

West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine
Academic Committee-Board of Governors
Friday August 23, 2024
Clinical Evaluation Center

I. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Dr. Peter Ward.

Members present: Dr. Gary Poling and Student Doctor Ethan Galloway

II. Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

III. Committee Items

A. Approval of Graduates

There was one graduate to approve. Motion was made to approve, seconded, and motion carried.

B. Administrative Response to Public Comment at June 21, 2024 meeting

Dr. Boyd addressed the committee regarding the concerns brought before them at the last meeting. They have taken the concerns seriously and have done a number of things to look into the issues that were raised. They expanded a survey to get student feedback, however less than 50% responded to the survey, but it did show some of the same concerns that were reflected at the last meeting. A focus group was created that included the six students who spoke at the last meeting. They will have the summary of those meetings shortly.

A Board Prep Task Force was created to determine how we can better help students prepare. Dr. Boyd summarized the thirteen-page document that was made available to the board, listing each concern with a solution added.

Starting in July, second- and third-year students were provided access to COMQUEST and UWorld. Dr. Bridges addressed concerns regarding the curriculum containing information needed to pass the boards. There was discussion around the question banks that faculty have access to and if they are making sure their questions are board-style questions. Dr. Bridges also discussed the difference in the USMLE versus the COMPLEX exam. Several WVSOM faculty are members of the NBOME, and are part of the task force to review exam questions. The faculty are encouraged to take the COMPLEX exam so they have the experience.

There was concern about the amount of dedicated time students have for board study. At this time, students are allotted seven weeks. The task force will be looking at the schedule to see about moving around some of the third-year prep to allow even more time.

Regarding concerns over the communication from the exam center, it was found that the number of students who had poor performance on the COMSAE was much higher than expected. This caused a delayed response. Advice given to students regarding the timing of COMLEX is very individualized and does vary from person-to-person since it takes student's transcripts and exam performance into account. The exam center will be looking to train more faculty to be able to meet with students within the first week of getting their results.

There was a question regarding the higher number of students failing the COMSAE. Dr. Bridges explained the policy regarding when a student is placed on AARC 2 has been changed. This will help trigger that a student needs additional help. It will get the student sent to ASPIRE earlier. Dr. Bridges reminded the committee that the national standard was changed and when that happens it is normal to see a lower pass rate. The committee asked that national pass rate and WVSOM pass rate be shared at the next meeting.

C. Update on Clinical Resources Available to Students

Adjunct clinical faculty are requiring students to use Up to Date versus DynaMed. Discussion was held on the cost and benefits of Up to Date versus DynaMed. The committee would like for someone to reach out to Up to Date regarding what it would cost for us to go back to using their program and see if they would offer us any kind of discount.

D. Hear reports from WVSOM's administration, gather information and prepare recommendations to full board upon request of the chair.

Nothing was brought forward at this time.


IV. Next Meeting Date

The next regularly scheduled Academic Committee meeting will take place on November 1, 2024.

V. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned.

Approved on November 1, 2024

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Peter Ward, Ph.D., Chair