

Deans Luncheon
Friday, January 17th, 2020

Dr. Peter Buckley

- Updates on the external consultation with Dr. Wallach
 - Dr. Wallach met up with students and faculty in December, with additional follows up as needed
 - Discussed the preliminary thoughts last week, currently waiting on a more formal letter of evaluation, which will be announced soon
 - Dr. Wallach feels that the school went through the circumstance well and that current additional short-term support (e.g. Dr. Costanzo) is good
 - No drastic structural change required prior to national search for replacement senior associate dean
 - More personnel in curriculum support is necessary, and will be addressed
 - Strong educational program per LCME Data Collection Instrument (e.g. strong USMLE score and graduation rate)
 - Glowing comments re: students' professionalism and their caliber of academics, as well as the caliber of commitment from faculty
 - Overall a fine program with goals of further improvement
- Search for the new permanent Senior Associate Dean is underway
 - Search committee is led by Dr. David Chelmow, Chair of Dept of OB/GYN
 - Broad representation in the committee, students will be part of the process
 - Recruitment is rolling based: the committee will conduct a one-on-one search until the right candidate is found, rather than to gather up multiple candidates at once to select one

Dr. Chris Woleben

- January 20th is Lobby Day
 - VCU Health reminds students to avoid being on VCU Medical Campus due to large population of people expected
 - Student call room will be open to employees instead
- M4 Rank List opened on Wednesday, January 15th, submission due February 26th
- Drs. Deiorio and Woleben willing to meet with students to help
- Match week is the 3rd week of March; Match Day is March 20th
- Monthly student affairs newsletter has been sent out for January
 - Appreciates both positive and negative feedback from students
- Planning study breaks for M2s in their dedicated period!

Dr. Whitehurst-Cook

- New tour guide directors have now been chosen from the M1 class

- M4s are currently actively participating in the admissions process
- For the interested m3s, an information email will be soon sent out
- Virtual open house for incoming M1 class to be held in February

Dr. Costanzo

- All 3 advisors are working very closely with the M2 students for Step 1
- Started initial meetings with Dr. Baumgarten to work on the physio and cardio course to evaluate student comments and the content,
- Meeting with curriculum reps next Friday to get some more feedback then with entire course faculty to talk about general issues and address more easily fixable matters
- More report next time to come

Dr. Biskobing

- M2 Class start date will be July 20th
- Changing the order of the preclinical column was discussed and unanimously denied: MBB to stay as the last course of preclinical training
- Junior and senior AOA votes to occur in April

Dr. Ryan

- M4 AI and Senior Advanced Electives Lottery delayed due to M3 clerkship capacity issues
- M4 Planning session scheduled on Tuesday, January 21st with Drs. Ryan and Woleben

Dr. Deiorio

- Currently in the process of updating technical standards for SOM, updates to follow

Ms. Cetin

- M4 exit counseling in progress
- Please schedule a meeting with Ms. Paula Cetin or Ms. Paula Rafferty
- This meeting to discuss student loans and finances will take about an hour

Dr. Navarro

- Team meetings to discuss communications regarding external PR for the Match Day
- Commencement speaker to be announced in 1st week of February
- Announcements to come regarding donation opportunities for the Puerto Rico medical schools and students in need of financial assistance
 - Will not be a centralized donation
 - Will simply provide the resources for interested individuals

- Looking for student and faculty input on allocation of areas in MMEC and lockers that are overdue for replacement and expansion

Student Concerns

1. Some students requested a definitive answer to whether or not vests were necessary during the clinical years, and what alternatives are available, should vests be optional.
 - In the past, the cost of the vests were included as part of tuition until the class officers took over the sales as part of their class fundraiser
 - SOM does not mandate students to purchase a vest
 - Another option is wearing white coat with sleeves rolled up, or to forgo both
 - SOM will communicate this with individual clerkship coordinators
 - Note: attendings may have different expectations for their own clinics
2. Many students continue to express their interest in NBME exams during preclinical years and ask the deans to explore the idea.
 - Biggest barrier is the high cost of NBME exams that would add to the tuition
 - Corresponding the exam content to course materials is extremely difficult; customization of each exam would further add to cost
 - Previous attempts in the past to switch to NBME were not successful due to less than ideal quality of the exam questions; many are either poorly written or have been retired and no longer relevant
 - While the practice NBME exams for Step 1 are more comprehensive and required for students, same is not feasible for the entire preclinical curriculum
 - USMLE Rx was added to aid students in their Step 1 studying
3. M3s were concerned that their specialty advisors did not have a great idea on what their role is nor what they could offer for the students.
 - Each year SOM provides the advisors guidelines and timeline for advisors to utilize in helping the students
 - It is up to the discretion of the departments to determine those appropriate to be an advisor.
 - SOM will bring to the attention of the departments on the needs and type of information students look for such as: recommended rotations, AI requirements, where to apply.
4. Many students for a long time have had issues of submitting their requests well in advance without receiving a response in a timely manner, or without receiving a response at all.
 - The curriculum office frequently checks for new exception requests and try to respond to them in a timely manner.

- If your request has not been addressed within a week, please check in with the office in person!
- Clinical years - exception requests must be approved by both the curriculum office and the clerkship directors. Please contact the coordinators as well to ensure your request has been submitted properly. The curriculum office communicates with clerkship coordinators weekly regarding the exception requests.