



# Clerkship Committee (CC)

## Minutes

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### Clerkship Committee (CC)

#### APPROVED

Tuesday March 4, 2025

12:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Meeting via Zoom

**Attendees:** Drs. K. Busche (chair), A. Bromley, J. Desy, L. Harper, W. Harris-Thompson, T. Killam, H. Kim, T. Lohmann, S. McLeod, M. Mintz, R. Ram, A. Ramaliu, M. Sohn, S. Weeks, T. Wong, C. Zavitz, Ms. A. Adel, Ms. S. Facchini, Ms. C. Horwood, Ms. M. Hsu, Mr. V. Joe, Mr. M. Paget, Ms. T. Pander, Ms. D. Stanojevic, Ms. S. Tai, Ms. G. Taneja, Ms. D. Jean (admin)

**Regrets:** Drs. S. Bannister, S. Coderre, K. Darcus, M. Davis, A. DiNinno, G. Gelfand, N. Hardcastle, J. Haws, F. Jivraj, N. Johnson, K. Lafreniere, S. Lopushinsky, S. Pancic, A. Ritter, E. Ruka, M. Thompson, J. Vantanajal, Mr. E. Guo, Mr. S. Ivaturi, Mr. J. Kreutz, Ms. S. Leskosky, Ms. A. Randhawa, Mr. R. Sanguinetti

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#### 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). Dr. Busche welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for being able to attend. He added that the Match for the Class of 2025 happened earlier with a 92.4% match rate in the first round which is a high and good percentage, there will be a more detailed presentation about the match in a meeting to come after both matches have taken place. Dr. Busche also informed the committee members that his position, the Assistant Dean of Clerkship, has officially been posted with a start date of June 1, 2025. He also noted that if anyone is interested, he would be happy to talk to them if they would like some more information about the role.

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Agenda –Passed unanimously.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes from January 28, 2025 – Passed unanimously.

#### 4. Standing Updates

##### 4.1 Student Reports

Ms. Hsu informed the committee that she had spoke with the VP Academics from the Class of 2026 and did not have much to bring forward to this committee. She did include that at the previous RPCC meeting Mr. Ivaturi spoke about some of the apprehension around Clerkship and how RIME will have set them up differently compared to other classes but is happy to report that things have been going really well so far for their class in Clerkship. For the Class of 2027 they recently wrote their first exam of Block 2 and are currently on an asynchronous week and settling back in after the exam. She also included that the clerkship student representatives have been elected now, and that list has been circulated to the appropriate places.

Mr. Joe joined the meeting from the festivities of Match Day! He informed the committee that while stressful awaiting the Match a thank you went out for the flexibility in work hours around Match Day. He also thanked the committee for being great in his time as the VP Academic for the Class of 2025.

#### **4.2 Undergraduate Medical Education Committee**

Dr. Bromley informed the committee that the Annual Medical Council of Canada meeting for the Associate Deans of Undergraduate Medical Education Programs took place on February 28, 2025 in Ottawa. This meeting is held to update the schools if there have been any changes to the exams or objectives for the purpose of keeping updated information circulated for credentialing in Canada. Dr. Bromley included that there were some objective changes, but the biggest change for the MCC exams starting in April there will no longer be any clinical decision making questions, the exam will be all multiple choice questions with four answers, the exam is being shortened from nine hours to just over six hours with a defined break half-way through, and the overall number of questions has been decreased. Going forward, students will get approximately 83 seconds per question where traditionally it has been closer to 60 seconds per question. She wanted to make sure that everyone was aware that due to this being the first year that this format is being executed, that the standard will be set after the students take this exam, which will happen in approximately the middle of July which will mean the marks for the MCC exam will not be available until late July or early August, which is a fair bit later than historically. More programs across the country are moving towards a multidisciplinary examination style which does align more with the MCC exams, the other addition is the MCC is currently not considering bringing back a Part 2 OSCE type exam.

