dr. Veale reviewed the power point presentation entitled “What About the Exams”? (attached). This presentation reviews four options outlining how the new exam structure could look. Dr. Veale explained that the first option “**Finish all Clinical Components then do Written Exam**” is status quo (no additional work, but problematic). Students would complete all work in the discipline and then do the exam at the end of the rotation (for all eight mandatory clerkships). If this option was utilized, however, the exams would get back loaded, as well there would be a very limited number of completed exams by the CaRMS application deadline. As well, if a student is having academic difficulties, it may not be recognized until later in the year. The second option “**Written exam at end of first clinical component**” is “challenging” (this option would not apply to Anesthesia or Emergency). The student would have the option to challenge the written exam at the end of the first rotation “component”. If a student is unsatisfactory in their first exam, they would be permitted to repeat the exam at the end of the second rotation “component”. The disadvantages include that it would be a “complete shift in thinking”, as well not all material would be complete (this is most important for the rotations that are going to divide into a selective component and another component (ex. Clinical teaching unit and selective unit for pediatrics). The third option - **Fixed Number of Exam Periods** means that the student’s clinical decision making for their clinical performance on the blocks is reviewed and at some interval the student will do the knowledge examination component. Dr. Veale commented that this option is fairly similar to the UCLIC model. The advantages are that it may be reasonable to do two exams on a certain day and it keeps our current exams intact. Dr. Veale explained that the fourth option – **Separate clinical rotations from written examinations** – would decouple the examinations and look at the accumulative assessment knowledge over the year. Dr. Veale commented that this option is most consistent with an overall approach as well as looking at other transitions going on in education (EPA/CBD). The disadvantage would be that it is the biggest change.

Dr. Veale informed members that changing the exam structure has to be feasible for the UME team who manage putting on the exams. The Clerkship Committee discussed the four options in great detail. Dr. Veale asked members to informally vote to get an idea of who is in favor for which option. She stressed that the vote was not binding, however it would be very helpful for her to take the numbers to SEC’s Nov 2nd meeting. The informal vote went as follows:

- Option 1 – no votes
- Option 2 – no votes
- Option 3 – 12 votes
- Option 4 – 13 votes

SEC will be informed that CC would like them to consider Option 3 or 4.

c) Mistreatment Advisors – Drs. Deirdre Jenkins and Sarah Weeks

Dr. Veale introduced Drs. Jenkins and Weeks to the Clerkship Committee. She informed committee members that she asked Dr. Jenkins and Weeks to visit our Clerkship Committee so they may highlight what their office does, what they are set up to do and what they are hoping to get from the committee members for the students. Dr. Jenkins explained that their positions as Mistreatment Advisors came out of an accreditation need where some students felt they were mistreated needing a process and resources in order to resolve issues supporting a fair process. Drs. Jenkins and Weeks stated that they mostly assist students, however, occasionally they assist faculty as well. They informed the committee that they are fairly busy (usually contacted by a student once per week). Drs. Jenkins and Weeks picked scenarios from two cases (altered some information for confidentiality purposes) and asked committee members “what would you do”? The committee members gave excellent

suggestions. Dr. Veale commented that it is very important that if a student comes forward with an issue of mistreatment, to direct them to the mistreatment advisors immediately. The mistreatment advisors' link (called a Safe Space) may be found in several areas (OSLER, U of C Medicine webpage, etc.). All are welcome to use the link. The link for "a Safe Space" is <http://mistreatment.ucalgary.ca/>. Dr. Veale reviewed "The Process" on the Safe Space link. She explained that it is very important that a student give enough detail during the process so that the incident can be addressed. Dr. Veale thanked Drs. Jenkins and Weeks for their efforts and for visiting the Clerkship Committee.

d) Update to Terms of Reference

The following new members have been added to the Clerkship Committee's Terms of Reference:

Dr. Tim Ayas, Clerkship Director of Psychiatry (outgoing – Dr. Thomas Raedler)
Dr. Jeremy LaMothe, Clerkship Director of Surgery (outgoing – Dr. Adrian Harvey)
Dr. Suneina Mohan, Clerkship Evaluation Coordinator (outgoing – Dr. Tim Ayas)
Dr. David Fu, Clerkship Evaluation Coordinator (outgoing – Dr. Jason Fedwick)
Dr. Jolene Haws, Course 8 Co-chair (outgoing – Dr. Janeve Desy)

As well, the following changes have been made to the body of the Terms of Reference:

Page 1: "Receive and discuss **feedback** from faculty and students" – the word "feedback" added

Page 2: Under "Membership", remove the Evaluation Coordinators as primary members to reflect how this committee actually operates (each Clerkship is represented and the Evaluation Coordinators often serve as alternates if the Clerkship Directors are unable to attend). It is recommended that each Clerkship be represented by the Clerkship Director or alternate. The evaluation representatives will be kept as corresponding members.

Page 2: Under "Membership", the title **Director of Teaching Innovation** replace the title "Faculty Development"

At PCC and UMEC, there was agreement that the UME representatives should be included as voting members. Wording changed to reflect this so there is consistency across committees. Therefore, the wording below has been added.

Page 2: **All members may vote with the exception of the Associate Dean. One vote is assigned per clerkship and one per student year although there may be participation of multiple representatives for each. The Chair will normally withhold his/her vote unless there is a tie.**

Proposal: Recommend to UMEC that the Clerkship Committee's Terms of Reference change to include a Rural representative and Resident representative. **(please see two proposed changes for the TOR listed below).**

Motion: Dr. A. Harvey **Seconded:** Dr. Melinda Davis
All in Favor

Proposed - Page 2: Under "Membership", add: **Representative from DLRI**
There is a UCLIC Clerkship Director on the committee but it is beyond the role of that position to be informed regarding rural/regional placement/funding/etc. in block rotation structure.

