

**Deans Luncheon Meeting Minutes  
September 28, 2018**

Dr. Buckley

- Not in attendance

Dr. DiGiovanni

- Continued from last meeting, fundraising campaign
  - VCU SOM \$300M campaign ends June 30
  - 1838 Endowed Scholarship Campaign: \$20M achieved out of \$25M goal
  - 30 new scholarships made since 2013, 16 more scholarships being created now
  - Has also increased the size of existing scholarships
  - a lot of progress in the past 5 years, efforts continue
- M4 specialty-specific advisors
  - We have two deans (Drs. Woleben and Deiorio) now so it will be easier to communicate with departments but it's really the departments that have to take those resources available to them
  - The students should have a good idea of how they're doing already, using his/her Medical Student Performance Evaluation (a comprehensive assessment of one's performance in medical school)
- Geriatrics
  - The timing of the M4 geriatrics module cannot be moved.
  - M3 year is already way too busy
  - Just cannot accommodate the scheduling to have all M4 students to do the module in the spring semester; has to be spread out over the year
- Religious holidays
  - Christmas is the only Christian holiday SOM observes, because it is mandated by the university during winter break
  - Academic schedules have never taken religious holidays into account unless mandated by the university
  - The absence process has been changed to be more flexible
- Personal days
  - Request should be filed at least 4 weeks advance.
  - There has been some exceptions made on extraordinary circumstances
  - Occasionally some clerkships have given an ok on less than 4 weeks, but we're going to crack down on the rules
  - An absence due to illness or an emergency is classified as an unplanned absence; this extends to illnesses due to stress and mental health
    - Submit an exception request within 24 hours of the absence with a doctor's note or documentation
    - More details are described in the Student Handbook
  - Personal days should be reserved for events planned in advance, i.e. friends' weddings or conferences

- If M3/M4 has submitted a personal day request and it has not gone through in timely manner, it is likely because of the clerkships delaying the process; contact Dr. Brinegar
- A strong reminder that if there is anything going on, please reach out to faculty because one should not fail exams because he or she is stressed out or having extraneous issue. We would like to help you and want you to learn when you are prepared for it.
- M4 elective
  - Last minute cancellation is something we try best to avoid, but can happen if the faculty members themselves cancel at the last minute due to personal issues
  - Lack of communication from the faculty's ends has been another issue
  - We're trying to develop a better system for it, such as audit for the electives or maybe an assistant for the faculty

#### Dr. Woleben

- M4 specialty-specific advisors
  - Every year we send advisors local VCU match data and recent national statistics, as well as a guide of contents that should be discussed in the planning meeting; whether they open them is another matter
  - Has reached out to departments to meet with advisors to go over some principles of advising
  - Dr. Deiorio and he are working on getting that out to more departments and provide more faculty development
  - The resources are provided, it is up to the departments that how much of those they will actually use them
  - Keep in mind that advisors will all have different opinions and perspectives and there's really never a right answer
- University Counseling Services
  - Their evening hours have expanded!
  - Really based on funding and staffing
  - We've contacted them recently: looking into other ways to reach them such as tele-help
  - If you have an issue getting to them then reach out to Dr. Woleben directly, so that he can help you out with finding time slots
- Insurance
  - Currently working with the VA Premier to see if students can enroll in some of their products
  - Difficult to find lower cost insurance for students receiving financial aid as income
  - Working on creating on VCU specific ones or modifying the current plans to make it available for students
  - Have data on student demographics and research on other medical schools and insurances they offer

- Mental and sexual health is likely included in the plan; vision and dental likely to be separate at additional cost
- Work in progress, no timeline set as of yet

Dr. Ryan

- M4 specialty-specific advisors
  - It's hard to know how many schools to apply because it really depends both on the students' performance and the competitiveness of the programs they choose to apply
  - The number of interview you get after applying is a better measure
  - Not much data is available to provide in terms of how well the student does and how many schools they applied