#### **4.3 RIME Pre-Clerkship Committee Update**

Dr. Weeks updated the committee that this is the first time in a long time that she has come to a meeting with only one curriculum and one class to update on. She informed the committee that the Class of 2027 have finished Unit 5 the first unit in Block 2, she noted that things were running smoother with content being ready for facilitators and students and CARDS decks improvements. There has been more work done to provide better alignment and integration of information including having all sessions during the week link together for more enhanced learning. Dr. Weeks informed the committee that there was a retreat held for the Pre-Clerkship Educators that had a great turn out and some changes going forward include having a minimum of two faculty presenting at all large group sessions to allow for a more diverse perspective and larger discussions, looking at having a better communication platform to have more team discussions on a weekly basis through Microsoft Teams to have some debrief time on how things went, what has worked and what needs improvement as well as end of unit debriefs. There is also more work going on for content review having a second set of eyes on any new content created to make sure that the content is level appropriate and picking up on unintentional things such as language. Dr. Weeks added that the rhythm of the weeks with floating stat holidays have been a problem in the past, so the committee decided to do some innovative and integrated teaching on those weeks with a floating stat, which include a session on an introduction to trauma. The difference with these additions are that due to the changing days of the holidays there will be no CARDS or evaluation items as this can change from one class year to another. The other approval from the RPCC is that the last week of Block 3 will mimic the last two weeks of Unit 8 in Block 2, it will have no new content being taught but will allow the students to practice putting everything together in a simulated environment.

#### **4.4 Student Evaluation Committee Update**

Dr. Desy informed the committee that the preliminary results from the accreditation have been released and one assessment related concern that was raised about the appeals of competency decisions, citing that this is challenging for students to appeal a competency decision. Implications that affect the student include that the process does take time, and being a continuous program with no regular semester breaks the negative consequences can include a student to miss part of the next year. There is active work going on to come up with solutions for this issue and something that accreditors will be following up on over time. Dr. Desy included that the mandatory formative exams for Clerkship are being finalized, and the Clerkship Directors and Evaluation Coordinators were reached out to review and provide feedback on the questions that make up these evaluations.

#### **4.5 Research Committee Update**

Dr. Desy informed the committee that she has met with Dr. Lara Cooke who is taking over the Medical Education Institute at the University of Calgary, which will be replacing OHMES. She updated the committee that the planning process has begun for the 2025 Eclipse event which has included reaching out to keynote speakers and looking to expand this event and continue to improve from the first event that happened last year. Dr. Desy ensured that there will be upcoming communications with the students about presentations, posters and the other opportunities that this event has to offer.

#### **4.6 Continuous Quality Improvement/Curriculum Innovation and Oversight Update**

Dr. Harper informed the committee that since the establishment of the new curriculum and oversight process there have been three applications that have been reviewed and presented at the relevant committees. The two pre-clerkship ones that Dr. Weeks spoke about in her update and one from Dr. Sohn taking the pre-existing thriving in clerkship session which was previously outside of the curriculum to be included in the curriculum going forward, which was also approved. Dr. Harper added that through the accreditation report it was noted that the curricular management was flagged as issues to our program, so this process will become key to maintain going forward.

#### **4.6 PGME Update**

Dr. Busche informed the committee that Dr. Davis is unable to attend and had no updates at this time to report.

#### **4.7 Accreditation Update**

Dr. Mintz presented the flagged elements from the CACMS report and informed the committee that the reviewers will come back in 2028, or before, to review the RIME curriculum and give a Lethbridge Campus review.

#### **4.8 EDI Update**

Ms. Taneja informed the committee that PESJO recently launched the UBelong survey to all faculty, staff and students at the University, she also included the International Women's Day events happening through the month of March.

### **5. Arising from the Minutes**

#### **5.1 Clerkship Exams: Dates and Formative Experiences**

Dr. Busche informed the committee that this topic was discussed by Dr. Desy in her update in Agenda item 4.4, but reminded the committee that the CARDS Decks for the mandatory formative exams are being finalized. The goal with the formative being to help the students be prepared for their summative exams.

#### **5.2 EPA 0**

Dr. Busche reminded the committee that EPA 0's was brought forward at the last meeting; these EPA's allow preceptors to document behaviours of the student both positive and negative. He included that these could be filled out around different behaviours of the students but would not cause any long term harm for the student, examples included being late on a regular basis, or excellent professionalism. These are a lower stakes way to provide feedback to a student and have the UME informed of any issue or praise in a way that is not on a final ITER and therefore will not appear in a students' MSPR comments. Dr. Busche informed the committee that the goal is having the Clerkship Directors and/or the Evaluation Coordinators fill these out. Dr. Busche indicated that he will be sending out a communication to the Clerkship Directors and Evaluation Coordinators that can be a copy-paste or an edit how best seen fit for each department to send to their preceptors, this will alert them that this process exists, and should they see any behaviours that need documented to bring it to the attention of either the Clerkship Director or Evaluation Coordinator who could then complete this EPA 0. This allows for less pressure on the preceptors but will still have them aware of