Proposed - Page 2: Under "Membership", add: **Resident Representative**
A resident representative would be helpful to provide input when we are considering student scheduling logistics – particularly as we adjust the structure of our Clerkship in the next couple of year. The resident group has not been approached yet.

6. Clerkship Report (attached)

Surgery Program: Dr. Adrian Harvey presented an Annual Surgery Clerkship report for the Class of 2018.

Highlights included:

- The Surgery Committee has not changed a great deal. Dr. Janet Edwards has taken on Thoracic Surgery, the student representative has changed.
- As of November 1st, 2018, Dr. Jeremy LaMothe (from Orthopedic Surgery) will be taking over as Director of Surgery. Dr. Adrian Harvey took over as Evaluation Coordinator (for Dr. Mike Kwan who is on sabbatical – Dr. Kwan will be returning on January 1st, 2019).
- Ms. Dory Glaser-Watson retired on October 5th as Education Coordinator and will be replaced by Ms. Yuan Burton.
- General Rotation structure is a 6 week block with 3 weeks on General Surgery, 1 week and 2 week selectives. The 1 week Selective Options are: Urology, Plastics, Vascular, Thoracic, ENT and Trauma. The 2 week selective options are: Orthopedics, Plastics and Urology.
- Seminar Series runs every Tuesday afternoon (except week 1) – covers all material: General Surgery, Neurosurgery, Plastic Surgery, Vascular Surgery, Urology, Orthopedics and Otolaryngology.
- Evaluation: Must complete: a) Formative Exam (MCQ – first 4 weeks), b) Logbook, c) Call shifts, d) Seminar attendance. Must be satisfactory: a) ITER (including professionalism), b) Summative Exam (MCQ)
- Student performance: MCQ: MPL – 64% - 4 failures. ITERS: - SPD – 1 Unsatisfactory – 0. Overall – SPD 4 (rewrite), 1 (ITER)
- Rotation Evaluation: 2017 – 3.5, 2018 – 3.0, 2019 – 4.2 (so far). Heavy rotation with long hours and hard to study.
- Accreditation Issues: Observed H & P – N Zondervan project nearing completion – data. Mid-point feedback – collated and delivered electronically (100% students), Student report feedback continues to say 60-70%.
- Challenge of unusual level of teacher fatigue which is being manifested by more than normal seminar absences (a number of seminars are being missed more so than in the past). Tight placements, people are not flexible so in the past whenever there were vacations or sick preceptors, this could be accommodated, however, now getting push back, claiming “there is no room for an extra student”. Several preceptors say they need a break from teaching. Surgery moving ahead with: Podcasting, Office of Surgical Education Retreat (October), Clerkship Change, Advocacy (AFP – thoracic/peds), hiring (meeting).
- Strengths – Seminar series, teachers (faculty and residents), procedural skills
- Weaknesses – Workload (HPB), Call (overnight), seminar absences, tight rotations at times (summer/electives)

Internal Medicine Program: Dr. Rahim Kachra presented an Annual Internal Medicine Clerkship report for the Class of 2018.

Highlights included:

- One change in membership – the UME Program Coordinator changed from Kelsey O’Donnell to Nicolle Begert.
- All formal Committee meetings are held quarterly because they are a ten week rotation housed with 12 weeks.
- Committee consists of Drs. Rahim Kachra, Mike Slawnych, all MTU Directors, number of Clerkship Educators, Resident Representative and two student reps.
- In the process of putting together the Internal Medicine Objectives. Our rotations of subspecialties did not have clear objectives, recently compiled them and are presently in the process of putting up a new website called imclerkship.ca (will have all rotations and objectives on the website). The website will link to the half day presentations and exams.
- Operate out of all four clinical sites
- Provision of Information – used to be 12 weeks (10 weeks with 2 weeks of electives with the option of three two-week Selectives and MTU or MTU, ICU and a two-week selective. The structure will change.
- Information is mostly provided through email.
- Observed Histories and Physical Exams – have the “Happy Pass”. 14 students disagree that they had any observed histories and 13 people disagree that they observed any physical exams (despite having this on the OSCE).
- Student feedback – consistent (3.8). Strengths – MTU, teaching (preceptors, residents, independence for students). Weaknesses – MTU, call, teaching, feedback, variability in expectations between MTU and various selectives
- Components of Student Evaluation – Logbook, ITER, Midpoint MCQ, Midpoint OSCE, Final MCQ
- Evaluation – 4 unsatisfactory, 0 appeals on exams or ITERS – all were remediated
- Call requirements – MTU – 7 nights of call, ICU – 6 nights of call
- Work Hours – with 62 students answering survey, 1 student claimed had to stay late, 13 chose to stay late, 6 chose to arrive early or stay late, 10 didn’t finish work so chose to stay late
- Resource needs – need more preceptors (for mostly bedside teaching)

- Future Plans – Introduced Intro to Professional Education teaching, updated most of the exams, presently working on updating OSCE and trailing EPAs in both the OSCEs and ITERs for class of 2019.

Dr. Veale thanked Drs. A. Harvey and R. Kachra for their Clerkship Reports and hard work.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m.

Next meeting is Tuesday, November 27th, 2018 @ 12:30 – 2:30 p.m. in G750, HSC Bldg.

/jm