Minutes: Meeting of February 11, 2004

Present:
Drs. Craig Byus, Ronald Edelstein, Earl Homsher, Mark Noah, Shobita Rajagopalan, Susan Stangl, Jan Tillisch, John Tormey (Co-Chair) and LuAnn Wilkerson, and Janice Contini

Students: Jonathan Abelson, Mailan Cao, David Samimi, Jason Tarpley, and Donna Zulman.

Guests: Pat Anaya, Louise Howard, Gezelle Miller, and Charlotte Myers. Drs. Sue Baillie, Gretchen Guiton, and Marcelle Willock.

Minutes of January Meeting

The minutes were approved as written.

Dr. Wilkerson reported that the minutes from the Drew and UCR committees will soon be available for review from the MEC website.

Report from Block II - What went well and what needs improvement? - Drs. Tillisch & Tormey

Presentation:

Please review the attached slides for presentation details. The data in this presentation are based on a 5-point scale, and the numbers in parentheses are the deltas from Block 1. Overall, the course went well, but there is room for improvement, especially in the course mechanics.

Discussion:

John Abelson commented that students felt they had to juggle multiple disciplines more in this block, and they were sometimes not clear about what they needed to know.

David Samimi was pleased that blocks chairs are writing USMLE-type questions for the weekly self-assessments as well as the finals. Students are concerned about their performance on USMLE exams. He suggested having explanations to the self-assessment questions posted right away. He added that the PBL wrap up sessions in block 2 were improved from Block 1.

Dr. Tormey commended the class for taking up the challenges of this integrated curriculum so well. Dr. Wilkerson thanked Drs. Tillisch and Tormey for doing a wonderful job with the block. Dr. Tormey will make a similar presentation at UCR and has already presented a shorter version to the HB&D Block and Thread Chairs Committee.

The overall course ratings and summary for each block will be posted on the website.
**Drew Update - Dr. Rajagopalan et al.**

The Class of 2006 made a presentation about their concerns regarding the curriculum at the February Drew EPCC meeting. They recommended a plan for moving students to alternate sites, if and when necessary. The Dean and several faculty held a subsequent meeting with all Drew students subsequently, and additional supportive information was provided.

The Drew faculty advised students that a faculty retreat to discuss specific actions and structural changes to improve the Surgery Clerkship is planned, including the need for faculty to interact directly with students on the Surgery rotation. The plan for improving the course will be presented at the Drew EPCC meeting and then to the MEC Committee members in April.

Dr. Wilkerson presented UCLA and Drew clerkship evaluation data from the first quarter. These reflect that the clerkships were evaluated nearly equally with a couple of Drew clerkships scoring higher than UCLA. The MEC data were helpful in reassuring students about their program. Dr. Rajagopalan commented that other clerkships, besides Surgery, should not be affected by the recent news of issues with that residency.

Dr. Willock explained that certain residency programs received unfavorable evaluations during the 2001 institutional evaluation, which then became the focus of each subsequent site visit. At its last institutional evaluation, Drew received two non-specific citations. One noted that Drew's internal reviews are evolving. The other expressed concern about lack of oversight, based on the earlier problems with certain residencies. Drew is planning to apply to renew its surgical program.

Dr. Willock commented that King-Drew Medical Center was poorly administrated by the CEO who has since been replaced. Nevertheless, the Medical Center may be the only hospital in the county that meets the nursing staffing requirements; and nursing care is significantly improving. She said that the faculty pay a lot of attention to students. She noted that all of their students passed Step 2 of the USMLE, and that student education at Drew continues to be strong. Changes are being made to address problems at both the school and at the hospital levels.

Dr. Edelstein distributed an announcement for the Medical Student Research Colloquium and invited MEC members to attend. All of the Drew fourth year students will complete a thesis this year.

**UC Riverside Update - Dr. Byus**

Dr. Byus reported that UCR has been busy preparing to implement the new first-year integrated curriculum in August 2004. Block coordinators have been assigned and lecturers are being recruited. They only have 12 faculty plus some volunteer clinical faculty, and the curricular change has brought forth some anxiety, but they are resolving issues of time and intensity of lectures. Also, UCR does not have access to the specialty
laboratories that UCLA has, and therefore, some adjustments will be made to cover these. All curricular content and scheduling will be posted to the ANGEL course delivery system on the UCLA server. UCR/UCLA students will access the California Digital Library through UCLA. UCR now requires students to have wireless laptops; and classrooms will be prepared so that students can use their laptops for PBL sessions, taking self-assessments, etc. The same or similar examinations will be used as at UCLA. They may need more clinical faculty to lead the PBL sessions, however, Dr. Byus was confident that they could recruit more community physicians implement the new curriculum successfully.

Dr. Byus gave an update regarding the recent BMSP admissions policy changes. This is the first year that UCR will not accept undergraduates into the accelerated three-year science program. The BMSP will accept students from any major on campus beginning in two years. Some science courses have been eliminated from the undergraduate program to make it less accelerated. A committee will develop implementation procedures.

Only UCR students may be accepted into the program, therefore, applicants must be at UCR for at least two years prior to matriculating into the medical program. This will allow transfer students to apply to the program if they have completed two years at UCR.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.