



Curriculum Committee Minutes

Date	December 4, 2023
Time	4:00 – 5:30PM PT
Attendees	Academic Co-Chair: Laura Goodell; Executive Chair: Heather McPhillips
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QUORUM REACHED:	Voting Members: Kristine Calhoun, Esther Chung, Colette Inaba, Chris Jons, Zach Gallaher, Cat Pittack, Seth Pincus, John Willford Cindy Knall, Leanne Rousseau
	Guests: Emmanuel Wright, Jerome Graber, Kathy Young, Jordan Kinder, Kellie Engle, Sara Kim, Karla Kelly, Jung Lee, Bessie Young, Sarah Wood, Micheal Campion, Darryl Potyk, Aric Ho, Mary Sargent, Jeff Seegmiller, Ceradwen Tokheim, Holly Kennison. Rachel Blume, John McCarthy, Gaura Tulsyan, Karla Kelly, Janelle Clauser, Sydney, Kathy Young, Addie McClintock, Jennifer Chin, Kathryn Tiger, Indira Rayala, Leanna Muzquiz, Sasha Tilles, Allie Ward, Max Kullberg, Maya
Regrets	Voting members: Eric LaMotte, Courtney Franics, Shelby Synder, Matt Cunningham, Ryan Richardson, L'Oreal Kennedy

Agenda

	ITEM	LEAD	TIME	ATTACHMENT	ACTION
1	Announcements Clinical Assessment Workgroup	Heather McPhillips	5 Min		Announcement
2	Approve November Minutes	Laura Goodell	5 min	Attachment A	Decision
3	Ratify New Committee Members/Foundations Phase Committee	Laura Goodell	10 Min		Decision
4	Humanities and Art Pathways Regional Status	Andrea Kalus	20 min	Attachment B	Decision
5	Sexual and Reproductive Health Pathway	Sydney Roberts, Indira Rayala, Gaura Tulsyan	20 min	Attachment C	Decision
6	Triple I Workgroup	Heather McPhillips	20 Min	Pending	Decision



1. Clinical Assessment Workgroup

Discussion:

The Committee was provided with an update on the Clinical Assessment Work Group, which aims to address inequities in clinical grades and move towards competency-based medical education.

1. **Clinical Assessment Work Group Announcements:** The committee was updated on the progress of the clinical assessment work group. They had voted in the last academic year to move towards pass/fail and required clerkships, which include emergency medicine and neurology or neurosurgery in the fourth year. A phase two kickoff meeting was scheduled for January 31st.
2. **Work Groups and Guest Speaker:** The Clinical Phase Committees formed work groups to meet on specific topics and report back over the year. A guest speaker from Virginia was invited to talk about his expertise in competency-based medical education on February 14th.
3. **Assessment Program:** The target roll out date for the Pass/Fail assessments in the Patient Care Phase was April 2025, but it could be delayed to April 2026. The program would require workplace-based assessments and supporting software, potentially an electronic portfolio for students to track their progress across clerkships. They also discussed forming clinical competency committees in each clerkship to review assessments and decide on student progression.

1. **Technology and Assessment:** There is a need for a more efficient system to track student progress across clerkships, ideally through an electronic portfolio. Workplace-based assessments and other types of assessments are being considered to determine whether a student can proceed to the next clerkship.
2. **Drivers of Change:** The main drivers for these changes are inequities in clinical grades, limited transparency in current grading systems, and a national movement towards competency-based medical education (CBME).
3. **Challenges:** The challenges include addressing unconscious bias, historical and structural racism, and ensuring that tiered grading and CBME can work together. The committee has been working on these issues for a year, considering both the ideal and the practical aspects. The goal is to improve the current system while avoiding potential pitfalls.
 - A. The committee discussed the historical tension between Competency-Based Medical Education (CBME) and tiered grading. Most experts believe these two systems are diametrically opposed. The committee has spent a year considering this issue, with a focus on how students can differentiate themselves and ensure successful matches. There's concern about maintaining student motivation in the clinical space, especially if they need to differentiate themselves and their pass/fail in their clerkships. The challenge is to find a balance that allows students to stand out while still benefiting from CBME. This issue will continue to be discussed.
4. **Future Plans:** The committee plans to continue working on these issues, with the aim of implementing changes that will benefit both students and faculty. This is a complex issue with many factors to consider.

