Minutes: Meeting of July 21, 2004

Present:
Drs. Ronald Edelstein, Thomas Drake, Theodore Hall, Sally Krasne, Mark Noah, Neil Parker, Shobita Rajagopalan, Margaret Stuber (Co-Chair), and Jan Tillisch, and Judith Consales.
Students: Aron Bruhn, Hrak Jalian, and Megan Morsheimer.
Guests and Staff: Drs. Sue Baillie, Gretchen Guiton, Dotun Ogunyem, and Alan Robinson, and Pat Anaya, Joyce Fried, Charlotte Myers and Christina Yoon.

Minutes of June meeting

Dr. Ogunyemi’s name was omitted from the attendees list, but was present. The minutes were approved as amended.

Graduation Competencies

The FEC reviewed the revised draft of the graduation competencies and approved it at its last meeting. The final version of the document is posted on the MEC website. Dr. Stuber thanked the committee members for their input.

LCME Update: The School’s Strengths and Weaknesses

Dr. Alan Robinson and Joyce Fried gave a presentation on the LCME Self-Study Committee Reports and solicited feedback from MEC members. The Dean’s Office collected material for the database, which is a description of structure and functioning of the medical school. Relevant sections of the database were distributed to a series of committees together with questions for analyzing the collected database information. The committees reported their findings to the Dean’s Office, including extensive lists of strengths, weaknesses, and recommendations. Dr. Robinson and Joyce Fried presented a summarized version of these lists.

The committee members provided insightful feedback and recommendations to Dr. Robinson and Joyce Fried. Because this work will continue to evolve, their presentation and handout will not be posted on the MEC website at this time. Additional feedback, however, is welcomed and can be emailed to Joyce Fried.

Policy for Conducting Curriculum Surveys

At the last meeting, a proposal for policies regarding how curricular surveys should be handled in the medical school was presented. After substantial discussion, it was decided that the MEC Executive Committee would review and revise the policy for reconsideration by the MEC membership. Dr. Stuber distributed the revised version; please refer to the handout for details.
Dr. Tillisch felt that the last bullet point (The aforementioned MEC executive committee has the right to review all curriculum data collected from students) sounds as though the executive committee has some censorship capacity. He suggested rewording the point to say that the medical school should have access to the data collected for its own internal use and deleting the word, "aforementioned".

Dr. Noah commented that in his clerkship (Cedars Sinai, Internal Medicine) he has students answer four or five questions about the clerkship in order to obtain faster feedback on specific components of the Clerkship. Dr. Ogunyemi also stated that it is important to differentiate required surveys from research-oriented (optional) surveys. Dr. Stuber reiterated that this policy addresses issues pertaining to the collection of data on curricular surveys.

Dr. Guiton explained that there is potential for students to not take the required evaluations/surveys seriously if the questions are redundant, especially as they are asked to complete more surveys. This may affect the quality of data as well as students’ willingness to complete the surveys. She emphasized that this policy is about having better coordination rather than giving permission.

Dr. Noah asked that the committee consider who is going to make use of this data and information. The course and clerkship chairs are the ones who need this information, not ED&R. He asked whether there has been evidence of decreased response rates due to double surveying of students. Dr. Stuber commented that if students are being surveyed twice in order to get faster feedback, then the MEC should address the timing issue of our evaluation system rather than administering more surveys.

Dr. Guiton felt that if someone has some information they need to gather from the medical students they should come to ED&R Evaluation Office for assistance. Dr. Drake felt that this policy is over controlling and viewed it as intrusive.

Dr. Stuber stated that the policy was revised according to the recommendations from the MEC at its meeting last month and was the majority opinion at that time. She will take this back to the MEC executives committee and rewrite the policy and bring it back next time. She noted that the policy was created in response to a specific issue.

Also at the August meeting, introductions will be made, since the membership has changed.

The agenda item, Radiology Clerkship Issues, was deferred to the August meeting, first item on the agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm.