

**UPSOM Curriculum Committee  
Minutes of the 510th Meeting  
December 16, 2024**

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

Business of the Curriculum Committee on December 16, 2024

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Vote Tally</b>	<b>Approved?</b>
Approval of Meeting Minutes from 12/02	13 Yes, 0 No	YES
Elective Proposals: New 2-week electives	13 Yes, 0 No	YES
Policy Revision: Noninvolvement in Student Assessment	12 Yes, 0 No	YES

**Voting Members Present:** A. McCormick, MD, FAAP; A. Tanna, MS1; A. Doshi, MD; A. Slingerland, MS3; B. Yates, PhD; B. Spataro, MD, MS; C. Yanta, MD; J. Waxman, MD, PhD; J. Rosenstock, MD; M. DeFrances, MD, PhD; M. Schmidt, PhD; N. Chen, MSTP; O. Torres, MD, MS; P. Drain, PhD; R. Schuchert, MD; R. Maier, MD, MA; S. Truschel, PhD; V. Agarwal, MD

**Ex-Officio Members Present:** A. Hyderi, MD, MPH; A. Gonzaga, MD, MS; B. Piraino, MD; C. Pettigrew, EdD; E. Ufomata, MD, MS; L. Borghesi, PhD; R. Buranosky, MD, MPH

**Invited Colleagues and Guests:** A. Clark, MD; A. Young, MLIS; A. Serra, MD, MPH; C. Pacella, MD; C. Newman; D. Hall-Burton, MD, FASA; E. Reis, MD; G. Null, MA; J. Alexander; J. Maier, PhD, MD; K. Maietta, MPPM; M. Sergent, MPH, MSL; M. Wargo; R. Van Deusen, MD, MS; R. Peterson, MD; T. Bui, MD; W. Frazier, MD

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**All members participated virtually**

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

Curriculum Committee members voted to APPROVE meeting minutes from 12/02.

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**Standing Subcommittees**

**CCES:** CCES continues to meet weekly. Dr. Jason Rosenstock said the subcommittee is continuing conversations about the MD/MS program and the MD/MPH combined four-year program, which will be presented on January 6th. Dr. Litchveld, Dean of the School of Public Health, will provide details along with colleagues. Additionally, CCES has been addressing safety concerns following tragic staff deaths near the building. Efforts to improve pedestrian safety, as outlined by Dr. Shekhar and Pitt, are underway, and the team is actively supporting these initiatives. Finally, the executive committee has been focused on faculty educator selection. The final vetting process is expected to conclude this week, with notifications to candidates for roles in the next cohort of LEs and CSPs by the week's end.

**Elective Proposals: New 2-week electives**

Curriculum Committee reviewed new two-week elective proposals, aligning with the Curriculum Reform Task Force's goal of providing exploratory, pass-fail options. These electives are needed due to the OBGYN clerkship's shift to a six-week structure in February. A capacity assessment confirmed sufficient slots, with 37 available and 20 needed for period two. Four proposed electives—pediatric pulmonology, critical care medicine, diabetes and endocrinology, and quality improvement—were vetted and approved by the Bridges Subcommittee and are now open for final review or questions.

Curriculum Committee voted to APPROVE the Elective Proposal for 2-week Electives

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**Policy Revision: Noninvolvement in  
Student Assessment**

The discussion focused on revising the non-involvement policy, emphasizing faculty responsibility in identifying conflicts of interest rather than students. Key points include:

1. **Faculty-Led Recusal:** Shifted responsibility for identifying conflicts to faculty, although students can still raise concerns. This aligns with LCME standards to prevent conflicts in grading or supervision.
2. **Expanded Conflict Definitions:** The policy now includes a broader scope of conflicts, such as prior or current personal relationships, and mandates recusal in evaluation or supervisory roles.
3. **Implementation and Procedures:**
  - Faculty must recuse themselves when conflicts arise, and students should be reassigned without disclosing the conflict's nature.
  - Students can report conflicts through designated contacts if needed.
  - Site preference forms may include options for students to pre-declare potential conflicts to streamline assignment.
4. **Student and Faculty Challenges:** Concerns were raised about late identification of conflicts leading to last-minute reassignment. Suggestions included adding conflict identification to pre-clerkship forms to avoid disruptions while respecting confidentiality.
5. **Wording Adjustments:** Recommendations to replace "may" with "should" in procedural guidelines to emphasize expectations.
6. **Voting and Next Steps:** The revised policy was supported, with plans to activate it after further procedural alignment and communication to stakeholders.

Curriculum Committee voted to APPROVE the Policy Revision on Noninvolvement in Student Assessment

**Graduation Requirements: MSTP  
electives**

The discussion revolves around transitioning MSTP (MD-PhD) students returning to the clinical phase under the new curriculum and the associated challenges:

1. **Curriculum Transition Issues:**
  - Returning MSTP students face a curriculum different from the legacy one they started with.
  - Legacy curriculum had fewer requirements than the new "3RC" curriculum.
2. **Elective Requirements:**
  - MSTP students traditionally take three months of electives (less than the usual eight), with flexibility due to their longitudinal clinical experiences during their PhD phase.
  - Concerns arise about whether these experiences provide sufficient clinical readiness for residency.
3. **Clinical Elective Balance:**
  - A clinical elective is mandatory for graduation, but students often add a 2CK study month and other non-clinical electives.
  - Data suggests most MSTP students already exceed the minimum clinical elective requirements.
4. **Residency Readiness:**
  - Some argue for mandating two clinical electives to ensure readiness, especially for research-track residencies requiring clinical competency.
  - Concerns include the potential burden of added requirements during a transitional curriculum period.

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**5. Opposing Viewpoints:**

- Student representatives argue against mandating more clinical electives, citing flexibility needs for research and paper completion during transitions.
- Faculty emphasize ensuring competency to reduce struggles during residency, especially after prolonged non-clinical periods.

**6. Next Steps:**

- The committee acknowledged the need for more data on outcomes and a deeper analysis of the balance between clinical and research requirements.
- No immediate changes to elective requirements were proposed, but the issue will be revisited after further discussion and review.

The overarching goal is to balance academic flexibility, student readiness, and clinical competency.

**The next meeting is on Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 4PM. Dr. Rosenstock closed the meeting at 5:17PM.**

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Sergent, recording secretary.

Curriculum Committee members voted to APPROVE meeting minutes for on 1/06/2025.