

**Deans Luncheon Meeting Minutes**  
**4/22/2019**

**Dean Buckley**

- Philanthropy
  - Recent alumni weekend a success, discussed with alumni about student debt
  - VCU currently above national rate for student debt; ongoing effort to reduce it
  - Medical Philanthropic Academy created to train faculty, department chairs, and deans to ask for donation and raise awareness to contribute to SOM
- Recruitments
  - Search for the new Chair of Psychiatry is ongoing, two candidates are being considered
  - Formally announced Dr. Lydia Johnson as the new official Chair of Dermatology
  - Plan to start a national recruitment process soon for new Chair of Family Medicine after recent announcement of retirement by Dr. Anton Kuzel
  - New media communication specialist Amber Logan to join in June to broaden communication strategies beyond the School of Medicine
- Have met and will meet again in May with minority students to discuss the recent incident with Governor Northam and in the future promise to engage with the students first in such issues
- Recently interviewed with AAMC, as part of the Board of Trustees, about academic medicine and the direction to create more diverse working environment as Dr. David Skorton is newly appointed as the president and CEO of AAMC
- 4 medical students presented at the AAMC Conference last week

**Dr. DiGiovanni**

- 6 out of 36 alumni from Class of 2016 who have gone into Internal Medicine were chosen as Chief Residents at their residency programs
- Internal surveys have been analyzed by the Office of Assessment, will be reviewed at the next faculty meeting
- Meeting this Thursday (4/25) to discuss potential changes in curriculum:
  - Return of quartile ranking that will be open to residency programs while keeping the pass/fail system
  - Raising the minimum passing exam score from 60% to 65%
  - Creating a minimum passing score for anatomy practical
- Changes in personal leaves policy next year
  - Preclinical
    - Four personal days will no longer be available
    - Any graded curricular content such as TBL or small group activities will result in grade of 0 for that activity.
  - Clinical

- no changes, students can request up to four personal leave days for conferences, family events, religious holidays, etc.,
    - The curriculum office notified at least 8 weeks in advance
    - The student must be a presenter at a conference in order to receive approval.
    - The student may be asked to make up the clinical work.
  - Planned absences will never be permitted on exam and shelf days, for both preclinical and clinical years, with the exception of religious holidays requested in advance at the beginning of the year.
- Lecture recordings are and will be reviewed to ensure the content is academically relevant and neutral

#### **Dr. Woleben**

- Every year a bias training for faculty and course directors is provided to separate academics from politics and personal beliefs

#### **Dr. Ryan**

- Combined ICU/ED rotation for M4s was in the works but at this time withdrawn due to logistics regarding faculty
- The number of available ICU spots may now be enough for the interested students
- Still working on increasing the availability for EM rotation
- Promise to be more timely in announcing cancelation of lectures and events, e.g. M3 longitudinal sessions

#### **Student Concerns**

There have been several concerns regarding the absences and exemption requests, where certain students have felt that the policies are too strict and unaccommodating, and that they were unsupported by the institution. Given the already very limited number of excused absences allowed per semester, students wanted to request that the school allow the students to make more reasonable accommodations to complete required work and exams either before or, at the administration's choice, immediately afterwards.

#### **Dr. DiGiovanni**

- Planned absences will never be permitted on exam days, to prevent cheating; only exception is religious holidays, of which the curriculum office must be notified at the beginning of the school year.
- The other exception are the unplanned absences such as illness and death of family members, and an exception request must be completed within 24 hours of the absence with documentation attached.
- Conference attendance for presentation is considered an excused absence, but it will still result in grade of 0 for the activity missed. However, if the student had

been excused from a PCM workshop, the curriculum office will rearrange the schedule to accommodate and ensure that you complete the workshop.