1. **Presentation: Clinical Performance Exam: Normative vs. Criterion Referenced Standards – Dr. Cha-Chi Fung**

The CPX exam is a multi-station OSCE and similar to the USMLE Step 2 CS in that students are required to take and pass at the end of the 3rd year as a graduation competency. Students receive scores on History (Hx), Physical Exam (PE), Physician-Patient Interaction (PPI), and a total score. Currently, students are evaluated by normative standards, with a fail defined as a score more than two standard deviations below the mean on any of the components (Hx, PE, PPI, or Total). By definition, at least some students will fail the exam under the current standard.

There is a proposal from Dr. Wilkerson to change to a criterion-based standard in which a set cut-off score is defined for a pass. This would allow a clear standard for minimum competency and for all students to pass if they meet criteria.

In order to inform a decision on an appropriate cut-off score, the MEC was presented with data on students’ past performance on the CPX and with the predicted number of fails that would occur if various cut-off scores were used to define a pass. In 2009-2010, the passing scores for each component (defined by the normative standard) were as follows: 60% for Hx, 45% for PE, 50-60% for PPI, and around 60% for total. Around 11-13 students fail the exam each year, necessitating remediation. The trend of low PE scores is consistent across years.
If a cutoff score of 65% on overall score were instituted, an estimated 32 students would fail the exam, versus 8 fails if 60% were used.

**Discussion:** The discussion focused on why the physical exam scores are so low and what our expectations for minimum competence in clinical skills are and should be. Hypotheses for the poor performance on the PE sub-score included not having enough time and not knowing which exam components and maneuvers are considered relevant in various clinical scenarios. Dr. Wilkerson noted that when students are asked to perform a complete examination of an organ system, they are able to do so quite well; however, knowing what to examine and what to omit in a clinical situation is a skill that students seem to struggle with. For minimum competency criteria, there were opinions that we should raise the bar for the students, even if that necessitates remediating more students in the 4th year.

**Motion:** A motion was put forward and seconded that would require students to achieve total score of greater than 65% and greater than 60% on each sub-score to pass, and the MEC voted to approve the motion. The third year students will be informed of the new standards.

2. **Presentation: Graduation Questionnaire 2010 – Dr. Paul Wimmers**
Reviewed the results of the General Questionnaire (GQ), a standardized tool for evaluating medical schools and how they compare to national means administered by the AAMC. Overall, UCLA students rated our school at or above the national mean on the following:

1. The structure of the basic science content
2. Preparation of basic science curriculum for the clerkships
3. Preparedness for residency
4. Overall quality

Areas of curricular content identified by >40% of the graduating seniors as having “inadequate instruction” include:

- Health care quality
- Patient management
- Managed care
- Medical economics
- Medical licensure
- Environmental health
- Global health issues
• Health surveillance strategies
• Biological, chemical, and natural disaster management
• Law and medicine

3. **Graduation Competencies** – Dr. Carl Stevens
   At the meeting, the MEC approved new system-based care competencies. The slight rewording suggested was distributed to the Committee with a question about revising other sections. The MEC moved to table the discussion until a later meeting so that competencies as a whole can be more thoroughly reviewed.

4. **UC Riverside Update – Dr. Byus**
   The LCME accreditation meeting went well, but there is some concern over the availability of state funds for a new medical school. Plans to open an accredited, four–year medical school program in the fall of 2012 remain in tact.

5. **Charles Drew University Update – Dr. Daphne Calmes**
   CDU recently underwent WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation.

6. **Announcements**
   b. Senior Scholarship Day – Friday, March 18, 2011