<input type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES AGAINST
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Decision: The Committee Discussed updates of the work completed by the Clinical Assessment Workgroup



2. Approve Meeting Minutes		
Discussion: The meeting minutes were reviewed.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES AGAINST
Decision: Curriculum committee approved the November meeting minutes.		

3. Ratify New Committee Members		
Discussion: The Committee moved to ratify a new Foundations Phase Committee Member, Dr. Sarah Murphy. The new committee member volunteered to serve the Foundation Phase Committee and was appointed by the Foundation Phase Committee Co-Chairs to fill the Threads and Themes vacancy within the Foundations Phase Committee. The new member serves as Faculty in the region. Working within Themes and Threads at University of Alaska Anchorage		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[10] VOTES FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES AGAINST
Decision: The Committee ratified a new Foundations Phase Committee member to fill the vacancy in the Thread and Themes Seat.		

4. Humanities and Art Pathways		
Discussion: The committee discussed approving the Humanities Art Pathway to regional status, which has been in a pilot phase for the last two years. Regretfully the presenter was unable to attend the meeting; this item was tabled till January 2024.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES AGAINST
Decision: The Committee needed more clarification on the motion being brought forward and decided to discuss and vote on the Humanities and Art Pathway during a future meeting.		

5. Pathways Discussion		
Discussion: There is a discussion about potential review of pathways. Currently, pathways are organized by departments and programs and there is no standardized framework or rubric. The number of pathways has increased. The question was raised regarding the potential need for a more coordinated approach, criteria, and evaluation of curricula & outcomes. The Committee discussed the following concern areas regarding pathways rigor, cohesiveness, regional campus participation, healthcare equity, systems challenges & student experience. It was determined this topic would be revisited at a future meeting.		
<input type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES AGAINST
Decision: The Committee discussed potential review of pathways. Currently, pathways are organized by departments and programs and there is no standardized framework or rubric.		



6. Sexual and Reproductive Health Pathway

Discussion:

A group of students discussed the work they have completed to request the creation of a Sexual and Reproductive Health Pathway at the University of Washington.

The pathway aims to equip medical students with the knowledge and resources to address disparities in sexual and reproductive health care, emphasizing the intersectionality of race, ethnicity, sexual, and gender identity.

The main goals are to provide structured learning focusing on the health needs of cis-women, transgender, and non-binary individuals, foster collaboration with students and organizations involved in sexual and reproductive health justice and education, and elevate the perspectives of historically marginalized groups, including BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ individuals.

The pathway was created by Sydney and the speaker, who identified a need for better cross-communication and community among organizations working in reproductive health care. They polled students across the WWAMI sites, with 44 expressing interest in joining the pathway.

To grow the pathway, they reached out to faculty members, from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and from the Department of General Internal Medicine agreeing to help create the pathway. They are considering asking the Office of Healthcare Equity, the OB-GYN department, and the Internal Medicine department to sponsor the pathway.

The pathway requirements, modeled after existing pathways at the Seattle site, include two required preclinical electives, eight online modules, 24 hours of community engagement, a scholarly project, and attendance at five workshops.

The Committee commends the presentation, acknowledging the well-researched effort put into addressing perceived gaps in the reproductive health care curriculum. The Committee discussed the need for curricular modifications to delve deeper into reproductive health topics, with an emphasis on social impacts alongside medical and scientific aspects. The pathway aims to provide a comprehensive understanding and experience for students interested in reproductive health care.

