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Medical Student Education Committee Minutes

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12-12-2023

### 2023 December 12 - Medical Student Education Committee Minutes

Medical Student Education Committee, East Tennessee State University

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The Medical Student Education Committee (MSEC) of the Quillen College of Medicine met for a Meeting on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 via Zoom.

**Attendance**

<b><u>FACULTY MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>EX OFFICIO NON-VOTING MEMBERS</u></b>
Ivy Click, EdD, MSEC Chair	Beth Anne Fox, MD, Vice Dean for Academic Affairs
Caroline Abercrombie, MD	Ken Olive, MD, Assoc Dean for Accreditation Compliance
Martha Bird, MD	
Jean Daniels, PhD	<b><u>SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRS</u></b>
Thomas Ecay, PhD	James Denham, MD
Jennifer Hall, PhD	Michael Kruppa, PhD
Russell Hayman, PhD	
Paul Monaco, PhD	<b><u>ACADEMIC AFFAIRS STAFF</u></b>
Jason Moore, MD	Kortni Dolinger, MS, Staff
Antonio Rusiñol, PhD	Chelsea Gilbert, MA, Staff
Amanda Stoltz, MD	Ben Smith, Staff
<b><u>STUDENT MEMBERS</u></b>	<b><u>GUESTS</u></b>
Andrew Hicks, M4	Earl Brown, MD
Michael Jacobs, M2	Jameson Hirsch, PhD
Ashlyn Songer, M1	Deidre Johnson, EdD
	Kelly Karpa, PhD
<b><u>EX OFFICIO VOTING MEMBERS</u></b>	Thomas Kwasigroch, PhD
Deidre Pierce, MD	Ryan Landis, MD
Melissa Robinson, MD	Tory Street, EdD
Robert Schoborg, PhD	Doug Thewke, PhD
Rachel Walden, MLIS	Wendy Williams

**Meeting Minutes**

Dr. Click opened the meeting at 3:30 pm.

Dr. Click stated there was not a consent agenda for today's meeting.

**Announcements:**

- November Consent Agenda
  - Approved Electronically November 20, 2023 as the November MSEC meeting was cancelled
  - CA Item 1 - Approval: October 17 Retreat Meeting Minutes
  - CA Item 2 – Approval: M1/M2 Review Subcommittee
    - GI and Nutrition
  - CA Item 3 – Approval: M4 Selective/Elective Application
    - Rural Advocacy
    - Rural Medicine Education

- CBSE Faculty Review
  - Thursday, December 14, 2023 – 1:00 pm in Stanton-Gerber Hall Computer Lab
- TRAILS and Student Success Task Force – Dr. Ken Olive, Chair
  - Consider student success and student satisfaction data and recommend improvements to pre-clerkship curriculum
  - First report to MSEC will be at February Retreat
- Thank you to Dr. Jerry Mullersman for his service to MSEC!
- MSEC Structure Effective January 2024 as reviewed by the Faculty Advisory Council and approved by the Dean of Medicine
  - The committee will be comprised of:
    - Assistant Dean for Curriculum or appointee (Chair)
    - Twelve elected faculty members at large
      - At least four should be basic science faculty and at least four should be clinical faculty
      - Consideration should be given to balance among disciplines and school-identified diversity categories
    - One Rural and Community Programs representative
    - One Tri-TRAILS representative
    - Four elected medical student representatives, one from each class
    - The following will serve as ex-officio nonvoting members:
      - Vice Dean for Academic Affairs
      - Associate Dean for Student Affairs
      - Associate Dean for Accreditation Compliance
      - Associate Dean for Medical Library
- Update to MSEC Procedures
  - For MSEC actions requiring follow-up:
    - MSEC will indicate a timeline for completion and the responsible party (noted in minutes).
    - Quarterly status report of MSEC actions, including any pending items.

### **Action Agenda Items**

#### **1. Report/Approval: Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee**

*Please see the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee Report documents for additional data.*

Dr. Denham presented the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee report. Dr. Denham stated that the following benchmarks were met:

- Program Benchmark 3 was met with 96% of program directors and 100% of graduates rating they “meet” or “exceeded” overall performance expectations within the first six months of their PGY-I year
- Program Benchmark 4B was met with matriculating students who will complete the curriculum within four years being 89.6%. The national average ranges from 81.7% to 84.1%.

