MINUTES
MEC MEETING
12:00pm Volker Hall 302
Tuesday – November 15, 2011

Members in Attendance: Chair- Kevin Leon, MD; Co-Chair- Cathy Fuller, PhD; Drs. Cynthia Brown, Bill Coleman, Laura Cotlin, Hughes Evans, Shawn Galin, Craig Hoesley, James Jackson, Laura Kezar, Nathaniel Robin, Michael Waldrum, John Wheat, and Marjorie White. Mike Belue; Kristina Panizzi-Woodley, Scott Plutchak; and Steve Smith. Vincent Laufer, MS-1; Erica Young, MS-1; Brian May, MS-2; Patrick McCabe, MS-2; Tyler Green, MS-3; Suzanne McCluskey, MS-4; and Alex Feldman, MS-4. Huntsville: (by videoconference) Drs. Lanita Carter; Parekha Yedla; and Roan Gannon MS-4. Tuscaloosa: (by videoconference) Drs. Scott Arnold, Jim Leeper, and Heather Taylor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Leon announced the new MEC members Drs. Cynthia Brown, Michael Waldrum, and Thomas Wang, and MS-1 students Vincent Laufer and Erica Young.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

Pre-Clinical Committee
The first round of reviews is done. GI and Renal are pending.

Clinical Committee
Volunteers are being asked to serve on the committee. Faculty and student volunteers are needed from all campuses and divisions. Anyone interested should email Dr. Leon.

Special Programs
Review of the Rural Medical Scholars Program is in process. Plans are to make progress by the end of December.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposal for curricular changes for the rural programs
Dr. Bill Coleman and Dr. John Wheat, directors of the Rural Medical Scholars programs of Huntsville and Tuscaloosa, presented the proposal. (See attachments) An email will be sent out for electronic votes.

Assessment Subcommitteee
The UME office has taken over responsibilities of the committee. The subcommittee will be suspended for a year on a trial basis to assess necessity of the committee.
Co-Enrolled Courses
The co-enrolled curriculum was approved by the MEC in late spring. The course was started in August. The course has gone well and has been popular with students. Two or possibly three additional courses have been designed for January. There will also be courses in Huntsville and Tuscaloosa. Consideration should be taken regarding the maximum amount of credit that can be gained from the co-enrolled curriculum. The conventional students, excluding MSTP and MD/PhD students, are required to do twenty weeks of elective work prior to graduation. Historically, electives have largely been clinical. The new co-enrolled courses count towards the 20 weeks but they are nonclinical classroom or seminar based activities. The courses will be open to all 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year students. Having the opportunity to take these classes before the fourth year will give students more flexibility to help decompress their scheduling as they prepare for residency applications, interview seasons, prepare for Step II exams, and etc. There are concerns that taking too many of these courses could de-emphasize the clinical electives necessary to prepare students for internships and residency. Therefore, the MEC will need to consider a ceiling of the maximum amount of credits any student can take using the co-enrolled curriculum. These courses will typically give credit for two weeks. A good ceiling would be four weeks of maximum elective credits for students to gain from the co-enrolled curriculum. This would allow students to take two courses in the first and second year or take one in the preclinical, then one in the clinical curriculum without de-emphasizing the clinical elective curriculum. All medical students can take any of these courses but would not receive credit beyond the four weeks.

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Next MEC Meeting December 13, 2011