Collaboration with faculty leads is mentioned, and existing limitations in the curriculum. The issue of prioritizing certain topics due to time constraints is acknowledged.

Questions are raised about potential opposition and impacts on funding and program continuation, in context of legislative priorities in each of the WWAMI states. The speaker encourages consideration of potential consequences and suggests that elective courses and pathways may provide a more flexible approach, allowing students to opt into specific topics rather than making them mandatory. Concerns are expressed about the potential implications of affiliations, such as with Planned Parenthood, and the need for thoughtful planning to secure program support.

The Committee reflects on the idea of identifying curriculum gaps and addressing them through collaboration between sites and groups. They suggest the potential for enhancing interest groups and specialty exploration in medical education, particularly in the context of residency applications. The idea of creating pathways for different specialties is discussed, with a focus on the need for collaboration and coordination among student groups.

The response from the presenters emphasizes that the pathway is not limited to a specific medical specialty, such as OB-GYN, but aims to explore topics that are applicable across various medical fields. The focus is on understanding historical disparities in treating women's health and sexual and reproductive health care, going beyond a specific interest group or residency focus. The presenters express the importance of addressing social impacts and historical disparities in health care through the pathway.



A concern is raised about whether the proposed pathway should be considered core content and covered in foundational courses or clerkships. The presenter's debate whether the depth and breadth of the content would fit into an already full medical school curriculum, and the pathway provides an opportunity for students to explore multidisciplinary care that may not be covered elsewhere.

Overall, the discussion revolves around the need for specialized pathways to address specific topics in-depth, the potential challenges of incorporating such content into existing medical school curricula, and the value of providing students with opportunities to explore and understand complex issues in health care.

The presenters further discussed the openness of the proposed pathway, expressing a desire for it to be available to any interested and qualified students without a cap on enrollment. The pathway is intended to be an online option, providing flexibility for students. Regarding the pilot timeframe, the presenters aim for at least two years, depending on resources and funding.

The Committee suggests ensuring that students have the support to complete the entire pathway, emphasizing the importance of having at least one class finish the coursework to evaluate its effectiveness. The presenters confirm flexibility in completing workshops, allowing for virtual options and collaboration with various partners across different sites. They express the goal of building a community of individuals interested in sexual and reproductive health.

The Committee suggests potential collaboration with other programs, such as MHS2, to supplement existing curriculum and enhance students' understanding of related topics.

Questions are raised about the narrow focus of the proposed pathway compared to other existing pathways, with concerns about its specificity within the broader medical curriculum. The presenters explain that the pathway addresses historical disparities and aims to provide an extensive exploration of sexual and reproductive health care, emphasizing the importance of going beyond a traditional interest group or fellowship.

The discussion further delves into the differentiation between a pathway and content covered in existing pathways or interest groups. The presenters highlight the unique focus of the proposed pathway on marginalized populations historically overlooked in medicine, with an emphasis on addressing disparities and providing comprehensive care regardless of the medical field chosen by the student. They stress that the proposed pathway is not solely about reproductive health care but about tackling broader issues related to marginalized patient populations.

The Committee discussed the importance of specificity of the motion needed for approval. The Committee approved a motion to approve the Sexual Health Pathway with the agreement that leaders of this pilot pathway will work with the regional deans to carefully consider and respect sociopolitical variation among WWAMI sites.

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[8] VOTES FOR	[1] VOTES AGAINST
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Decision: The Committee approved a motion to approve the Sexual Health Pathway with the agreement that leaders of this pilot pathway will work with the regional deans to carefully consider and respect sociopolitical variation among WWAMI sites.

7. Triple I Workgroup

Discussion:



The Committee announced that the Final Triple I report will be sent out later this month. The Committee decided to review updates from the Final Triple I Improvement Working Group summary and emphasized the upcoming work for the Triple I working group.		
<input type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> VOTES AGAINST
Decision: The committee briefly discussed the Triple I working Group summary with email follow-up.		