

Clerkship Committee (CC)

March 27, 2020

11:00AM – 12:00PM

Virtually, via Zoom

Attending: Drs. K. Busche (*Chair*), B. Adams, K. Albrecht, S. Bannister, M. Davis, J. Desy, A. Di Ninno, G. Greenfield, A. Harvey, J. Haws, N. Johnson, R. Kachra, M. Kelly, M. Louis, A. Mineyko, C. O'Shaughnessy, R. Ragan, R. Ram, S. Weeks, S. Wicklum, and N. Begert, K. Brockman, T. Hawes, S. Leskosky, A. Maini, M. Paget, S. Tai, D. Beninger.

Regrets: Drs. T. Ayas, G. Gelfand, J. LaMothe, C. Naugler, G. Nelson, A. Reso, and S. George, W. Kennedy, L. Palmer.

Guests: Dr. B Adams.

1. Welcome / Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00 AM by K. Busche (*Chair*). K. Busche thanked everyone for coming, and for their ongoing work in the face of the COVID crisis. It is recognized that our clerkship leaders are doing extra educational work in the midst of increased clinical demands.

2. Update on the Class of 2020

2.1 Teaching Sessions

K. Busche described that as far as he was aware, all of the clerkships had moved all of their teaching online and were providing students with learning materials to prepare for written exams as previously described..

2.2 Exams: Moving Online

K. Busche mentioned an internal decision was made by UME to move to all online exams during the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of reasons made it infeasible to ask students or UME staff to attend in-person. Class of 2020 students therefore are no longer required to remain in Calgary, for example: students who wish to be with family are now freed up to make those plans. K. Busche mentioned cons to exams moving online: 1) no perfect way to proctor exams remotely, and 2) exams could be compromised once released to students online, K. Busche mentioned he had faith in the integrity of the students but there was no perfect way to ensure exams in coming years were not compromised as a result of this.

K. Brockman brought-up student concerns around classmates somehow cheating in an online exam using resources that they normally would not have access to, and falsely elevating the MPL; and then failing the exam as a result of the MPL being higher. K. Brockman inquired on ways to ensure the MPL could be similar to that of previous years.

J. Desy described the plan: all of the Clerkship MPLs are set in advance, UME is hopeful that students would not cheat. K. Brockman mentioned implementing webcam watching to mitigate risks around cheating, J. Desy mentioned that would not be feasible at the current time, nor does it guarantee prevention of cheating as even if students are on a webcam they could still look down at a phone or a document or something like that.

J. Desy mentioned UME is relying on students to be honest, and not cheat. UME has had extensive internal discussions around other potential options, such as browser lockdowns – but have been advised that none of these methods will actually prevent cheating.

J. Desy asked that once students have started writing online exams, could K. Brockman inform the class that if they do have information regarding classmates cheating to please bring that forward, with specifics. If there are specifics then UME can look into cheating, however if no names or specific examples are provided then the UME can not really look into it.

2.3 Competency Committee

K. Busche mentioned an upcoming Competency Committee that would be taking on some of the work around assessing students, to make sure UME is graduating students who are as close as possible to students graduated in any other year. K. Busche asked J. Desy to summarize the upcoming Competency Committee.

J. Desy mentioned the current plan for representation on the Committee from: the senior Associate Dean level, from the PGME, Assistant Dean of Clerkship and Pre-Clerkship, representation from the Student Evaluation Committee, a prior member of SARC, and a member of the public, and a clinical member. Work is currently underway to finalize documents on how the Committee will run, the group will be gathering information on every student to show they have met the prescribed threshold to be able to say they have met the objectives of the program. Students with deferred exams should plan to write the exams on the dates they were originally slated to do so, unless they have been told otherwise.

C. O' Shaughnessy asked in the chat if representation from a Resident Physician has been considered on the Committee. J. Desy answered that someone from PGME is in the works, but the suggestion specifically for a Resident Physician Representative would be kept in mind.

K. Brockman asked specifically on timelines for how some students who are supposed to be moving for PGME Residency Programs, do they have to wait until after May from the Committee if they will be graduating or not to make those plans. J. Desy mentioned there is no definitive answer on timelines for students at this time, the Competency Committee in part is being put in place to ensure they make those answers rather than UME on their own.