this process and to be on the lookout for these behaviours. This plan is just being piloted for the Class of 2026 in Clerkship and going forward if they are deemed useful for the Class of 2026, then for the Class of 2027 and beyond there would be consideration to have the preceptors fill them out directly themselves without needing to inform a director or coordinator. These EPA O's are different than other EPA's as these are not student driven, there are no minimum number for a student to need to have, these EPA's are solely driven by preceptors and their viewing of any behaviours to foster the repetition of positive behaviours and to gently correct those less positive behaviours.

**Proposal:** Dr. Busche proposed to accept the Motion to approve adopting the EPA O's into Clerkship.

First: Mr. M. Paget  
Second: Dr. A. Ramaliu  
All in favour.

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Survey Response Rates: Mandatory Completion**

Dr. Busche informed the committee that when he meets with the Clerkship Directors prior to their reports to go over the annual feedback there is often frustration from all individuals about the low response rates, usually lower than 25% response rate to the surveys for each Clerkship rotation. Dr. Harper proposed several options including: withholding the students' final rotation feedback until completion of the rotation survey she added that all midpoint feedback would still be available to the students through this option, another option brought forward is using EPA O's to track when a student doesn't complete their survey. Dr. Busche then opened up the discussion inquiring about people's thoughts of these options and if there are any other options and ideas that the committee members have to get more feedback. Discussion topics included the possibility of survey fatigue, and how to address issues with students who have some difficulties on a rotation and potentially won't receive the feedback that they failed until much later in their Clerkship which was advised from Dr. Harper that if this feedback is available on a midterm evaluation they will receive some feedback to improve upon then and that the UME would still receive any low performance flag and would be able to reach out to the student in a more timely manner. There would be boundaries put in around time limitation to make sure the surveys were done and that the students receive all their feedback to help them in further rotations. The batch survey method that is used in the Pre-Clerkship Curriculum was brought forward as an option, every survey is only given to certain batches of students at a time to ensure response rates and avoid survey fatigue, Dr. Harper indicated that this would not be an option that is feasible in the clerkship due to the logistics of ensuring there is no duplication of surveys, the breakdown of different rotation schedules, and how to create this to make it work for all students. Dr. Weeks added for context that surveys distributed at the University of Alberta for Pre-Clerkship students have a deadline to complete and if that deadline is not met the student(s) are locked out of their learning management platform, they are able to unlock access immediately once they complete the survey. Other issues posed include the validity of the feedback if the students do respond but are only doing so to see their feedback, rather than providing a committed and thought-out response to the surveys. Dr. Busche stated that there will be a formal plan, and options circulated to the committee prior to the next meeting where the committee will be able to vote on this.

### **6.2 June Meeting Date Change**

Dr. Busche informed the committee that due to a scheduling conflict the June meeting has been changed from June 10<sup>th</sup> to the following week on June 17<sup>th</sup>. This change will be circulated prior to this meeting for everyone's records.

### 6.3 Review of the First Month of Clerkship

Mr. Paget presented how the first month of Clerkship has changed for the performance measurements between the Class of 2025 and the Class of 2026. He included that the classes were asked to self-assess their readiness for Clerkship at the end of the Pre-Clerkship Survey with the Class of 2024 and 2025 rating a 3.79/5 and the Class of 2026 rating a 3.91/5, the main difference noted here was the level of responses with the Legacy class having 27 responders and the RIME class having 107 responders. Students from both classes were assessed in their first month of Clerkship across all the rotations and included 341 mandatory ITERs, 189 elective ITERs, 187 daily anesthesia evaluations, and 158 emergency medicine daily evaluations. The differences include the RIME students have done more electives and anesthesia in the first month due to the CaRMS interview period for the Class of 2025, Mr. Paget noted that there are no significant changes in the average of the students' assessments. The other factor looked at was the assessment comments and the natural language in these comments, there are close to 100 pages of comments combined for all ITER assessments in each year, which also did not have much difference in negative and positive comments per student. Dr. Busche informed the committee that this review and comparison will continue to happen as the RIME students move further into their Clerkship as well.

