Minutes: Meeting of February 14, 2001

Present:
Student Members: Jennifer Carnell, Sukey Egger, Ph.D., Karin Jacobson, Sarah Kennedy, Alex Lin, Dawn Ogawa, Apoor Patel, and Lisa Rood.
Guests: Drs. Sue Baillie and Kim Crooks and Gezelle Miller, Charlotte Myers, and Louise Howard.

Minutes

Minutes from the January 10th meeting were approved as written.

Third and Fourth Year Issues - Class of 2002

Fourth Year - Colleges

The MEC student representatives from the Class of 2002 (Sukey Egger, Ph.D. and Apoor Patel) gave a presentation on some of the issues their Class raised regarding the changes in the third and fourth year curricula. Click here for PowerPoint slides used by the student representatives for their presentation. Discussion of the presentation is summarized below.

Discussion

The MEC Chairs decided to authorize the College Chairs to make the final decision regarding the duration of the Foundations Blocks; therefore, Sukey Egger and Apoor Patel made this same presentation to the College Chairs on Monday, February 12th. None of the College Chairs were strongly opposed to the students' proposal for one-week Foundations blocks rather than two weeks, and they agreed to discuss the proposal with their respective Advisory Council members before reaching a final decision. After hearing the students’ presentation and general discussion, the MEC members agreed to vote on whether to approve the change to a one-week college foundation curriculum if the College Chairs accept the students’ proposal.

It was noted that even if the Foundations Block started right away during the week of July 9th, foregoing the "fixed" week of vacation, students will still have the opportunity to take this week of vacation later on in the year. The students have stated that they would like to start sub-internships as soon as possible. This schedule is especially preferred by the early match and undecided students.

It was reported that certain activities in the Acute Care College will be labor-intensive during the week of July 9th and some faculty members may not be available to teach in the Foundations Block. Also, the Applied Anatomy College's Foundations, if given
During the week of July 9th, would coincide with the Third Year Surgery Clerkship Orientation. The College Chairs felt that these challenges should be looked into more carefully to make sure that they can be most effectively dealt with before making the final decision. Some members then suggested having students do a sub-internship followed by the Foundations Block. However, it was noted that the original rationale was to have the Foundations Block prepare students and help them "shine" during their sub-internship rotations. Members agreed that whatever the outcome, there needs to be symmetry among the four colleges.

**MOTION:** Dr. Steadman made a motion that the MEC would be in favor of one-week Foundation Blocks beginning July 9th, 2001, with no "fixed" vacation week, if the College Chairs are in agreement. The Foundations schedules and curricula will be reviewed after this year in order to determine scheduling for 2001. The motion was seconded by Apoor Patel seconded the approved by unanimous vote.

**Third Year - Clerkships**

Please see the above PowerPoint slides for this portion of the presentation.

Dr. Susan Baillie reported that the Dean's Office also surveyed the third year students and had a 70% response rate. She informed that the overall scores on the Dean's Office survey were slightly higher than those presented by the students. It should be noted that the orientations have been modified since the first block. The fourth blocks are getting above average scores except for the Surgery Orientation. There has been definite improvement in the orientations, and the interventions made by the Clerkship Chairs have made a difference.

**Radiology**

Radiology scores have also gone up. Some of the Radiology faculty have responded to student feedback and improved performance. In their comments, students indicated that they like having radiology integrated throughout the clerkships. However, they felt that the radiology material being taught was too advanced. Dr. Wilkerson reported that the Radiology Department has been very proactive in improving their sessions. Dr. Kim Crooks is now working with the Radiology faculty to continue developing more effective teaching tools. Students suggested that Radiology keep instruction simple and teach basic principles in small groups. A set of teaching films and cases can be developed. Radiology has been promised a certain amount of time in each of the clerkships. However, negotiations may be possible, and Clerkship Directors were encouraged to speak with the Radiology Department individually.

**Pediatrics and Obstetrics & Gynecology**

Dr. Slavin commented that the Pediatrics and Obstetrics & Gynecology has a two-day orientation (Monday and Tuesday at the start of the 12-week block). In a six-week rotation, the first time students see their team maybe on Thursday. He asked whether the
value of the orientations is worth reducing the clerkship by nearly a week? He felt that team building is weakened by the time reduction and encouraged the MEC to look critically at the effectiveness of the orientations. All of the clerkships should look at the feedback and see how radiology is being taught in their clerkships and how effective the orientations are. Also, data on clinical skills should be reviewed.

**Surgery**

Dr. Tompkins reported that changes have been made from the first block to the second block, and these changes seem to be well received. The Surgery Department continues to include more small group activities and with workshops to improve physical examination skills.

Students were thanked for their presentation. It was noted that student issues will regularly be included on the MEC agenda. Students are encouraged to contact Drs. Stuber and Tormey regarding issues they would like addressed.

**Externships**

Medical students from other schools sometimes choose to take electives at UCLA. Currently, the School allows externs to enroll in up to eight weeks of rotations at UCLA or at its affiliated campuses. With the change in the length of the fourth year rotations from four to three weeks, the Clerkship Committee came to a consensus that externs may enroll in up to nine weeks if elective time, allowing students to participate in as many as three rotations, giving reasonable exposure without significant increase in time.

**MOTION:** Dr. Noah moved to allow visiting students to enroll in up to nine weeks of electives within the UCLA system. Dr. Wilkes wanted to modify the motion to include that exceptions will be noted for special circumstances. Dr. Parker noted that this was true for every policy. After discussion, Dr. Wilkes withdrew the amendment. **The motion was seconded and unanimously approved**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm.