



**Student Education
Group 09/02/14
Minutes**

Members unable to attend: Nicholas Field, Jenna Arruda

Members in attendance: Emily Schloff, Will Manning, Brian Till, Dylan Hershkowitz, Sarah Johnson, Caleb Seufert, Bryan Brown, Ben Clements, Karl Kristiansen

Minutes by: Brian Till

Chairperson: Emily Schloff

Guests: Reiko Sakai, Miles Grunvald, Lynn Sipsey, Nick Monte, Tridu Huynh, Kelsey Vailloux, Rahul Gentyala, Kathleen Olson, Emily Ryan, Carolyn King, Tim Henderson, Erin Pichiotino (MCC), Molly Markowitz, Rachel Carlson, Theresa Flanagan, Steven Maurer, Darlene Peterson (Clerkship), Kara Klingman (Foundations), Yazen Qumsiye, Siyeon Andrew Seong, Jennifer Hansen

Clerkship Committee (Darlene):

- At the end of last year, at the recommendation of SEG, Darlene put out a call to new fourth years who had done both internal medicine and surgery rotations at Danbury hospital with hopes of finding someone to serve on the newly formed LEAP committee.
- Darlene reported that two individuals were identified, and that, subsequent to conversations with her, that only one had submitted a paragraph of intent to apply for the position.
- SEG had not yet achieved a quorum of voting members, and it was decided to withhold voting to confirm that individual until later in the meeting.

Bylaws (Brian):

- Brian noted that there is a need to update the bylaws, which appear to have been updated since 2010.
- Emily suggested an update may have occurred more recently, and is looking to see if a copy of that iteration can be found.
- Brian has tucked away notes during the last year, at the urging of Bud, for things that out to be amended. He proposed a small working group to propose updates and present next month. Emily said she was willing to participate, and a third year representative is to be found.

Intro to Foundations update (Brian):

- Brian said a focus group is scheduled for later in the week. He urged first years attending the meeting to come to also come to event. He noted that, aside from annual frustrations about the lack of videocasting, overall there had not been much raised as major issues by members of the first year class thus far. There have been some concerns over the wording of messages related to student evaluations, and an unfortunate incident related a binary gender identification issue, both of which the administration are aware of.

Course Evaluations (Brian):

- Brian discussed the ongoing process to try to update course evaluations systems. He noted a review of the literature supporting the idea of shortening the time frame for these, such that students are responding to a single hour of lecture in a much more immediate manner – as opposed to as much as six weeks later. He noted political will is lacking, despite Dr. Jeffries expressed wish that this be accomplished, and regretted Dr. Jeffries is away at the moment.

Histology (Karl and Caleb):

- Caleb reported that there have been improvements to the histology portion of HSF, and will plan to update the committee in October when more members are present.

PCR Reviews (Emily):

- Emily presented her review for PCR to be delivered at the September 10 Foundations Committee meeting. Suggestions from students include: Narrowing readings to a single reading per session, better organizing the COMET page, and removing the written reflective piece.
- On the issue of written reflections, Reiko suggested that there is significant value in promoting reflection in medical students, and we should resist removing something that encourages this
- Nick said that he recalled have a conversation with Dr. Gallant about trying to replace the writing assignments with something else, as he often he felt he fully expressed himself in PCR and lacked for a serious need to reflect in written format.
- Brian suggested doing events within the vertical PCR groups, I.E. groups led by the same leader from all four years, earlier in the year.

Foundations committee (Kara):

- Kara posed an issue for SEG consideration from Foundations: Does the student body feel that having unlimited exam times would be preferable?
- Nick noted that the number of people at the end of exam struggling to finish was, in his experience, not a larger number. He also said it was critical to his step 1 preparation to be forced to take tests in an allotted time.
- Kara and Emily both noted that they would spend the maximum amount of time possible that they were given, and suggested unlimited time would be a frustrating experience.
- Dylan noted that there's an opinion held amongst some students that the curriculum isn't sufficiently geared to preparing students for Step 1, and taking away this fixture, which lends itself to that prep, would fuel this.

Communications strategy (Caleb):

- Caleb presented a new communication plan. He noted that its genesis stems from a need to communicate more effectively what happens in SEG to the broader medical school community.
- The overall goal is increase the transparency of the organization, and to make sure information about what we're doing is made available quickly, and in channels where it's most likely to be viewed, as opposed to buried on COMET or the OMSE webpage.
- One major change involves trying to publish much more quickly than a month after the meeting occurs. Ideally, minutes will be published within a few days of the actual meeting.

- Meeting minutes will still need to be approved by Dean Jeffries, and the group will need to divine a way to approve the minutes remotely, as opposed by formal vote at the following meeting.
- Kara suggested that SEG might consider making the minutes more abbreviated if SEG wants to maximize viewing.
- Caleb agreed, but wondered if there was a way to create an executive summary to maintain the detail of current minutes.
- Kara Questioned whether SEG actually ever goes back to its minutes and needs to be so detailed
- Reiko added that when there are situations as serious as the issue of Step 1 delays, which occurred last year, people will likely want to have a line by line account of what points were raised by whom.
- Nick noted that he is likely one of the few people that goes back and reads minutes, and that he finds length is pretty good. He noted that they're a valuable window into how the organization works.
- The last component of the action plan that Caleb noted is creating objectives and goals for when guests come appear at SEG, individuals like Dr. Tracy and Jill Jemison. He thinks that using a google doc in the lead up to a meeting to collect questions and action items prior to meeting can make the engagement much more high-yield.

Doctoring Skills (Will and Dylan)

- Will and Dylan reported that they met with Dr. Rubin and Cate Nichols about the course. They asked them to make several changes, particularly in terms of cleaning up comet, which they believe was done. There were also questions about whether you needed to buy medical supplies (such as an ophthalmoscope) which was remedied by all students now receiving a kit including a number of other instruments.
- They noted their suggestion to move the interviewing skills section from HSF to early CMB was implemented. A number of first years suggested that they've enjoyed having this as a component of their early med school experience.

SEG went into executive session for voting on elections to the open third year SEG position, and for the LEAP committee position in Danbury.