

Second Year Course Directors Committee (CD 2) 2001-02 Annual Report

Purpose: Coordinate the Curriculum for the Second Year of Medical School

Chairs: K. Rao & N. Shaheen, Members:

Members: All second year course directors.

Dates: Second Tuesday afternoon of every month

Topic #1: Second Year Curriculum Schedule

Progress: Performed a major revision of the second year schedule. The committee redesigned the second year curriculum schedule, consolidating all testing into 5 testing blocks in the 1st semester and 4 testing blocks in the 2nd semester. Each testing block now has a 1-2 day reading period prior to the block. Courses that were previously spread throughout the year and therefore somewhat disjointed, including clinical epidemiology and genetics, are now taught in blocks. Nutrition and GI are taught concurrently.

Plans: Address further integration of materials across departmental courses.

Topic #2 Student Assessment Task Force Guidelines

Progress: Debated and adopted the Student Assessment Task Force guidelines. These guidelines should help standardize grading and testing policies across courses.

Plans: Develop a formal system for peer teaching evaluation. Currently, our only assessment tools are student evaluations. While helpful, these evaluations are inadequate to truly assess course structure as well as content.

Topic #3: Small Group & Interactive Learning

Progress: Developed resources and expertise for small group and interactive learning. The committee has recognized over-reliance on large group lectures, with a relative paucity of active learning and small group learning, as a major shortcoming of the second year curriculum. This year, by presenting training sessions on a variety of small group teaching methods to the CD2 committee, we have been educated on other options for presenting material. Drs. Carol Tresolini, Dick Sutherland, as well as Donna Harward made presentations to the committee to discuss opportunities for small group teaching.

Plans: Expand use of electronic testing materials. Currently, most of our courses use the AIMS system to test their students. Expansion of the use of this system, as well as exploration into other electronic testing options, will be undertaken.

Second Year Course Directors Committee (CD 2) 2001-02 Annual Report

Topic #4: Electronic Learning Materials

Progress: Improved electronic learning materials. The committee recognizes the large variability in electronic materials available for each of our classes. Some of this variability is desirable – there is no reason to expect that courses with different subject matter would have the same uses of or needs for various electronic learning tools. However, some of the variability is not intended, and instead reflects varying levels of proficiency in and comfort with the development of electronic learning tools for our members' classes. In an effort to address this issue, members of the ETG made presentations designed to further educate our members of the potential for the electronic syllabus, as well as other options open to them to integrate electronic and multimedia products in their teaching. This has led to revision of several courses electronic syllabi and other offerings, and improved the second years' electronic teaching materials.

Plans: NA

Topic #5: Paper Syllabus Revision

Progress: Discussed and adopted paper syllabus revision principles. Because of financial concerns, several major decisions have been made with respect to the courses' paper syllabi. This year, we will convert our syllabus production to Course Paks, allowing students the option of buying all or some of the paper materials at their choice. Additionally, attempts will be made to minimize the paper utilization of the syllabus, by placing all non-essential learning materials, as well as administrative materials, on the courses' internet sites.

Plans: NA

Topic #6: Student Evals & Withholding Grades

Progress: Passed a resolution that an individual student's grade for a course would not be released to the Registrar until the on-line course evaluation has been completed and received. Efforts to improve teaching require constant and meaningful feedback from learners. This resolution is an effort to significantly increase the proportion of learners who participate and to improve the credibility of the result of the evaluation survey.

Plans: NA

Other Issues Discussed that should be considered by CMC, MedEd Admin, Departments (i.e. impediments to progress)

The lack of dedicated funding to support the teaching effort in second year courses continues to inhibit progress in our committee. Many committee members have none of their effort funded to pursue teaching endeavors, and essentially cram their teaching duties around what they are expected to be doing clinically or in their research. This is clearly unacceptable. Further efforts need to be made to track teaching effort and make sure that appropriate credit is given for teaching effort, as well as appropriate salary support for those who are teaching.

Grants or papers resulting: None