

Education Council (EC) Meeting Minutes

January 20, 2009

Members present: S Allen, D Anderson, L Anderson, A Campbell, C Dietz, T Ebner, C Hegarty L Hanson, L Henson, R Hoffman, J Jochman, L Ling, C Niewoehner, J Nixon, T Stillman, T Thompson, T Walseth, D Wangensteen, K Watson, P White R Wong, M Woods, J Wynn

Members absent: J Adams M Baird, J Beattie (L Watson), B Benson, B Brandt, K Brooks, S Chahla, B Clarke, K Crossley, A Friedman, A Johns, B Johns, M Kondrak, M LuBrandt, R McCollister, J Miller, W Miller, A Minenko, M Hordinsky, C Patow, L Perkowski, D Power, L Repesh, L Ryan, J Sauter, R Soninno,

I. Approval of Minutes

Due to conflict in schedules, Dr. Timothy Ebner chaired the meeting. Minutes for December 16, 2008 were not available for review.

II. Discussion

Clinical Electives

Dr. Ted Thompson initiated the a presentation about Clinical Electives with an overview of current electives including number of electives offered, types of clinical experience, requirements and historical enrollment data. He noted that students are required to complete 20 (min.) credits of elective clinical clerkship courses. Dr. Thompson's data has identified 34 courses in 2007-08 that were not selected by any student, as well as a number of courses with no enrollment over the last 3 years.

In view of the data presented, several new goals have been developed to improve the value, experience and quality of elective courses for medical students. These goals include use of web based evaluations (currently E*Valu), consolidation of similar electives and greater assistance in advising students on choice of electives. To further improve the elective offerings several steps have been recommended; appoint a five member Elective Review Subcommittee, implement a standardized Elective Approval process, and routine evaluation of all existing and newly proposed elective courses. Dr. Thompson presented a proposal for a new policy governing elective courses/clerkships. EC members expressed concern for how effective the current system is in enhancing student clinical experiences. Dr. Thompson presented a number of questions and concerns that have been consistently raised by students and faculty; i.e. what level of enrollment to require for a course, grade distribution concerns, who/where does oversight occur and the frequency of course review. EC members agreed to support the recommendations and proposed policy implementation.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the proposed appointment of an Elective Review Subcommittee and Policy for Approval and Evaluation of Elective Courses was unanimously approved by the members of the Education Council.

Scholarship Review Committee

Dr. Majka Woods presented a draft of a newly proposed Committee on Educational Scholarship and Data Use (CESDU). She went on to say the proposed Committee would be established to assist faculty produce high quality educational scholarship. Dr. Woods also spoke about new initiatives and how important oversight of data and scholarly activity is now and will be in the future. She noted that data use is not currently centralized; this change would require requests for data to be submitted to the CESDU at the same time as the IRB is being processed.

The proposed charge to the Committee on Educational Scholarship and Data will include 1) approve/deny use of data for scholarship and research and program evaluation; and 2) provide council on the use of data for the purpose of educational research. Data included in their oversight are student data, curriculum data, and faculty teaching data.

Throughout the University overall, many Schools have individual policies that pertain only to use of their data. Oversight would insure data is de-identified and student permissions are maintained for the Medical School. EC members expressed concern for limitations placed on faculty use of data for their own internal assessment. Dr. Woods stated that data for internal use would require de-identification but would allow faculty to continue to do comparison of student performance from year to year.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded the proposed appointment of a Committee on Educational Scholarship and Data Use and implementation of an oversight of process, was unanimously approved by the members of the Education Council.

AHC Program Application

Dr. Lindsey Henson gave a synopsis of current activities involved in completion of an in-depth Report to the AHC Academic Council. Several Medical Education staff have contributed and Dr. Henson will meet with Dr. Rick Hoffman (Duluth) to review the portion that pertains to their program. The Report will be presented to the AHC-Academic Council and is scheduled to go before the Regents in March. It will be used to determine resource implications and will require a completed general plan for MED 2010. Several Schools within the AHC are proposing new programs and are required to complete similar documents, but because MED 2010 is changing an entire degree program, this Report is more extensive.

Much of the information will be shared with the LCME in a letter, which Dr. Henson will send to them in late Spring of 2009. The letter will be introduction to provide preliminary information about the new degree program. Their response could lead to a preview visit before the next accreditation site visit takes place or they may decide to review everything together.

Recorder Sue Mowbray

The next Education Council meeting will be held on February 17, 2008