Announcements:

1) **Presentation on Fundamentals on Test Item Writing- G. Cizek**
   a. A presentation was given on how to write test items.

2) **Next Year Schedule- N. Shaheen**
   a. If the course directors are thinking about doing something with their schedule please let Dr. Shaheen and Dr. Rao know now. The new 2008-2009 Schedule is being developed.
   b. If you would like the Pulmonary slot, that slot is available due to a national meetings.
   c. Dr. Dent stated that 2008-2009 academic schedule should be kept the same in regards to the new Gateway exam. There will be plenty of notice before the new gateway exam goes into effect which will impact the academic schedule.

3) **Berryhill- C. McCartney**
   a. The current plans for the Berryhill’s 4th and 5th floors are that they may be available for student use by Jan. 1, 2008, with 24 hour access. However, there is no guarantee that the work needed to bring Berryhill back online will be completed by Jan. 1, 2008.
   b. Berryhill when closed had all of the computers, networking cables, and projectors removed. However, under the current plan, when Berryhill reopens, rooms will return to having all networking and internet capabilities.
   c. Berryhill will have the personal space for students to study 24 hours a day.

4) **Shortening of Basic Sciences- N. Shaheen**
   a. There has been a committee formed to look at the first two years of medical education to address concerns of students who have exceptional previous activities to accelerate the student’s curriculum.
   b. In conjunction, there has been talk of shortening the length of the first two years. The idea is that the clinical years could be started a little bit earlier.
   c. Other institutions are providing some accommodations to accelerate the students with exceptional backgrounds, and ultimately UNC may be loosing a few of these students to these intuitions.
   d. Dr. Shaheen asked for anyone who had a special interest in this newly formed committee on shortening the basic sciences to communicate with Dr. Shaheen.

5) **Respiratory Update- S. Carson**
   a. The course was great and the logistics were fine.
   b. There was an issue with virtual images. This issue is being addressed by Howard Reisner.