UCONN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

EDUCATION COUNCIL | Meeting Minutes
March 20, 2025

**Time:** 4:30 p.m.

**Location:** Online via Zoom

**Present (voting):** S. Angus (Chair), L. Chirch, A. Delany, B. Diniz, P. Epstein, V. Forbes, B. Kream, P. Luthra, A. McDermott, M. Sanders, A. Sanjay, H. Swede

**(non-voting):** M. Hurley, B. Mayer

**Excused (voting):** D. Choudhary, M. Eugene, M. Held, S-J. Lee

**(non-voting):** K. Dodge-Kafka, J. Nissen

**Guests:** L. Caines, U. Knapik, Z. Lazzarini, A. Perrin, A. Valone

*NOTE: All votes are done with quorum present.*

| Topics | Discussion | Outcome/Action Items |
|---|---|---|
| **Approval of Minutes** | February 20, 2025 | **Motion to approve meeting minutes. Seconded. Approved unanimously, with one abstention.** |
| **Business** | | |
| **HSS Proposal** (Z. Lazzarini, J. Pella, A. Perrin) | Last year, CUME and EC reviewed and approved Health Systems Science (HSS) Stage 1, which has been running for a year. HSS 1.2 and HSS 2.0, for the second and third years respectively, has been under review and comment at the CUME level. Dr. Jeffrey Pella is the director of the second-year course (HSS 1.2) and Dr. Perrin is the director of the third-year course (HSS 2.0).<br><br>The second-year HSS course is based on content previously included in the VITAL and PACTS courses, with a focus on Health Systems Science. This includes classroom time, small-group time, journal clubs, and experiential sessions, along with a fifteen-hour minimum community service requirement. Blocks D and E will contain a 42-hour course encompassing both blocks. Key changes include a more efficient structure and optimization of interprofessional experience blocks.<br><br>HSS Stages 2/3 is a longitudinal clerkship with clinical exposure during other clerkships and the final assessment done at the students' pace in late Stage 2/early Stage 3. This course contains no new clinical time as the objectives and required clinical encounters (10) are built into other clerkships. Dedicated HSS sessions are held during home weeks A and B. The | **Motion to approve HSS Stages 1.2 and 2.0. Seconded. Approved unanimously.** |

| Topics | Discussion | Outcome/Action Items |
|---|---|---|
| | NBME HSS shelf exam will be held for students between Stages 2/3 in May-October and will be proctored on campus. The Stage 3 VITAL project is being eliminated as a graduation requirement.<br><br>For academic year 2025-2026, the course will be Pass/Fail only with no honors at this point. The pass level has been set below other clerkships, at the 3rd percentile, but this may increase in future years. Students who do not achieve the 3rd percentile will enhance and reassess the course with an individualized exam. | |
| **Standardizing Grading in Core Clerkships**<br>(L. Caines) | Dr. Caines presented a proposal to standardize grading across clerkships. Feedback from students included grading not being consistent or transparent across clerkships and being compared to their peers rather than a benchmark. UME is hoping to implement the updated grading standardization in May 2025 for the upcoming academic year.<br><br>LCME guidelines require grades be made available to students within six weeks after the completion of the rotation. Currently, grades have been provided to students within six weeks but not honors designations. Dr. Caines's team met with an LCME consultant to determine what grading benchmarks look like. They then developed an initial grading model with ChatGPT, presented this to the clerkship committee, and combined the committee's feedback into an updated grading model.<br><br>Core clerkship directors were given three choices for standardizing grades as a percentage of clerkship evaluation, shelf exam score, and other factors if applicable (70% evaluation and 30% exam, 60% evaluation and 40% exam, or 60% evaluation/30% exam/10% other).<br><br>Clerkship directors also met with a statistician to develop a site coefficient for each location for their clerkship; this site coefficient will be recalculated at the start of each academic year. The statistician also worked with clerkship directors to determine honors criteria using historical data.<br><br>New pass criteria include completing all required assignments, a score greater or equal to 3 on all components of the evaluation, and a score greater or equal to the 5th percentile on the NBME shelf exam. New honors criteria include the passing criteria and no professionalism breeches. | **Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved unanimously, with one exception.** |

| Topics | Discussion | Outcome/Action Items |
|---|---|---|
| | All clerkships will follow the revised grading model above, except for Radiology, which is different than other clerkships due to its longitudinal nature. Students must average 65%+ on all quizzes, score greater than 3 on Dr. Baldwin's performance evaluation and teaching file case presentation, attend an on-call shift with Dr. Baldwin, and have no professionalism issues. Radiology honors criteria are determined by a 70% quiz score + 20% evaluation score + 10% teaching file score. Based on historical data, the honors cut off score would be 90 if 30% of the class gets honors. | |
| **UME AΩA Update**<br>(A. Perrin) | Dr. Perrin presented a statistical analysis of AΩA that indicated there was no benefit to students in obtaining their first choice for residency. Currently, they are recommending not restarting the AΩA at UConn. | **Motion to approve disbanding UME chapter of AΩA. Seconded. Approved unanimously.** |
| **Informational** | | |
| **None** | | |
| **Standing Monthly Reports** | | |
| **CUME** | See updates above. | |
| **GME** | No update; GMEC has not meet since last EC. | |
| **GPC** | GPC met this week and discussed program assessment and learning objectives for PhD and master's programs in the Graduate School. All programs will be required to have formal assessments and learning objectives in place for the next accreditation visit.<br><br>GPC also had a starting conversation on generative AI in graduate programs. A small committee is drafting a policy addressing use of AI in both the general exam and the dissertation. PhD positions are currently on hold due to diminished grant funding. | |
| **MD/PhD** | Take-a-look day for MD/PhD applicants is being held at the same time as medical student second-look day. This concludes the MD/PhD admissions cycle, and they will find out how many new MD/PhD students they will have at end of April/beginning of May. | |

| Topics | Discussion | Outcome/Action Items |
|---|---|---|
| **CME** | CME will provide their annual update at EC next month. They recently had an accreditation site visit, and they think it went well. Drs. Thatcher and Sanders recently returned from giving an oral presentation at a national committee meeting. CME's new computer system will come online in the beginning of May. | |
| **Dean's Council** | Dean's Council discussed budget issues affecting state and federal finances, and the Dean is hoping to have a resolution in May. Recent NIH meetings were initially cancelled but have since been reinstated to judge grants. There are no budget adjustments for inflation from 2024 to 2025. There is a $60m shortfall in the state budget, which does not include raises for state employees.<br><br>The rate of 66.5% for indirect costs (IDC) will be continued through September 2025. Thirty PhD students were admitted last year, primarily funded by IDC, and the University is expecting significantly less funding for this year. MD/PhD student offers are being rescinded nationally, and the Dean wants to preserve and protect current students before accepting new students.<br><br>Hiring for new research positions is on hold due to high start-up costs, and the University is considering co-hiring faculty with JAX to reduce expenses.<br><br>Dr. Juan Salazar (Chief of Pediatrics at CCMC) is leaving to go to Vanderbilt in July, and a hiring committee headed by Dr. Steffens has been created to find a replacement. | |
| **For the next/future meeting(s):** | CME Update (April; M. Sanders)<br>LCME Visit Update (Oct/Nov; M. Held)<br>HCOP Update (Date TBD, Dr. Hurley)<br>MMT Report (Date TBD; M. Held, C. Thatcher) | **Meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.** |

**Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting:** *April 17, 2025, via Zoom*