## 7. Clerkship Reports

### 7.1 Electives

Dr. McLeod presented the Electives Report to the Committee. He included that the report data was gathered between February 12, 2024 to December 31, 2024. He reviewed the administrative structure and the overall objectives of the electives. During this reporting period Dr. McLeod included that three students did two or more weeks of research electives, which has each student required to submit a formal short proposal for review to ensure that they are choosing suitable projects to allow them to make productive use of their time. Overall feedback for electives was 4.43/5 with the highlights including teaching quality, feedback on performance, supervision and responsibility, administrative organization, and safety and respect. 94% of students reported not exceeding 55 hours per week in hours worked. Plans for areas of improvement include moving to a capacity based model where students will only be able to apply to electives that are available with capacity being predetermined in advance which will initially apply to visiting electives through the AFMC portal but pending implementation will be rolled out more broadly, and having more rural initiatives set up to specifically tailor experiences to student needs current concerns with rural electives include higher cancellation rates which will be looked at being minimized with the capacity based model. Dr. McLeod added that out of 662 electives completed there were six reports of mistreatment, the themes reported in mistreatment feedback include, belittling behaviour, misgendering, unprofessional conduct, and supervisor issues. Most of the electives took place in Calgary with the heavy majority of all electives taking place in Alberta, with other schools across the country having hosted very few electives, 96.6% of electives were urban electives while 3.4% were done as rural electives. Internal Medicine seen the highest distribution of elective students, followed by Family Medicine, Pediatrics and Psychiatry. A guide was presented for helpful tips for future students going through the electives process and topics included preparation and studying, proactiveness and engagement, professionalism and soft skills, and clerical and workflow tips.

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

First: Dr. L. Harper  
Second: Dr. A. Ramaliu  
All in favour.

## 7.2 Psychiatry

Dr. Kim presented the Psychiatry Clerkship report to the Committee. He included that the report data was gathered between January, 2024 and December 2024. He reviewed the structure and objectives of the Psychiatry rotation, including the 4 + 2 format, the locations and requirements of the rotation. Academic half days occur on Wednesday afternoons with mandatory attendance where residents teach for the first hour followed by preceptors teaching for the remainder of the session, this is primarily available through telehealth, but podcasts are also available. Dr. Kim noted that there were 80 responses from this time period and the overall rating was noted at 4.09/5 which was down from 4.34 and 4.29 the previous two years. Four students were unsatisfactory on the MCQ, one successful appeal, two successful rewrites, and one pending rewrite, there was also one unsatisfactory ITER where the student has been scheduled for remediation. The highest rated components were that students felt safe and secure at their teaching sites with sensitive issues being discussed and being treated professionally and respectfully. The lowest rated elements include the opportunity to learn and perform procedures and the core document being helpful. The exam was not felt to be reflective of the learning experiences or objectives with a 3.55 and 3.73 rating respectively. There was one mistreatment report regarding a specific preceptor with the theme being passive-aggressive comments and being too busy while focusing on clinical work without teaching, this was indicated as not a repeated theme for this preceptor and this report was discussed appropriately with the preceptor. Recent change to the rotation includes the requirement of clerks to be present in-person for handover due to numerous professionalism issues identified by residents/attendings. Strengths indicated include great preceptors, exposure to a variety of patients with continuity, responsibility to assess patients with appropriate autonomy, and strong interdisciplinary work. Things to work on include, regular debriefing having support, grading rubric for ITERs and witnessed interviews, academic half-day, variable workload, and the child and adolescent rotation being too short and having it separated from the adult rotation is difficult for students. Upcoming changes include the academic half day will be a two-day bootcamp style at the beginning of the rotation, the AA meetings will be back to in-person, added supports for exam preparation including building more CARDS decks and the potential to host informal exam prep sessions, and getting constant feedback from preceptors about things that are being seen and experiences with the RIME curriculum students and see what needs to be addressed either through the RIME curriculum or integrate the feedback back into Clerkship. The resource concern going forward is not having enough preceptors to teach the students through the Clerkship.

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

First: Dr. S. Weeks

Second: Dr. R. Ram

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 April 15<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm where Obstetrics & Gynecology, Pediatrics, and Internal Medicine will present.

**Meeting adjourned @ 2:32 p.m.**

**Minutes by: Danielle Jean**

**Edited by: Dr. Kevin Busche**