Minutes: Meeting of January 12, 2005

Present:
Drs. Craig Byus, Ronald Edelstein, Wendy Coates, Theodore Hall, Joan Kaplowitz, Sally Krasne, Shelley Metten, Neil Parker, Shobita Rajagopalan, Susan Stangl, Margaret Stuber (Co-Chair), John Tormey (Co-Chair), and LuAnn Wilkerson.
Students: Jonathan Abelson and Aron Bruhn.
Guests: Drs. Sue Baillie, Hy Doyle, Larry Feldman, Gretchen Guiton, Matthew Leibowitz, Dotun Ogunyemi, Marcelle Willock and Esther Yasui, and Patricia Anaya, Louise Howard and Gezelle Miller.

Minutes

The minutes of the November meeting were approved as written.

Report on Block V - Drs. Feldman & Leibowitz

Presentation

Drs. Feldman and Leibowitz gave an overview of the block with suggestions for changes. Please refer to the attached slides for details: [Dr. Feldman's presentation](#) / [Dr. Leibowitz presentation](#).

Discussion

Based on student feedback, Drs. Feldman and Leibowitz will schedule an immunology review in week 3 so that the students can be refreshed. They will move benign hematology before hematologic oncology, and they will group the weeks by a microbiologic kingdom approach instead of an organ system approach. The students can come back to the organ system approach when they get into the subsequent blocks as they revisit some of these infections. When this was presented to the other block chairs, block 6 and 7 chairs felt that this approach would be fine.

Dr. Leibowitz commented that they need to better coordinate with the Doctoring faculty in planning for next year. The MEC members discussed the possibility having wet labs in this block, and several members felt that this experience was a valuable one. Dr. Leibowitz responded that they could make their lab sessions more interactive. Drs. Feldman and Leibowitz were thanked for their excellent work.

New Electives Approval

All of the new electives proposed by the Electives Subcommittee were approved. These were:

Advanced Clinical Clerkships:
- Gastroenterology, ME230.04
Radiology Clerkship Proposals - Dr. Hall

The MEC has had previous discussions about the current longitudinal radiology clerkship, and Dr. Hall has returned to share with the committee some proposals for the members to consider. The proposed formats are:

- Integrative Clerkship: This is the integrative longitudinal format that is currently in place. The lectures are given throughout the other clerkships’ orientation sessions.
- Block Clerkship: In the past, the radiology clerkship was two weeks in length, but he is proposing a one-week block.
- Hybrid: The didactic presentations will be integrated into the other clerkships as they are now, but a block of time would be set aside for radiology.
- Integrated Didactics + Practical Experience: Students will have half days in radiology during the month of July and August on Tuesday and Thursdays. The maximum amount of time students would have in reading room and practical experience would be two days.

Dr. Hall has discussed all of these proposals with his radiology faculty, and they favored the Hybrid model. They felt that the Integrated Didactics and Practical Experience model would be ineffective in addressing the needs of the students. They also felt that the month of August would not be the best time since it is vacation month for faculty.

Dr. Rajagopalan shared that radiology is integrated into their ambulatory internal medicine clerkship during the first two weeks at Drew and that students rated this experience very highly. Dr. Stangl commented that this might be difficult for UCLA since there are so many different sites. Aron Bruhn wondered why the School cannot mandate that the experience be integrated and that time is shared between a clerkship and radiology. Dr. Hall commented that changing the culture is a very difficult task. He also commented that there is a certain culture of how people practice medicine in dealing with radiology. Physicians are not going down to the reading room as much as they used to before, and radiologists are not as available as they were before. Dr. Parker agreed that the whole nature of radiology has changed, and to change this culture is going to be very difficult.

Dr. Willock expressed her concern about bringing up students in silos. Medical schools should raise up generalists, and that is why integration is very important. The Drew
radiology faculty have embraced the students, and students have, in turn, given high ratings for their radiology experience.

Dr. Wilkerson asked if the radiology faculty would be willing to teach a block in the fourth year knowing that there is no available time in the third year. Dr. Hall responded by mentioning that he and Dr. Michael Zucker discussed a possibility of developing a new course for the fourth year that would mirror what is being done in Dr. Zucker’s emergency radiology elective. They would like to pilot this new course at the beginning of the fourth year in July.

