

**Scientific Foundations Committee**  
**Meeting**

February 4, 2011

7:30 – 9:00 am, B-646 Mayo

**In attendance:** M Becker, A Blaes, B Clarke, E Coleman, A Edverson, G Filice, B Fleischmann, G Giesler, S Katz, K Lee, N Lipin, A Minenko, C Niewoehner, J Norrander, D Powell, M Sanders, D Wangensteen, K Watson, T Weinhaus, R Wong, M Woods

**Absent:** R Hoffman, M Hordinsky, S Levine, T Mackenzie, K Nordby, L Perkowski, L Schimmenti, P Schlievert, B Varda, K Wickman

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**I. Minutes**

Minutes of the January 7, 2011 were approved with no additions or corrections

**II. LCME – Update**

Dr. Linda Perkowski reported that all LCME Subcommittees have begun work on their assigned questions for the database and are continuing to request data to use to respond to those questions. Information gathered from the Course Forms and Topics forms completed by course directors in December is helping to complete the LCME database, for some courses additional information will be requested. OME staff are providing data from other sources as Subcommittees need information to respond to specific questions. A mock site visit will be held in October, 2011 and the goal is to have all written documents completed for this test run. The format will be similar to the actual site visit.

**III. Annual Course Summaries**

**Human Structure and Function**

Dr. Tony Weinhaus and Dr. Jan Norrander gave a brief overview of the course and the components include; Histology, Gross Anatomy and Embryology. Dr. Weinhaus noted that the aspects of HSF are not integrated and will require a major project to rework material in a blended course. Outcomes for each component were measured through formative quizzes, mid-semester and final exams. Course assessment results are provided in the Annual Summary. With regard to integration and assessments there was confusion with the grade scoring process and the syllabus. There are concerns that the overall 70% grading policy isn't adequate for measuring student knowledge across the three components. Dr. Weinhaus and Dr. Norrander reported that the differences between the course components are great enough that they should be taught and assessed separately.

Drs. Weinhaus and Norrander have made recommendations for changes to improve the course, and report that the three components each have different areas for where to focus the improvements.

- Gross Anatomy will require new pre-recorded videos, more live review sessions, greater coordination of radiology with ECM and added coverage in the assessments.
- Histology will require aligning objectives and more consistency with lecturers and added items in the assessments.
- It is recommended that Embryology requires changes in use of technology, better distribution of material across the course, additional quizzes, better integrated questions across the components and additional questions for mid-term and final exams. Students reported poor quality in the Breeze presentations and recommended

possibly purchasing new materials. It was also suggested to find additional ways to relate the components to one another rather than as isolated from each other.

A larger question raised by Drs. Norrander and Weinhaus is the concern with integrating the three components into one course, there is a recommendation to revisit this aspect of this subject matter at a future discussion.

Science of Medical Practice

Dr. Michel Sanders

- For the first time, there was adequate time spent on human genetics.
- The integration between genetics and biochemistry worked really well, with the genetics providing the key medical relevance and the biochemistry the fundamental understanding of the mechanisms underlying the diseases and syndromes.
- Introduction of more medical relevance into biochemistry
- Introduction of a cancer biology thread throughout the course
- As you recall, the faculty in the fall semester were charged at the last Scientific Foundations meeting with coming up with a proposal to remediate a few issues that arose with the new fall first year curriculum. Jan, Tony, Lisa, and I met to discuss the issues. Our proposal is attached.

Natalia Lipin, Yr-1 Class President, reported that the Year-one students have asked that concerns regarding the scheduling of 3 exams on one day for Spring semester be discussed reconsidered for future scheduling so this won't happen the future.

**IV. Discussion**

Next Meeting:  
*Scientific Foundations Committee – March 4, 2011*