

## Explore & Focus Committee Minutes

<b>Date</b>	March 21, 2022
<b>Time</b>	4:00 – 5:30PM
<b>Co-Chairs</b>	<i>Esther Chung</i>
<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Academic Chair:</b> <i>Esther Chung</i>
QUORUM REACHED: NO	<b>Voting Members:</b> <i>Chelsea Denney, Doug Schaad, Emily Myers, Jaryd Unangst, Matt Cunningham, Mike Spinelli, Ralph Ermoian, Roger Tatum, Troy Johnston</i> <b>Guests:</b> <i>Joshua Jauregui, Ruth Sanchez, Gerald Tolbert, Jung Lee, Plinette Sanchez, Kristen Seiler, Laura Yale, Karla Kelly, Jong K, Julie Bould, Ross Kessler, Margie Trenary, Kelley Goetz, Alexis Rush, Erin Gunsul, Ivan Henson, Allie Correll-Buss, Eric Kraus, Gina Franco, John McCarthy, Paul Borghesani, Sara Fear, Kellie Engle, Darryl Potyk, Michael Campion, Gregory Schmale</i>
<b>Regrets</b>	<b>Voting members:</b> <i>Alson Burke, Amanda Kost, Barb Doty, Madelyn Peha, Matthew Hollon, Nam Tran, Susan Merel, Thomas Payne</i>

### Agenda

	ITEM	LEAD	TIME	ATTACHMENT	ACTION
1	Approve February Minutes	Esther Chung	5 min	Attachment A	Decision
2	E-votes approved: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>January minutes</li> <li>Neurology's clerkship changes for 2022-2023</li> <li>Neurosurgery's clerkship changes for 2022-2023</li> </ul>	Esther Chung / Jessica Wheeler	5 min		Announcement
3	Announcement: <a href="#">Clinical Phase Attendance &amp; Absentee Policy</a> (two allowed absences)	Esther Chung / Jessica Wheeler	5 min		Announcement
4	Announcements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Curriculum Committee approved clerkship grading recommendations</li> <li>Uniform standard for passing final exams set by PCC</li> </ul>	Matt Cunningham	20 min	Attachment B	Announcement
5	Clerkship requirement changes for AY 2022-2023: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Medicine</li> </ul>	Esther Chung / Joshua Jauregui	15 min	Attachment C	Decision

**Next Meeting: May 23, 2022**

1. Approve February Minutes

**Discussion:** The committee voted to approve February meeting minutes.

DECISION REQUIRED? MOVE TO E-VOTE

VOTES FOR

VOTES AGAINST

**Decision:**

2. E-votes Approved

**Discussion:** Quorum was not reached at the February meeting. The Explore & Focus Phase committee approved the following motions via e-vote on March 11, 2022:

- January minutes
- Neurology's clerkship changes for 2022-2023
- Neurosurgery's clerkship changes for 2022-2023

See the February meeting handouts for details.

3. Policy Announcement

**Discussion:** The Attendance & Absentee – Clinical Phase policy was discussed briefly at the February meeting. The policy allows two days of anticipated excused time away from the learning environment in four to 12-week clerkships. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a waiver was added to the policy which allowed one anticipated absence for the 2020-2021 clerkship year.

This waiver expired at the end of the 2020-2021 clerkship year and reverted to allowing two absences. An announcement was made at the January 25, 2021 Explore & Focus Phase Committee and the February 8, 2021 Patient Care Phase Committee.

The waiver was removed from the policy webpage, but the body of the policy was not updated (a clerical error). The webpage has been updated.

4. Required Clerkship Grading Announcement

**Discussion:** In January 2021, Curriculum Committee reviewed grading criteria for the nine required clerkships (i.e., how the clinical assessments and final exam are combined into a final grade) and noted the large number of differences across clerkships. The committee discussed whether these differences are necessary or beneficial, either from the perspective of assessment validity or from the perspective of a student trying to navigate their required clerkships.

The Curriculum Committee then approved a charge to the Program Evaluation and Assessment Committee (PEAC):

*Each required clerkship uses a slightly different method to both calculate the clinical numerical grade, and then combine the clinical numerical grade with the final exam score to come up with the final numerical grade for the clerkship. After examining these methods, the rationale (and benefit to the school) for retaining these differences in grading method is unclear. Grading differences also add unnecessarily to the cognitive load experienced by the students as they navigate the eight required clerkships. **The Curriculum Committee charges PEAC to recommend a single method of determining clinical numerical grade and final numerical grade that can be used across all***

**required clerkship departments.** Details about what is considered in-scope for this charge are listed below:

*In-scope:*

- *Best practices for calculating the clinical numerical grade*
- *How the clinical numerical grade is combined with the exam score to create a final numerical grade*
- *Performance standards for exams (e.g., threshold for passing, threshold for honors)*
- *Percent honors awarded across clerkships*

In addition, the Curriculum Committee advised PEAC that recommendations for standardization should be developed through an equity lens, looking at the impact that current grading procedures have on students who are from underrepresented minority groups (URM; African American/Black, Latino/Hispanic of any race, American Indian or Native Alaskan, Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander). PEAC began work on this project in February 2021. PEAC collected information about core clerkship grading from peer medical schools (38 in total). From this information, PEAC developed a set of questions that would be the basis for any potential recommendations for grade standardization. PEAC discussed each of those questions, and developed recommendations based on the results of those discussions.

Curriculum Committee and Patient Care Committee spent February and March discussing PEAC’s final recommendations. On March 7, 2022, Curriculum Committee passed the following:

UWSOM should explore making broad changes to clerkship grading, centering equity and transparency.
Departments should adopt a percentage weighting system for combining clinical evaluations and final exam scores into a final grade. <i>AMENDMENT:</i> for the E-21 class. <i>SECOND AMENDMENT:</i> starting with the 2023-2024 clerkship year.
The final exam weight can be different by department and the cap should be set by the Patient Care Committee (for implementation starting with the 2023-2024 clerkship year).
UWSOM should set a uniform standard for passing final exams, based on national percentile. This standard should be set by the Patient Care Committee.
UWSOM should discontinue the use of final exam performance thresholds that students must meet in order to get a final grade of Honors. <i>AMENDMENT:</i> Implement starting with the 2023-2024 clerkship year

At the March 14, 2022 meeting, Patient Care Committee discussed the uniform standard for passing final exams, based on national percentile. The committee voted and approved setting the standard at the third percentile.

The Explore & Focus Phase Committee requested that the E&F committee be added to the decisions concerning the final exam weight and setting a uniform standard for passing final exams. Revisions will be brought to Curriculum Committee in April for their review and approval.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED? MOVED TO E-VOTE	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES AGAINST
--	------------------------------------	--

**Decision:**

5. Clerkship requirement changes for AY 2022-2023: Emergency Medicine

**Discussion:** The Emergency Medicine clerkship is planning to make the following changes for the 2022-2023 clerkship year:

Clerkship Sites

- Fairbanks, Alaska - discussing plans for site or elective
- UWMC-NWH, plans to start fall 2022

Grading system

- Implement PEAC's grading recommendations:
  - Emergency Medicine will continue to keep the standard for passing the final exam at the third percentile.
  - Discontinue the use of final exam performance thresholds that students must meet in order to get a final grade of Honors.
  - The exam will count for 7% of the final grade (equivalent to one shift).

<input type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED? MOVED TO E-VOTE	[] VOTES FOR	[] VOTES AGAINST
---	--------------	------------------

**Decision:**