Dr. Denham stated there were two benchmarks not met:

- Program Benchmark 2 – Curricular questions pertaining to courses/clerkships we have in our curriculum with a poor overall dissatisfaction rating of 15% or higher (on GQ) will be targeted for a review to identify where a topic is addressed within the curriculum and determine if it is covered adequately or if there are gaps in the curriculum
  - Only Neuroscience (17.9%) scored above 15% on overall dissatisfaction
  - Question was updated this year to only include courses in our ETSU curriculum

- Conclusion/Recommendation to MSEC
  - Clinical Neuroscience is no longer a stand-alone course in the TRAILS curriculum. The subcommittee recommends we review this again next year with the TRAILS data before taking any action.
- Program Benchmark 4 – 95% of matriculating students will complete the curriculum within five years. Data should include and exclude students participating in a dual degree.
  - Matriculating students (2013-14 through 2017-18) will complete the curriculum within five years, including MPH: 93.2%
  - Matriculating students (2013-14 through 2017-18) will complete the curriculum within five years, excluding MPH: 93.1%
  - Conclusion/Recommendation to MSEC
    - The subcommittee proposes a new benchmark:
      - The attrition average will be less than 5% when using a five-year rolling average, excluding the current year. The LCME reviews attrition rates in review of student achievement.
    - The subcommittee recommends updating Program Benchmark 4 to:
      - The percent of MD ONLY students completing the curriculum within six years will be equal to or greater than the national average. Dual degree student data will be pulled separately, but not to determine if this benchmark is met as there is no national data at this time.

Dr. Denham asked MSEC members if we have the appropriate benchmarks to measure Personal and Professional Development. Dr. Denham asked if the subcommittee should review and propose new benchmarks for this Institutional Educational Objective.

Dr. Denham also presented an Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee Summary report for the 2022-23 annual year. Dr. Denham noted that five measures were not met, three in the Personal and Professional Development category and two in the Program Benchmarks category.

Dr. Click stated for MSEC’s action, the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee is proposing a new benchmark and an update to Program Benchmark 4. The proposed new benchmark will state “The attrition average will be less than 5% when using a 5-year rolling average, excluding the current year.” Dr. Click stated this is one of the items we will have to report to LCME, and we are not monitoring at this point in time. Dr. Click noted this will be a good way to monitor this data. The update to Program Benchmark 4 will read as “The percent of MD ONLY students completing the curriculum within six years will be equal to or greater than the national average. Dual degree student data will be pulled separately, but not to determine if this benchmark is met as there is no national data at this time.” Dr. Click asked MSEC members if there was any discussion regarding these proposed changes and no discussion ensued. Dr. Click asked that a motion be made for each.

**A motion was made to accept the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee’s proposal of adding a new benchmark to Program Benchmark 4 to state “The attrition average will be less than 5% when using a 5-year rolling average, excluding the current year” and seconded. MSEC discussed and approved the motion.**

**A motion was made to accept the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee’s proposal of updating the Program Benchmark 4 benchmark to “The percent of MD ONLY students completing the curriculum within six years will be equal to or greater than the national average. Dual degree student data will be pulled separately but not to determine if this benchmark is met as there is no national data at this time” and seconded. MSEC discussed and approved the motion.**

Dr. Click stated the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee asked MSEC to discuss if we have the appropriate benchmarks to measure Personal and Professional Development and asked if the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee should review and propose new benchmarks for this Institutional Educational Objective. Dr. Click reviewed the current Personal and Professional Development benchmarks and asked MSEC members if these were still appropriate. Dr. Olive commented we should not say that these are not appropriate simply because we are not meeting them but when you read the components of Personal and Professional Development, our current benchmarks do not adequately address these IEOs. Dr. Olive stated we should look at adding other components to measure Personal and Professional Development. Dr. Click stated the question at hand is do these benchmarks align with our Institutional Educational Objectives around Personal and Professional Development. Dr. Click stated that asking the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee to review the benchmarks to see if there should be changes to the Personal and Professional Development benchmarks seems appropriate given that is the charge of the subcommittee. Dr. Abercrombie made a motion that MSEC ask the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee to review Personal and Professional Development benchmarks and potentially make changes to those benchmarks. Potential recommendations will be brought back to MSEC for review and approval at the March meeting.