3. Update on the Class of 2021

3.1 Timelines for Return to Clinical Activity

K. Busche mentioned a national group of medical school UME leaders who have been meeting weekly (and talking by email daily) during the COVID-19 pandemic, originally the group desired one date when all the Clerks would be returning to Clinical Activity, however the landscape around COVID-19 is very different across the country, for cities like Vancouver versus St. Johns for example, it now looks like there will be various dates that students across Canada return to Clinical Activity. The earliest UME would consider getting Clerks back into any clinical environment would be June 15. This was communicated to the clerks on March 25, 2020.

After the return to clinical activity happens, it may only occur in some of the Clerkships to begin. UME is aware it needs to include meaningful electives for CaRMS applications. K. Busche mentioned UME Deans are going to be asking CaRMS to change timelines to help with these delays around getting Clerks back into Clerkships. K. Busche mentioned how the timelines being impacted by COVID-19 means considerations may potentially need to be made around: 1) changing duration of Clerkship rotations and/or extending clerkship into May-June, 2) reducing student breaks, 3) having SARC decide if students require more time on clinical rotations, 4) tuition impacts for students who may need to receive additional training. As of right now, there is no plan to alter the start date for residency for the class of 2021: July 1, 2021 is still the target.

A. Maini asked a question around how rotations, order of rotations would be decided once the return occurs.

K. Busche mentioned it would need to be decided based around a number of considerations, but he would hope that because students have chosen their order of rotations etc, that could be maintained where possible as students have chosen their orders for a reason. A lot of the decisions would be based around CaRMS potentially changing their timeline. K. Busche mentioned it would need to be discussed about potentially redoing the lottery based on a new CaRMS timeline to allow people to make decisions around that as well. M. Paget mentioned that Academic Technologies is up for all of the challenges around these considerations: moving mandatory rotations, shorten some rotations, try to push elective spaces back in before the CaRMS timeline, a lot of electives not being open until September, etc. M. Paget is ready to try and tackle the problems to ensure students have everything that UME can get for them to be ready for CaRMS.

K. Busche mentioned a lot of these decisions can only be made after it is determined 1) when students will return to clinical activity, and 2) which Clerkship rotations they would be able to return to and 3) what the CaRMS timeline will look like.

T. Haws inquired on the status of the October Break for students with trips planned, and potentially having their wedding etc. K. Busche mentioned he knows that reducing student break time is just one of the possibilities and not necessarily one that is having plans looked at currently, K. Busche but as soon as more information around that is available it will be passed on to students. At this time, it seems unlikely that we would have an October break, as that break was timed with the intent of both giving students a break after a long stretch in clerkship without one immediately prior to the document submission time for CaRMS which is expected to change.

3.2 Plans for Learning During “Off Time”

K. Busche mentioned a proposal for students to do all the online learning for the clinical rotations they were scheduled to be on, so students get as much of the didactic learning required done now, so once the students return to clinical activity they are able to maximize that clinical time.

The group had a discussion of the proposal and how it could impact the various Clerkship rotations, such as allowing students to decide which teachings they wanted to go into themselves vs. assigning those based on clerkship rotations. A. Maini suggested doing more than one clerkship's teaching at the same time, to further front-load the non-clinical teaching. Dr. K. Albrecht noted that doing multi-clerkship teaching now could save a lot of time later – time that would allow students to complete clerkship on schedule.

J. Haws brought up challenges around Course 8 because the virtue of the content requires a lot of emulators etc, so a lot of creative solutions will need to be considered around how the content could be delivered. K. Busche agreed, and reiterated it would be difficult for all Clerkships to be able to deliver all of the non clinical curriculum up-front and save all of the clinical for the back-end, but solutions to optimize that practice should be looked at.

K. Busche mentioned plans were in place to begin getting some really great stuff for UCLIC students as well, developed by R. Ram and the UCLIC leadership and Dr. Johnston from DRLLI.

4. Next Meeting

K. Busche mentioned the next meeting's details would be circulated to the committee once determined.

5. Adjournment

K. Busche (*Chair*) adjourned the meeting at 12:03PM.

Minutes: Dave Beninger – March 27, 2020
Edits: Dr. Kevin Busche – March 31, 2020