

Biomedical Sciences Curriculum Committee Meeting Minutes

SMHS

Tuesday, April 27, 2021 – 2pm via Zoom

In attendance: Jon Allen, Marc Basson, Kurt Borg, Peter Bueide, Pat Carr, Xuesong Chen, Megan Denis, Jane Dunlevy, Minnie Kalyanasundaram, Mark Koponen, Jim Porter, Ken Ruit, Rick Van Eck, Susan Zelewski.

Members not in attendance: Bibhuti Mishra, Dev Pant,

Minutes Submitted by: Alissa Hancock

Minutes Reviewed by: Jane Dunlevy

Minutes Approved by: Kurt Borg and Mark Koponen

MSC = motion made, seconded, carried

AGENDA ITEM	SUMMARY	ACTION/FOLLOW-UP
1. Welcome/call to order	Dr. Dunlevy, chair called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm via Zoom.	Informational
2. Approval of Minutes 4.6.21		MSC to approve the 4.6.21 minutes. Kurt Borg / Susan Zelewski // carried.
3. Standing Items		
4. Old Business	<p>a. Unified Session I report</p> <p>The report format was adjusted to make more sense with this being a transitional year for the curriculum. There is no longer a composite grade but they do have a combined score that includes more exams. This year there are no re-examinations after each unified session, but there are remediation's and there were 6 rededications which is much better than previous years. It was also noted that is students showing signs of struggle with the MCQ or CAS exams it raises flags for us that they may need some assistance with future standardized exams, which will affect them to continue onto the next phase the curriculum.</p> <p>Looking at the different topics/subjects were fairly close the previous year's scores with the except for anatomy. Due to COVID they were not able to start anatomy labs until much later in the unified session.</p> <p>Achieve sessions have been expanded and refocused by Dr. Jim Porter and Michelle Montgomery. Students had weekly quizzes which were formative only and were to be taken over the weekend. This was one way to also monitor students learning weekly material especially since we are not in person to observe directly.</p>	MSC to approve the AY 19-20 Unified Session 1 as presented. Kurt Borg / Patrick Carr // carried.

	<p>Opportunities for the Unified Session that were also challenges was the transition into curriculum 1.5 and the new curriculum database (Leo). Students were overall just not pleased with their experience, which we also saw in the ISA and the end of unified session survey. This is largely attributed to student’s frustration with the COVID-19 pandemic. They also expressed concern the difficulty to get to know their classmates without in-person activities and the time management of faculty with lectures going long or not starting on time due to technology difficulties. However, students were pleased to have the Achieve and SIMPLE sessions on stress management and the lectures. Even with the stress of the pandemic on top of medical school; students have performed very well on their assessments. It should be noted that this is a national wide collegiate trend as reported in the Chronical of Higher Education.</p> <p>Goals: To start to implement Unit 1 (Curriculum 2.0) which will be largely different than Unified Session 1 and also trying to implement some changes based on the feedback we received this year from students. There will be more integration of biomedical and clinical sciences throughout the curriculum. Knowing that students learn differently, we will be working with students to set up study plans that would work best for them.</p> <p>Huge congratulations to everyone faculty, staff and students for getting through this last academic year. It has been challenging for everyone.</p>	
<p>5. New Business</p>	<p>a. AY 19-20 Block 6 report</p> <p>There are 75 students for this class and there were 26 students received honors this block. There were 3 students that needed to remediate and did so successfully. 1 for medical science and 2 for clinical sciences. We did change how we calculated the students overall grade to include more exams, which may be a factor with the number of honors. Students did better in pharmacology but they dropped some to hematopoietic and lymphoreticular system. Also our pathology based CAS exam average scores are on par with the national scores.</p> <p>A strength of the block was the use of the CAS and CBSE exams to start to give students experience of feel for standardized exams. Also thinking that this may help with the reduced number of remediation’s and the increase of honors also. Also the frequency of exams has also increased do they are at mid-block and end of block.</p> <p>Goals: Implement the curriculum 1.5 and transitioning from block to unified sessions for class of 2024 and to ensure the students get their lunch hour break to break up the 8-5 learning schedule and continue to have twice a unified session/block exam.</p>	<p>MSC to approve the AY 19-20 Block 6 report. Jon Allen / Patrick Carr // carried.</p>

	<p>Concerns of students were the repeating topics they attended for ACHIEVE from year 1 to year 2. Also the lack of interaction they had with their classmates with everything being virtual. Would like to see joint in-person gatherings for years 1 & 2 when possible.</p> <p>Students would like to have less mandatory sessions and have the ACHIEVE sessions be better timing within the curriculum. However, we will say that ACHIEVE is still fairly new to the curriculum and we are learning as we go and taking feedback in consideration.</p>	
	<p>b. AY 19-20 Block 7 report</p> <p>Again, 75 students in the class and 29 received honors with 2 remediation's. 1 in medical science and will remediate in May and 1 in clinical science and has successfully remediated. Which is lower than previous years and we think it may be connected to the increased frequency in which we assess students. The case exam and CAS scores were on par with last year's scores, however the CBSE scores were a little lower than last year. This was also the first block that the CBSE was a high-stakes exam and needed to achieve a score of 194 to move on to the next phase of the curriculum.</p> <p>For this class and the way, we had to compress the curriculum schedule as we work on transitioning to the new curriculum this block was split up with a 2-week break over holiday break. They had 2-weeks of curriculum followed by the break then finished the rest of the block. Students did not like this and felt like they had to study over that 2-week break instead fully enjoying the break.</p> <p>Also, with all assessments being on a single day. We worked very hard to get the students all learning materials for those lectures that were on the day prior to their exams so they had time to review and study the material. The weight of the CBSE exam weighed heavily on student's mental health and would like to see that exam be on a single day without the other curriculum events. Which we can see and will work hard to try to make happen but is very difficult with the curriculum schedule.</p>	<p>MSC to approve the AY 19-20 Block 7 report. Jon Allen / Patrick Carr // carried.</p>
	<p>c. (Y2Q) Year 2 Questionnaire results</p> <p>Dr. Jane Dunlevy will review the results and pick those that we as a committee will need to review and discuss how we can address those questions. We will review this again in the near future. However, May's meeting is anticipated to be filled with curricular content.</p>	<p><i>Dunlevy to follow up.</i></p>
<p>6. Other Business</p>	<p><u>Phase 1 Summer Electives</u></p>	<p>MSC to allow Michelle Montgomery</p>

	<p>We just found out that the Wellness summer elective that was approved does not meet number of hours needed to 1 credit, which should be 45 hours/week. Michelle Montgomery has agreed to add additional working hours to meet the credit hour criteria.</p>	<p>to increase the number of hours for the phase 1 summer wellness elective. Kurt Borg / Mark Koponen // carried.</p>
	<p>Meeting adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>Next meeting May 11, 2021.</p>