MEC Leadership Group Meeting, 4/10/00

Present:
Drs. Thomas Drake, Carol Hodgson, Earl Homsher, Stuart Slavin, Margaret Stuber, John Tormey, Richard Usatine and LuAnn Wilkerson.

MSP and the Year I Selectives Program

The second year students raised the question of whether the Medical Science Program (MSP) was changing the character of the entire elective experience in the first year. A few years ago, MSP was strictly limited to about 30 students per semester. In the last couple of years, the number has become considerably larger. Last semester, there were about 110 students participating in the Gross Anatomy MSP alone. The FEC has asked Drs. Slavin and Tormey to review the program.

Originally, students were required to take one selective in the first year (could be MSP, IAT, etc.). However, more students were electing to take MSP than any other selectives.

Dr. Usatine commented that there has been a gradual decline in the number of students enrolled in his programs (Salvation Army Clinic and DOC). There were about 30-40 students, but now there are typically about 8-9 students.

Summary of the Data presented by Dr. Hodgson

Total number of selectives and the number of student enrollment:
- 2 students - 0 selectives
- 42 students - 1 selective
- 50 students - 2 selectives
- 35 students - 3 selectives
- 18 students - 4 selectives
- 3 students - 5 selectives
- 1 student - 7 selectives

There were 32 students who did not take any MSP, and there were 51 students who only took MSP. Non-MSP selectives include mini-courses, research or clinical selectives. 111 students took MSP Anatomy, 39 - MSP Physiology, and 30 - MSP Neuroscience.

There are about close to 30 students who only took MSP, but there are about 10-12 students who took only two MSP, but another 12 or so who took only three MSP. These students did not take any non-MSP selectives. About a third of the class has taken only MSP. If one of the goals of the Selectives is to diversify and provide a variety of experiences outside of the classroom, then the current Selectives Program needs to be reevaluated.

There are three groups of students.

1. Those who take all MSP.
2. Those who take both MSP and non-MSP.
3. Those who take no MSP.

Students were encouraged to take MSP in the first semester if they had any reason to think that they were underprepared or disadvantaged. It was never told to students that this program was for everybody; it was generally for students with minimal science background. Drew students were told that they must take this program. The class president took the program because she wanted a teaching experience. There was a little bit more tension this year because of the Anatomy situation. This may have had some effect on students.

Dr. Usatine reported that the students he has talked to complained about their peers getting credit for participating in the MSP program. He would like to see a system that would not allow students to take only MSP. He feels that MSP is an important program, however, students should not just limit themselves to this program.

One of the goals of the Selectives Program was to broaden students' perspective. Dr. Slavin suggested requiring students to do one non-MSP elective and not giving credit for MSP. Students will be encouraged to take MSP if they feel it has helped them in the medical school curriculum but will not get credit for their participation.

Students have commented that they enjoyed MSP because it was an easier way to study than studying on their own at home. They said it was a different and fun way of studying. It is basically another way of studying the existing courses. It is not an expansion of what is already offered. Students thought MSP should be kept.

MSP originated from the Center of Excellence Grant to help disadvantaged students who were failing Step 1 by them how to study in a new way. Marty Pops notified the Center, however, that a program could not be offered only to disadvantaged students, but that it needed to be offered to the entire class. The Center started out with a small number of students who were not all disadvantaged students. Half of the students enrolled were "at-risk" students, and the other half were randomly selected.

Learning how to study in the first semester is very useful for students. There is a very valuable goal in the MSP. This should be kept in mind as decisions are made regarding this matter. Ways to prescribe the program without it competing with other electives should be developed, and the message to students about MSP should be accurate and clear.

It was recommended to offer MSP only for the first semester. Both UCSF and UC Davis give students credit for participating in the program. Students meet once a week for two hours and second year students who lead these MSP meeting get paid $8/hour. The money comes from a tutoring budget from SAO. It was also discussed to have second years receive teaching credits rather than getting monetary pay. Most agreed that it would be difficult to recruit tutors if there was no pay. Another suggestion was to offer MPS and require one non-MSP that will be credited and reflected on your transcript.
Dr. Drake suggested that the group reconsider the purpose of the selectives. Everyone agreed that MSP plays a valuable function and should be retained. Drs. Slavin and Usatine was questionable about giving credit to students for this program. They felt that the only way this should be credited was if students were also required to take a non-MSP selective.

There are two possible solutions:

1. MSP with credit with requirement of non-MSP selective
2. MSP without credit

MEC should decide on this issue formally.

There are three types of selectives: MSP, Research and Clinical. Colleges should sponsor elective, and the fourth year elective forms should be modified and have it web based.

**Evaluation and Electives Subcommittees**

It was agreed to:

1. Reconstitute the Evaluation Subcommittee with new members that will meet two times a year. (The current evaluation committee has student representative from each class. There are two clinical and two basic science faculty, Chair, and staff.)
2. Enlarge the current Electives Subcommittee and redefine the charge.
3. Gather data that would help colleges to make more educated decision regarding electives/selectives.

The elective subcommittee should be responsible for all four years. They should approve the elective offerings based on data that is provided by the Evaluations Subcommittee. Dr. Hodgson will draft a charge to the Evaluations Subcommittee.

The Clinical Program Survey will be administered mid-July during the Clinical Performance Examinations. MEC members will be asked to edit this survey.

**MEC Agenda Items**

1. Evaluation On-line: Review and modify questions. Some felt that the evaluation Subcommittee should look over the questions, not the MEC. It was suggested to have a group come together in the next two months to look over the questions in the fourth year elective evaluations.
2. On-line Evaluation Report: distribute Evaluation Books and ask to approve putting it on line
3. Approval of MSP issue.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.