



Medical Student Education Committee

Minutes: April 3, 2018

The Medical Student Education Committee of the Quillen College of Medicine held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 in Classroom C-002 of Stanton-Gerber Hall.

Attendance

Voting Members

Ramsey McGowen, PhD, Chair
Caroline Abercrombie, MD
Martha Bird, MD
Russell Brown, PhD
Thomas Ecay, PhD
Steven Geraci, MD
Russell Hayman, PhD
Dave Johnson, PhD
Paul Monaco, PhD
Jason Moore, MD
Mark Ransom, MD
Omar McCarty, M4
Hunter Bratton, M2
Erin Lutz, M1

Ex Officio Voting Members

Joseph Florence, MD
Tom Kwasigroch, PhD
Theresa Lura, MD
Rachel Walden, MLIS

Ex Officio Non-Voting Member

Kenneth Olive, MD, EAD

Non-Voting Members & Guests

Mitch Robinson, PhD
Jerald Mullersman, PhD

Academic Affairs Staff

Lorena Burton
Mariela McCandless, MPH
Cathy Peeples, MPH

Shading denotes or references MSEC ACTION ITEMS

1. Discussion/Approve: 2018-2019 M1 Curriculum Schedule/Proposal(s)

Dr. McGowen called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm. The meeting was called to continue discussion on the 2018-2019, M1 curriculum schedule. MSEC is expected to take action on a motion that was seconded and tabled during the March 20, 2018, MSEC meeting.

During the March 20, 2018, MSEC meeting a proposal (identified as Proposal 1) to change the 2018-2019, M1 curriculum schedule, was presented by Drs. Monaco, Ecay, and Robinson. A motion to adopt the proposal was seconded and the proposal was discussed. The motion was tabled until additional thought and discussion could happen among MSEC members.

In the discussion of Proposal 1, other ideas for modifying the M1 curriculum were identified (identified as Proposals 2 and 3). None were formally brought forward as motions. Proposal 1 was developed to address issues that the course directors had identified with implementation of the current 2017-2018, M1 curriculum. These included multiple exams on a single day, lower student exam scores, higher levels of student stress, higher course hour density/cognitive load in the spring semester, and overlapping Doctoring 1 sessions with times of high study demands.

With this background Dr. McGowen asked MSEC to continue their discussion regarding the motion on the floor.

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MSEC discussion included the Doctoring I scheduling of content and how it might be reviewed for ways to eliminate overlapping of their sessions with student study needs on a day before an exam. MSEC asked that Dr. Ecay review the proposed changes in Proposal I. Dr. Ecay did so and noted that Physiology gained an additional two (2) weeks of content when a portion of the Immunology course was folded into the Physiology course this academic year.

MSEC asked about student performance on recent exams in Cellular and Molecular Medicine (CMM). Dr. Robinson reported that one student failed with others averaging about the same.

MSEC Discussion of Proposal 1 included:

- A review of the hours identified for the Embryology/Anatomy course.
- Courses in the M1 year that had been decompressed; with some more than others.
- The proposal's introduction of multiple simultaneous courses over a more gradual period.
- Student members noting that some courses do not integrate well with other courses. Other courses integrate well and the merging of them into one (1) course versus two (2) making sense.
- Block exams require studying for longer test periods, but studying for three different exams in the same day is causing higher levels of student stress and failures.
- Decompressing courses in the current schedule may have been excessive. All courses need to be willing to streamline content and be flexible to create the best curriculum schedule.

MSEC discussion continued over Proposals 2 and 3. Some MSEC members suggested these alternate proposals offer a better solution for at resolving the issues than Proposal I. Dr. Monaco noted that before Proposal I was brought to MSEC that they had considered many different options for change including different teaching modalities and how best to integrate the exams, etc. Many of their considerations were identified throughout this discussion. The originators of Proposal 1 believe it best resolves all the identified issues.

MSEC asked about merging Genetics and CMM to form a "foundations course" before the winter break. Dr. Mullersman identified an option that the Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Evidence Based Medicine (Biostatistics, EPID, EBM) course could ease the Block 1 schedule and coordinate with Genetics material. He suggested this could be accomplished by beginning Biostatistics, EPID, EBM a little later, i.e., week 8; then taking a hiatus toward the end of Block 1 to allow Embryology/Anatomy more scheduled time during those weeks; resuming after fall break and finishing the course just prior to the Thanksgiving break. Dr. Monaco also identified a possible change to Proposal 1 (introduced to him by Dr. Schoborg) which could be offered as a friendly amendment to Proposal I where the Embryology/Anatomy course would gain some additional class time by administering its NBME exam on the following Monday, giving Anatomy an extra teaching day and students the weekend to study for the NBME. CMM and Genetics would begin the next day, on a Tuesday.

MSEC discussed that the 2018-2019 M1 Curriculum schedule was adopted after much work was done by the Implementation groups and meetings with faculty and students. The intention was to have exams integrated and this has not been fully implemented. MSEC noted that the distance between like content discussions is often too great for students to integrate the content on their own.

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MSEC asked that the discussions come back to how to gradually increase the student load and decrease the student stress. Options to eliminate the fall break or shorten the winter break to begin the day before Christmas were discussed. MSEC students stated that many of the students use the breaks to study or visit with family.

Dr. McGowen called for the discussion to come to a close. Dr. Bird made a motion to *Call for Question* (end the debate) on the tabled motion. Dr. Robinson seconded the vote. MSEC unanimously voted to *Call for Question* (end the debate).

Dr. McGowen asked for a vote on Proposal 1 being adopted as the 2018-2019, M1 Curriculum Schedule. MSEC voted thirteen (13) Yes and three (3) No with no abstentions. The motion passed.

Dr. Olive stated that Academic Affairs Administration will need to work on the M1 curriculum schedule changes and will call a meeting with the M1 course directors within a week's time to begin re-scheduling of the courses for 2018-2019. Dr. Ecay asked about the idea Dr. Mullersman introduced to distribute the Biostatistics, EPID, EBM course in a portion of the time with CMM and Genetics. Dr. Olive stated this is something that can be accomplished administratively with scheduling of the start and stop dates within the M1 schedule. MSEC concurred by consensus.

Dr. Bird expressed concern about the M2 curriculum and exams being administered in one day. Dr. Olive stated that given the discussion about the effects of block exams in the M1 year he will recommend to the M2 course directors that they do not adopt block exams before finalizing the M2 schedule.

Dr. Bird also expressed concern with the inflation of NBME adjusted scores and raw scores. Dr. McGowen asked Dr. Bird to address her concerns in writing and present for discussion at a future MSEC meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

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MSEC Meeting Documents

MSEC Members have access to the meeting documents identified above through a shared One Drive document storage option made available with their ETSU Email account and login. Quick access to the files can be made by clicking on the below link and opening the August 15, 2017 MSEC meeting folder. https://etsu365-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mckinley_etsu_edu/layouts/15/onedrive.aspx?id=%2Fpersonal%2Fmckinley%5Fetsu%5Fedu%2FDocuments%2FMSEC%20Meeting%20Documents

Select the “**new sign-in experience**” option and enter your ETSU email address and password.

If you are unable to access the One Drive link or have not set up your One Drive contact:

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Upcoming MSEC Meetings

MSEC Meeting Dates: * NOT 3rd Tuesday –

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| April 17, 2018 – 3:30-6:00 pm | Room C002 |
| May 15, 2018 – 3:30-6:00 pm | Room C002 |
| June 12, 2018 Retreat 12:00-3:00 pm | Room C003 |
| June 12, 2018 Annual Meeting 3:30-5:00 pm * | Large Auditorium |