

Summary of Curriculum Committee Activities July 2008 through June 2009

Curriculum Enhancements Approved by the Curriculum Committee

1. September 2008—The Year 1 Nutrition Course Curriculum is being revised in response to concerns expressed in Student evaluations and in the LCME review. New co-course directors have been appointed from the WSU Nutrition and Food Science Department.
2. September 2008—The Year 2 Pharmacology Course Curriculum is being revised and a new Course Director has been appointed from the department.
3. November 2008—In response to a request from students a sub-committee of the Curriculum Committee was formed to work on a broad Reproductive Health longitudinal curricular theme. Along with student members to be identified, faculty from the SOM appointed to the sub-committee are Dr. Renee Page, Dr. Jenny Mendez, Dr. Yvonne Friday, Ms. Anne Greb, and from the WSU School of Nursing Dr. Nancy George.
4. December 2008—At the request of individual Canadian students attending the SOM, a proposal was presented to the Committee to amend the SOM policy limiting the number of international elective rotations students are allowed to take for credit to only one during the clinical years. A motion was made and passed unanimously to allow students to do away rotations at any LCME accredited medical school regardless of location without counting them as international electives. This would, in effect, apply only to rotations at accredited schools of medicine in Canada. The total number of Away electives that students would be allowed to take for credit would remain unchanged at three.
5. January 2009—The Committee agreed to the formation of a sub-committee to coordinate a longitudinal Radiology/Imaging curriculum. Students and faculty from multiple disciplines and across the four years of the medical student program will be recruited for this committee.

School of Medicine Initiatives Reviewed by the Curriculum Committee

1. September 2008—The Committee received a progress report about the ongoing Stanford Clinical Teaching Program at the WSU SOM. This program designed to promote excellence in small group teaching skills is being provided to interested faculty members involved in medical student education from both the basic science and clinical departments. Feedback from participants has been overwhelmingly positive.
2. September 2008—A report was provided to the Committee regarding the Clinical Campus pilot program at Henry Ford Hospital for the Year 3 required clerkships. At this early point, feedback has been positive from both students and the hospital. The pilot program will continue to be carefully monitored by the Curriculum Committee and the SOM Administration.
3. September 2008—Anne Greb has been named the Director of the SOM Teaching Academy. Dr. Barbara Bosch has been appointed to the position of the Director of Pathology Education.

4. November 2008—The Committee was provided with an update on the Clinical Campus pilot program at the Henry Ford Hospital campus. Things continue to go well and planning continues to extend the Clinical Campus program to have all Year 3 students complete their core clinical clerkships at approximately 7 Clinic Campuses to be established at hospitals traditionally affiliated with the SOM during the 2009-2010 academic year.
5. November 2008—Ms. Anne Grebb, Director of the SOM Teaching Academy reviewed plans to form a Teaching Academy Advisory Committee to include faculty from different disciplines as well as student representatives. Faculty members interested in participating were asked to contact Ms. Greb.
6. November 2008—The SOM has been participating in a pilot program to evaluate a new examination for the Year 4 Ambulatory Clerkship. This examination, which currently is not being used as part of the students' grades, is administered as an on-line test with almost immediate availability of the individual student scores. So far, the pilot project has gone well as has provided valuable experience to our staff in administering computer-based tests.
7. January/February 2009—After careful consideration, in order to more evenly balance the demands of the Year 2 Curriculum on the students, the decision has been made to move the Psychiatry Course to an earlier point in that year's schedule. Student feedback on this scheduling change will be sought at the conclusion of the course.
8. January 2009—The progress in the establishment of Clinical Campus sites and their respective capacities was reviewed with the Committee
9. January 2009—A progress report was provided after the first meeting of the sub-committee working to develop the Reproductive Health longitudinal curricular theme.
10. February 2009—Progress reports were provided regarding the formation and work of sub-committees to address curriculum initiatives that the Committee feel need to be revised or developed. These include the Reproductive Health Longitudinal Curriculum, the Interpersonal Violence Longitudinal Curriculum, the Radiology/Imaging Longitudinal Curriculum, the Patient Safety Longitudinal curriculum, and the Translational Research Longitudinal Curriculum. A proposal was also made to consider a sub-committee to address a possible Interdisciplinary Longitudinal Curriculum. Because of the amount of work involved with these efforts, they will need to be prioritized and addressed in that order.
11. March 2009—Progress reports were provided regarding the sub-committees working on the Reproductive Health and Interpersonal Violence Longitudinal Curricula. Members are meeting regularly on these initiatives and will provide reports to the Committee in the future.

