

## **Deans' Luncheon February 7, 2020**

### **Recruitments**

- Meeting next week with the finalist for Chief Development Officer, who is in charge of raising scholarships
  - Last year we were able to award \$1.79M for scholarship
  - School's goals to raise more to support the current medical students and to attract the best future applicants
- Chair of Family Medicine:
  - selection still in progress
  - one of the candidates was trained by Dr. Costanzo herself!
- Associate Dean of Medical Education
  - the search committee is reviewing and determining which candidates to invite for further interview
  - planning to discuss the details on how students can interact with the candidates and provide their input
- Chair of Emergency Medicine
  - now has formed a search committee
  - in process of looking for candidates
- Chair of Anesthesia:
  - Has identified the co-chairs of the committee as well as an external consultant from Johns Hopkins
- Kathy Grossman has accepted to be the permanent director of the Simulation Center

### **Consultation with Dr. Wallach**

- Summary letter of his views was received
- Very impressed with caliber of engagement and altruism of the students
- Objective data such as USMLE scores show that students are above the national level
- Has endorsed that we begin the search for the new associate dean of medical education
- Affirmed that the school does have more work to do such as additional support recruitment and to work with students more closely to support their career development
- *Provided and suggested resources that Dr. Brinegar is now utilizing to find some additional academic support person and a psychologist dedicated to medical students and to enhance the services provided for the students*
- Deans appreciate the students for rising up to the task despite the unexpectedly shorter timeline students were given
- The visit also set up the foundation for the LCME accreditation meeting that will occur in few years, by completing the DCI in preparation for Dr. Wallach

### **Other News and Discussion**

- Dr. Darrell Kirch, president emeritus of AAMC, will be this year's speaker at the Hooding Ceremony on Friday, May 8th at 3PM at VCU Siegel Center.

- Emails regarding graduation, mach results, and waiver forms will be sent out to M4s soon.
- Several student leaders and Dr. Woleben have been discussing task force teams to tackle imminent issues such as preclinical and clinical absence policy, mistreatment, wellness initiatives, and society renaming.
  - Each task force will have 1-2 student leaders and other interested students assigned to random task force to come up with policies that will be brought to MSG and the curriculum council for further discussion and proposal to the curriculum office
  - The curriculum office can work with students to implement the ideas to the best of its abilities
  - More information will be announced via email from student affairs.
- The deans are well aware of this year's scheduling difficulties with Marrow course
  - An unexpected challenge due to changes in University calendar
  - Unfortunate, but very uncommon occurrence
- Admission for the Class of 2024 is almost done, and will bring in a new group of people who are always raising the bar
- The society T-shirts for M1s will be distributed during the Buckley Bowl; in future they will be handed out during orientation.

### **Student Concerns**

1. Some students asked if advising for Step 2 would be available.
  - Per Dr. Ryan, academic counseling and additional support are automatically available for those students with prior Step 1 or shelf exam failure to prepare for Step 2.
  - Presentations for M3s transitioning into M4s have introduced several resources such as question banks, First Aid.
  - Historically the average Step 2 score for VCU has been 4-5 points higher than the national average score.
  - Performance on shelf exams provides insight on how students typically fare on Step 2 exam.
  - Typically 2-3 weeks of studying with Step 2 CK practice questions have been adequate for most students, with good results.
  - Any students who look for more individualized guidance can meet up with the deans such as Dr. Ryan or even Dr. Costanzo, to discuss test taking skills or if needed, a study plan as well.
  - Dr. Ryan also surveys M4 students each year regarding resources they have used to prepare for Step 2; the information will be available for M3s.
  - Mock CS is to take place during February and March.
  
2. There were concerns again this year regarding the gross anatomy dissection kits and gloves. Students report receiving unclear instructions on which kit to buy and the difficulty of having to obtain the kits themselves, that are of appropriate quality for the

dissection. Glove shortage towards the end of the anatomy course is another ongoing issue that is brought up.

- Over the years the class presidents and officers have become responsible for many financial businesses including anatomy kits.
  - The Curriculum Office plans to take over those responsibilities and lessen their burden.
  - Student fees will be created for next year to cover costs of dissection kits, gloves, and other materials required for anatomy course.
  - In addition, orientation fee will be charged as well for activities and items such as Challenge Discovery, Myers-Briggs analysis, and society T-shirts.
  - Spok Mobile fee will also be instituted, as 85% of the students choose the app only.
  - M3 vests will remain as a class fundraiser opportunity.
3. M3 clinical rotation grades are not being returned to students in a timely fashion or within the timeframe outlined in the student handbook (A number of rotations have taken longer than 6 weeks to return grades with the last rotation taking over 9 weeks to return grades.)
- Dr. Ryan is currently working on this issue, communicating with the clerkships.
  - Also to be discussed among deans are the complaints of M3 evaluation system that require written comments for designation of “Exemplary” or “Not Competent” for Communication/Teamwork and Professionalism, that end up encouraging residents and attendings to designate students with “Competent” instead.