Minutes
Education Strategic Plan Subcommittee of the
Medical Education and Research Committee (MERC)
February 12, 2008 at 7:00am – Room 4141 HSLC

Members Present: Molly Carnes, Jeff Grossman, Rick Moss, Pat Remington, Susan Skochelak

Members Absent: Jeff Stearns

Staff Present: Tracy Cabot, Cathy Frey, Tonya Mathison, Eileen Smith

1. Call meeting to order

Skochelak called the meeting to order at 7:05am.

2. Background and Charge to the MERC Strategic Plan Subcommittees

To ensure MERC membership input and participation in the development of the 2009-2014 Five-Year Plan, the Committee established three Strategic Plan Subcommittees – Research, Education, and Service/Outreach. The “Strategic Retreat Overview and Outcomes” document, which summarizes the MERC strategic planning retreat, provides the framework for the subcommittee discussions.

Skochelak reported that the Education Strategic Plan Subcommittee was charged with prioritizing the participant suggestions under Education in Section II while considering Dean Golden’s Goals and Objectives in Section I. The Subcommittee must also consider Faculty Development and OAC/MERC Collaboration in Section II, and Challenges and Issues in Section III, as they relate to education. The Subcommittee will develop a final report and rationale explaining the prioritization, which will be discussed by MERC in March, 2008.

There was general agreement by the Subcommittee to change “Faculty Development” in section II to “Faculty and Staff Development”.

Smith reported that the Education Subcommittee was asked to consider the participant suggestion listed under the Research Section of Seeking CDC support for a Prevention Center since it requires a preventive residency program. Remington indicated that Valerie Gilchrist, Chair of the Department of Family Medicine, has expressed interest in developing a preventive and community medicine residency program. There was general agreement that this issue is not within the purview of the Education Subcommittee.

3. Discuss the education initiatives proposed by participants at the MERC Strategic Planning Retreat, including consideration of seeking CDC support for a Prevention Center as proposed by the Research Subcommittee.

After reviewing the Dean’s priorities and the participant suggestions for education, the Education Subcommittee made the following recommendations and suggestions for consideration at the next meeting:
Develop education goal statements that guide investments in education in the next Five-Year Plan. The Subcommittee discussed the following preliminary themes:

- Develop innovative, evidence-based education initiatives
- Encourage student mentoring
- Support faculty development
- Ensure the breadth and alignment of education programs
- Focus on the School’s areas of strength

Continue the SMPH tradition of enabling students to reach their full potential through a balanced curriculum through engagement in service and faculty mentoring.

Define education and how it is informed by what the School does in public health.

Incorporate exposure to being an academic physician and a mentor as part of graduate student and post doctoral education. There was general agreement on the importance of exploring similar initiatives on campus.

Move the residency program from the UW Hospital and Clinics to the SMPH to provide a more coherent and comprehensive education program within the School, in recognition of residents’ participation in the teaching of medical students as well as their impact on workforce development and the health of the public since they are likely to remain in the state to practice.

Aim to have all medical students and residents complete a service program. Grossman recommended having medical students work with other health sciences students to assist a small group of underserved or chronically ill patients as they navigate through the health care system. Skochelak added that it could also be a non-clinical community experience. Carnes noted that such a program could increase the diversity of students who apply to the SMPH. Frey recommended partnering students with academic partners on OAC funded Community-Academic Partnership Fund grants.

Support the development of a program whereby medical students in years one through four participate in tracks or areas of scholarly concentration and are immersed in a lab or a community experience, depending on their interests. The Subcommittee emphasized the involvement of faculty, residents, and graduate students as mentors.

Strengthen, expand, and consider alternative methods of delivering the MPH Program by effecting a partnership with campus to provide support for the program, by considering the results of the self study that is currently underway to help define new directions for the program, and by evaluating what students who were not accepted into the program chose to do instead.

Consider reforming the way medical students are taught by implementing best practice teaching methods.

Develop an education oriented RFP. Funds could be requested to implement innovative or best practice adult education methods, to evaluate the effectiveness of innovative and novel teaching methods, or to take advanced training in education around a specific project. Moss noted that faculty could propose increasing the public health content of a course. Carnes emphasized that the faculty do significant work in education, but they do not take advantage of the scholarly nature of it by integrating their education and outreach through research.
The Education Subcommittee suggested that the Research Strategic Plan Subcommittee consider Dean Golden’s third suggestion under Education, “Increase the teaching of the principles of clinical and translational medicine to faculty, fellows, and residents through the Institute for Clinical and Translational Research”.

4. Develop a priority list of education initiatives for consideration by MERC

Smith reported that a second MERC meeting will be scheduled in late March focused on the work of the three Strategic Plan Subcommittees – Research, Education, and Service/Outreach. The Education Subcommittee will meet again to discuss the document summarizing today’s discussion. Staff will draft and distribute the document in advance of the next meeting.

5. Adjourn

Skochelak adjourned the meeting at 8:50am.

Recorder, Tonya Mathison