School of Medicine Reports Presented to the Curriculum Committee for Review/Action

1. September 2008—The Committee reviewed the report received from the LCME. The concerns of the LCME were: educational space at the SOM campus, voluntary faculty appointments, student debt levels, adequacy of the number of clinical sites, adequacy of the number of clinical faculty, the basic science courses in Biochemistry and Nutrition, the Neurology Clerkship, and the maintenance of student body diversity. The SOM

Administration is addressing these concerns and will provide a detailed progress report to the LCME as requested. The LCME will undertake a Secretariat Visit to the SOM in March 2009 to follow-up on these issues.

2. December 2008—The results of the 2008 Graduation Questionnaire (GQ) provided by the Association of American Medical Colleges, which all SOM students are required to complete prior to graduation in June were presented to the Committee. Key portions of the report were reviewed and individual course/clerkship related items will be shared with the respective directors.
3. March 2009—The results of the Clinical Campus Student Assignment Lottery were presented to the Committee. The great majority of the students received one of the top choices for their Clinical Campus for the 2009-2010 academic year. The logistics of the lottery went well.

Items of Information Presented to the Curriculum Committee

1. November 2008—New and Revised LCME Standards were presented to the Committee. The SOM will need to carefully review these standards to assure that we are in compliance with these and all of the other standards.
2. November 2008—Information obtained at the AAMC Annual Meeting was provided to the Committee regarding the Comprehensive Review of the USMLE currently being undertaken by the Committee to Evaluate the USMLE Program (CEUP). The progress of this initiative over the next few years will be followed very carefully and reported to the Curriculum Committee so that the SOM can keep pace with any changes in these examinations.
3. April 2009—The Committee was informed about the recent LCME Secretariat Visit. The impression was that the visit went well with the concerns of the reviewers being addressed both in written reports and on-site reviews of areas of concern to the LCME. The visitors will present their findings to the entire LCME at its next meeting. We are hopeful that we will receive full accreditation for the remainder of the accreditation cycle.

Student Issues Brought to the Curriculum Committee by Student Members

1. Concerns related to courses
 - a. September 2008—Students requested that the post-exam review sessions for examinations in Years 1 and 2 be lengthened from ½ to 1 hour and that faculty be asked to attend these sessions. Dr. Jackson agreed to lengthen the sessions and will inform the faculty about the student request that they attend the reviews, but explained that this would be a decision of each individual course director/faculty member.
 - b. September 2008—Year 3 students asked that faculty include substantive comments on evaluation forms of student performance on the clerkships. Faculty will again be reminded of the importance of these comments to the students and their records.
 - c. November/December 2008—Students expressed appreciation for the course format, organization and quality of the notes of the Pathobiology and Pathophysiology courses.

- d. December 2008—Students expressed concerns regarding the consistency of the Histology small group sessions, the Anatomy radiology lectures, the tagging for the Anatomy practical and the lecture slides for Embryology. Dr. Jackson will address these concerns with the respective course directors.
 - e. December 2008—Students expressed concerns regarding the logistics of the Year 1 Clinical Medicine course in general and specifically about the long interval between the end of the course sessions and the course examination. These issues are being addressed to improve the course and scheduling for the next academic year.
 - f. December 2008—Students requested that more of the self-study videos for the Physical Diagnosis section of the Year 2 Clinical Medicine Course be created by our WSU SOM faculty. This issue is being discussed among the course directors, faculty, and administration to determine the best approach to these course materials.
2. Other concerns
- a. September 2008—Students requested an explanation for the SOM policy establishing the entry points for students to start Year 3 as July, September, and January. The reasons both educational and administrative were explained in detail.
 - b. November 2008—Students expressed concerns regarding the number and timing of Year 2 examinations. Dr. Jackson indicated that he is working to address this problem in the future.
 - c. January 2009—Students expressed concern regarding the quality and utility of the MedCases virtual patient cases used to supplement clinical experiences in the Year 3 required clerkships. The clerkship directors and administration are actively searching for better alternatives.
 - d. January 2009—Students in the clinical clerkships of Year 3 and Year 4 ask that grades be reported in a timelier manner. The clerkship directors and the Records and Registration Department will continue to work to improve the grade reporting time frame.
 - e. February 2009—Students again expressed concern regarding the quality of the notes provided in some of the basic science courses. Dr. Jackson is working continually with the course directors to address this issue
 - f. February 2009—Students expressed their appreciation to Dr. Bosch for the Step 1 review sessions that she is providing to them.
 - g. March 2009—Students requested that faculty members write their exam questions in a format consistent with that found in the USMLE Step 1 examination. Dr. Jackson, Ms. Leah Robinson, and Ms. Anne Greb have instituted a formal program to assist the faculty members in improving the quality and consistency of their course examination questions.