

**UPSOM Curriculum Committee
Minutes of the 498th Meeting
May 20, 2024**

Jason Rosenstock, MD, Chair
Bill Yates, PhD, Vice-Chair

Business of the Curriculum Committee on May 20, 2024

Motion	Vote Tally	Approved?
Approval of Meeting Minutes from 5/06	11 Yes, 0 No	YES
Policy for Leave of Absence - Revisions	14 Yes, 0 No	YES

Voting Members Present: A. McCormick, MD, FAAP; A. Doshi, MD; A. Chang, MS3; B. Yates, PhD; B. O'Donnell, MD; C. Yanta, MD; G. Null, MA; H. Hohmann, MD; J. Waxman, MD, PhD; J. Rosenstock, MD; M. DeFrances, MD, PhD; M. Schmidt, PhD; M. Rahman, MS1; M. Sergeant, MPH, MSL; O. Torres, MD, MS; P. Drain, PhD; R. Schuchert, MD; S. Truschel, PhD; T. Bui, MD; V. Agarwal, MD

Ex-Officio Members Present: A. Gonzaga, MD, MS; E. Ufomata, MD, MS; L. Borghesi, PhD; R. Buranosky, MD, MPH

Invited Colleagues and Guests: A. Brown, MD; A. Clark, MD; A. Serra, MD, MPH; A. Casagrande, MD; E. Lovallo, MD; G. Perez, MD; G. Cooper, PhD; K. Scott, MA; K. Maietta, MPPM; L. Shutter, MD, FNCS, FCCM; M. Best, MD, FASA, Maj, USAFR; M. Elnicki, MD; R. Van Deusen, MD, MS; R. Powers, PhD; R. Peterson, MD; S. Templer, DO, FACP, FIDSA

All members and guests remotely participated.

Dr. Rosenstock opened the meeting at 4:00PM.

Curriculum Committee members voted to APPROVE meeting minutes from 5/06.

Standing Subcommittees

CCES: CCES continues to meet weekly. This is a significant transition point in the academic year. The Class of 2024 had their graduation ceremony, MS3s begun clerkships, and 3RC students finished progress testing and overall had a successful year. Additionally, CCES continues to create and revise several policies and review ROMS proposals.

CCQI: The MS1s took their second progress test this morning, and there will be one more progress test in the Fall before they start dedicated study. Friday, May 17th was the last Feedback Friday of the year. There were about 40 meetings throughout the duration of the academic year. The plan is to continue Feedback Friday sessions, while learning how best we can improve and utilize this exercise.

Curricular Design Subcommittee: Dr. Lisa Borghesi discussed how the committee has been reviewing and evaluating each course in 3RC, including PCAT, EDR1, Medical Interviewing, and the Anatomy portion of Keystone Fundamentals. The committee is also considering broader curriculum enhancements, particularly the need for regular formative assessments. One issue discussed was the timing of formative assessments in the Cardiology course, which starts right after New Year's. Given the holiday schedule, starting the course on Thursday, and having an exam on Friday does not provide a meaningful assessment of student learning. Thus, the committee decided to offer clinical vignettes instead, allowing students more flexible testing times. Similarly, the Anatomy course, an intensive first-year course, had its first formative exam too early, causing confusion among students. The committee recommended moving the exam to the following week to give students more time to synthesize information.

Social Medicine: The Social Medicine Thread is currently working on aligning and streamlining PPS content.

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Dr. Drew Klein plans on incorporating trauma-informed care into Physical Examination. Inspired by a student advocacy effort at BU to stop the universal shackling of incarcerated patients, they aim to enhance the curriculum to include advocacy at community and societal levels, not just patient advocacy.

**Policy for Leave of Absence -
Revisions**

The revised Policy for Leave of Absence will allow select students to take extended personal leaves for entrepreneurship that is felt to be significant and important, with guidance on re-entry parameters. Dr. Shekhar is supportive of people who are going into businesses with innovative ideas. Therefore, this is a reasonable way to track their work and progress to justify the time away from medical school.

Policy for Leave of Absence – Revisions was APPROVED.

Flex Weeks Update

Greg Null presented an update on our Flex Week program, which has very high student satisfaction. Over half will choose their own "adventure" while others pick curated experiences—all a mix of research, shadowing, study, procedural experience, and other interesting professional enrichments. Overall, the goal is to minimize the administrative burden on educators and staff. Continuous feedback is sought from both students and organizers to refine the program. Efforts are made to provide more detailed feedback to organizers and potentially create a clearinghouse for student comments. The following are included for future directions: (1) Efforts are made to better align Flex Weeks across the first and second years to reduce scheduling conflicts; (2) Improved orientation materials and marketing strategies are being developed to better inform students about their options and expectations; (3) If departments wish, they can consider funding and minimum participation requirements to ensure smooth operation.

**Primary Care Accelerated Track
(PCAT) Update**

Dr. Amanda Casagrande shared an update on the Primary Care Accelerated Track (PCAT)--three students just completed their first year, and we have admitted four more (expanding from Internal Medicine and Family Medicine to Pediatrics as well). These learners will be ranked favorably at UPMC residencies, and they will continue longitudinal ambulatory experiences connected with those residencies. Key components include: (1) Curriculum Overview: Includes summer courses before and between the first and second years, focused on health system science, clinical skills, and community health; (2) Longitudinal Clinical Experience: Students engage in patient care at residency sites from the beginning of their education; (3) Assessment and Evaluation: Competency-based education strategies with continuous assessment; (4) Faculty Support: Extensive support from residency program directors, advisors, and a dedicated research team; (5) Student Success: Current students are excelling academically and clinically, becoming advocates for primary care among their peers.

Assessment Subcommittee Update

Drs. Mike Elnicki and Reed Van Deusen shared an update from the Assessment Subcommittee, both on multiple-choice exam questions in the new curriculum, as well as performance-based assessment in the legacy curriculum. MCQs now more closely adhere to USMLE Step 1 style, with better reliability; OSCEs including our Clinical Competency Assessment represent a valid approach to evaluating clinical skills.

The next meeting is on Monday, June 3 at 4PM. Dr. Rosenstock closed the meeting at 5:29PM.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sergent, recording secretary.

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Curriculum Committee members voted to APPROVE meeting minutes on 6/3.