

**January 12, 2021**

**Every two weeks, we will write with highlights on breaking news, progress made, workgroup updates, and invite the SOM WWAMI community to ask questions about the curriculum changes which are coming in 2022.**

Dear All,

We hope you had a restful and restorative New Year. We are starting out this New Year filled with gratitude for our community of educators and inspired by your bright ideas!

We have been working on finalizing the schedules for the new foundations blocks and will be sending WWAMI-wide hours for each week for the new blocks. Work on the Term 1 blocks (FMR, I&D and CHB) is nearly complete and ready to share soon.

One guiding principle of the Curriculum Committee we are implementing in 2022 is to set specific amounts of time aside for Threads and Themes within blocks. This came out of work from workgroups composed of faculty, staff and students that met in Summer 2020 and Spring 2021 and has been discussed at Foundations Committee and Block, Thread and Theme Directors meetings.

The workgroup recommendations for threads are:

- Threads need a larger and more integrated presence in blocks;
- Threads should have a more systematic/consistent presence in each block;
- Curriculum should develop a framework for block/thread planning that can be applied to block and thread directors to determine how to best teach relevant thread material in a block;
- Time devoted to threads should not be primarily determined by block leads;
- Thread assessment structure needs to be more independent;
- Students want clarity on thread content they are responsible for;
- There is value to tracking thread performance.

We have been working with block and thread leads to ensure content has a home and reflects the Foundations 2022 Guiding Principles approved by Curriculum Committee. Edith Wang & Meghan Kiefer have met with all threads and reviewed their content, current hours, and requested hours in depth. These requests have been balanced with the needs of blocks to develop hours allocation within each course. We are currently working with Themes and Oncology leads to review their longitudinal content needs. A formalized process for request changes to thread, themes and oncology hours in future years will be developed as part of the Lessons Learned process.

Please feel free to share your thoughts and comments with Edith Wang ([ehwang@uw.edu](mailto:ehwang@uw.edu)) and Meghan Kiefer ([meghanm@uw.edu](mailto:meghanm@uw.edu)).

## Retreat Update

We look forward to having a retreat with you on March 14 & 15. Please continue to hold these dates on your calendar.

On January 10, the UW announced work-related travel restrictions due to the spike in local and national COVID cases. As a result, we are considering alternative plans and contingencies as a result of these travel restrictions. While we hope to meet in person, we remain committed to gathering on those dates. Thanks for your understanding as we work to finalize our plans during these shifting circumstances.

A new retreat survey with new questions will be sent out within in the next week (for those who filled out the first survey- we saved your results. We will ask you to fill out a new shorter survey with only new questions).

### What do I do if I have questions, comments, suggestions?

Please contact Edith Wang at [ehwang@uw.edu](mailto:ehwang@uw.edu) or Kellie Engle at [kaengle@uw.edu](mailto:kaengle@uw.edu).