This new course would be a three-week elective that has dedicated instruction by Dr. Zucker. There would be subspecialty didactic presentations given by other radiologist in the subspecialty area. There would be a core curriculum for the course: quiz cases/first respondents, "let’s make a lecture" session that teaches students how to put together a Power Point presentation, and some reading room exposure. The advantage of this new course is that other clerkships do not need to give up any of their time. Dr. Zucker’s emergency radiology elective is highly subscribed by students that making it a requirement should not be a problem. However, Dr. Hall felt that fourth year students would lose focus towards the end of the year to take a requirement seriously. He wanted to make it a selective course. Dr. Hall informed the committee that Dr. Zucker is planning to retire at the end of this calendar year and certain decisions need to be made before moving forward with this plan.

Dr. Wilkerson suggested going to the college chairs and asking them to require some kind of radiology experience in the fourth year. This would be in addition to current radiology experience in the third year.

Dr. Metten asked if there could be modifications made to this new course so that it could accommodate a little larger group in the third year. Dr. Hall mentioned that radiology is addressing some immediate needs in the third year. They are developing some online tools as well as a syllabus. This would help students know what is expected from them in their radiology experience as well as to have faculty know what they are expected to teach the students. Dr. Metten thought that it would be important for students to clearly sense the radiology presence in the curriculum.

Dr. Parker did not want to be overly dependent on one individual to teach a course. He did not want to require students to take this specific course. He thought that the colleges should determine if all students should be required to take a radiology elective, and if so, how much? Dr. Hall thought that the students should be required to do the current longitudinal radiology clerkship, which they will improve. Then students should be advised to take more radiology if they need to in the fourth year. The fourth year should be an elective year.

Dr. Wilkerson thought that the MEC should ask the College Chairs to each discuss a way in which students in their colleges could take a radiology elective given that the MEC believes that the students need more radiology experience than what is currently provided.
in the third year. *She moved that the college chairs are asked to report back to the MEC at the next meeting with a proposal for how they would meet a senior radiology elective requirement (selective) for their colleges. The motion was seconded and approved with one abstention.*

**Drew Update - Dr. Rajagopalan**

Based on current limitations of facilities, a decision was made by the Dean to temporarily move the general surgery clerkship to Harbor-UCLA starting January 10th. Drs. Brian Hubbard and Michelle Banks are co-chairing this clerkship. Drew would like to have their students return by July.

Neurology was also moved. A decision was made to move the students to all the sites at UCLA, but they will come back to Drew for Psychiatry. Psychiatry was six weeks in length before but has been changed to five weeks. Students will do didactics together here at UCLA.

**UCR Update - Dr. Byus**

Dr. Byus commented that there are no pressing issues to report on at this time.

**End of Year 1 Student Surveys - Dr. Baillie**

Dr. Baillie presented the data from the End of the Year survey that was done with the old curriculum and with the new curriculum (given to the Class of 2006 at the end of their first year). There was a 100% response rate. The questions were based on the School’s mission. There were about 23 questions on the survey, but Dr. Baillie reported on those that had significant changes. Please refer to the attached slides for details.

The following items had a significant increase with the new curriculum:

- Integrated knowledge of basic sciences and clinical practice.
- Integrated knowledge of social and behavioral sciences and clinical practice.
- Understanding of the scientific method and its application to both research and clinical practice.
- The balance between lectures and small group learning seemed appropriate.
- Lab sessions assisted in my learning
- Faculty and student collaboration was central in the curriculum
- On average, what percent of the lectures did you attend over the year?

These items are not rated very highly in both curricula:

- Understanding of the special challenges and requirements of a pluralistic society
- I was provided with frequent feedback about my performance
- On average, how many hours per week did you spend studying alone?
Dr. Hall asked if this survey would be done to the class after they finish their third year to see how the first two-year curriculum related to that has changed. Drs. Baillie and Wilkerson thought that this was a good idea.

Members were concerned that the number of hours students spend studying alone in the new curriculum did not increase by much. One of the goals of the new curriculum was to cut down on contact hours in order to give more time for students to do more independent learning. Aron Bruhn commented that he personally interpreted that question as being "study time" and not "work time" (learning issues, etc.).

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.