**A motion was made to ask the Institutional Outcomes Subcommittee to review Personal and Professional Development benchmarks and potentially make changes to those benchmarks and seconded. MSEC discussed and approved the motion.**

**A motion was made that we are meeting our Institutional Educational Objectives in all areas other than Personal and Professional Development based on our current benchmarks and seconded. MSEC discussed and approved the motion.**

## 2. Report: TRAILS Data

*Please see the Checkpoint Question Performance document for additional data.*

Dr. Karpa presented an updated report for checkpoint question performance data for the Class of 2026 and Class of 2027 with comparison of Legacy curriculum versus TRAILS curriculum.

Dr. Karpa noted the following performance data for the Class of 2026:

- Anatomy performance favored the legacy curriculum
- Biochemistry performance was the same in both curricula
- Embryology, Epidemiology, Histology, Immunology, and Microbiology favored the TRAILS curriculum
- The remainder of the courses were either the same or favored the TRAILS curriculum

Dr. Karpa stated that overall, we did not do students any harm in changing the curriculum as it was pretty much the same or better for all disciplines with Anatomy being a little bit questionable.

Dr. Karpa shared data from the checkpoint questions as they were tagged by faculty (e.g., anatomy, pathology, histology, etc.). The data showed that if we had a discipline-based curriculum, 13 students would have failed two or more disciplines, excluding those disciplines where less than 20 questions were asked.

Dr. Click stated that those students scoring below a 75 on checkpoint grades; running average; and the NBME, if applicable, are brought to the Student Success Committee and would be identified by the committee as needing academic support.

Dr. Thewke commented on Dr. Karpa’s report regarding comparing the checkpoint questions for the Legacy curriculum to the TRAILS curriculum for the Class of 2026 and noted that we are comparing apples to oranges in these questions due to the differences in pedagogy and format of the assessments. Dr. Karpa agreed and stated it is not perfect, but it was the best we had. Dr. Click commented that even though it is not apples to apples, it shows we are not doing students any harm and are at least the same or better.

Dr. Karpa noted the data for the Class of 2027 is after the Foundations of Medical Knowledge (FMK) course. Dr. Karpa stated Anatomy did improve from the standpoint there was a 7-point difference from the average in TRAILS versus Legacy and is now a 4-point difference. Dr. Karpa noted that Anatomy was front-end loaded at the beginning of FMK as opposed to being integrated throughout FMK in the previous year. Dr. Karpa stated that almost all the other disciplines are not favoring the TRAILS curriculum or are staying the same as they did for the Class of 2026. Dr. Karpa stated that data showed 19 students were failing two or more discipline-based content areas where there were at least 20 questions asked and noted these are cumulative checkpoint scores and show about five students who are struggling with checkpoints and the in-class pre-quiz performance. Dr. Karpa stated there are 26 students who are not performing well on the daily pre-quizzes. Dr. Click commented that traditionally, we see the students get better after FMK.

**No voting action required.**

### 3. Discussion/Approval: Pre-Clerkship Attendance Policy

Dr. Click presented data showing M1 and M2 absences for the months of November and December (as of December 6). Dr. Click stated that the overall absences for M1 and M2 students in November were 236. These included planned medical absences, unanticipated medical absences, WellFlex days, Flex days, and Educational leave days. The overall absences for December (as of December 6) were 184 and included the types of absences noted above.

Due to the excessive number of days missed by students during the semester, Dr. Click presented options to modify the TRAILS Pre-Clerkship Attendance policy. The options include:

- Option 1: Set number of “excused absences” per course
  - Students get set number of excused absences for each course depending on length.
    - 4 days for longer courses
    - 2 days for shorter courses and doctoring
    - All absences count toward that number (anticipated or unanticipated)
  - Blackout dates added to syllabus where students cannot use an excused absence
  - Students still submit requests to be absent or notify if sick (that count toward their pool of absences)
  - Students’ scores (IRAT/GRAT, etc.) are dropped for excused absence
  - Unexcused absences = 0 for the day
  - Doctoring determines make-up for missed days
- Option 2: The no request option
  - Students expected to be in class
  - Each course drops a specific number of daily grades
  - Blackout dates where students cannot miss class (and grade will not be dropped unless prior approval).
  - Students do NOT need to request to be absent
  - If students are absent more than the set number of dropped grades, they receive a 0 (unless they have medical documentation or other extenuating circumstances approved by OAA).
  - Doctoring still requires attendance with 2 excused absences that they request directly to course director, make-up determined by course director
- Option 3: Change the make-up policy only beginning January 2024

- Keep current attendance policy with all the categories (WellFlex, flex, etc.)
- Add blackout dates to syllabus for flex days
- Students' scores are dropped for approved absences
- Unapproved absences = 0 for the day

A lengthy discussion ensued following the presentation. Following the discussion, Dr. Click suggested to MSEC members that they consider either Option 1 or 2 as an update to the current policy that would be effective with the start of the 2024-25 academic year; approve a system for taking attendance for the remainder of the 2023-24 academic year noting it may be temporary until a better system can be put into place; and change the make-up section of the policy, which was Option 3, to be effective at the beginning of January 2024. Dr. Click stated she felt we could keep the current policy and only change the make-up section for January as it is minor in that it is just changing the make-up section of the policy and adding blackout dates, which is already in the policy for Flex days.

Michael Jacobs, M2 representative, stated it is also important to understand why students are not coming to class. Michael commented that a brief survey could be sent to students asking for the reason they are not coming to class and how things are going. Dr. Click stated she agrees completely and feels the faculty recognize there are issues and have discussed these at a recent course director meeting as well as at the October MSEC meeting. Ashlyn Songer, M1 representative, commented that there were a lot more absences the first four days of December than there were at any point with 59 people taking a WellFlex day and if that had not been an option, she feels this would not have been a big issue about the group sizes. Ashlyn stated if there will be a shortened month, it may be that WellFlex days are not given. Dr. Click agreed that students should not have been given a WellFlex day for December since there were only four days students would have been in class.

Dr. Fox commented that we should ask Muhammad Elahi to come back to MSEC and discuss the WellFlex days as he stated this would be something he would do if the WellFlex days did not work as planned. Dr. Click stated if Ashlyn would like to discuss and poll her class on how they are using WellFlex days and report back to MSEC at the same time, this would be a good conversation.

Dr. Click iterated her previous suggestion of continuing this discussion and making changes prior to the start of the 2024-25 academic year but feels MSEC does need to consider a system for taking attendance, making sure that course directors indicate which day students cannot take Flex days and making sure it is listed in their syllabus, and changing the make-up section in the policy. Dr. Click stated Dr. Moore noted in the Chat that the TRAILS and Student Success Task Force is also looking at this and does have student representation on the task force. Dr. Click stated she could send the task force the two options discussed in the meeting today for further discussion by the task force.

Dr. Click stated from the discussions, it seems MSEC prefers to get further information and potentially change the rest of the policy before July 2024. Dr. Click asked MSEC members their thoughts on taking attendance. Dr. Rusinol commented that he did not feel a recommendation was needed and that everyone should take attendance. Dr. Rusinol stated the make-up is the issue. Dr. Click stated that her proposal was to change the make-up section of the policy, which requires a motion, to state unexcused absences will be a dropped grade; take attendance; and to add blackout days to the syllabus and communicate those to the Medical Education Coordinator. Dr. Click asked MSEC members if there was a motion to change the current make-up section of the policy.

Additional discussion ensued and no motion to change the make-up section of the policy was made by MSEC members.

Dr. Click stated she would talk to course directors and follow up with MSEC members regarding how attendance will be taken until a better system can be found. Dr. Click stated for now, the policy will remain the same and noted that the policy already states that faculty can indicate the blackout dates in their syllabus

where Flex days (includes WellFlex days) may not be taken and to communicate these dates to the Medical Education Coordinator.

Dr. Click stated she will contact Muhammad Elahi to check his availability and will plan for Ashlyn Songer to report back to MSEC at the same time. Dr. Click stated she will forward the suggested policy options to the TRAILS and Student Success Task Force for their review and discussion.

Dr. Click stated the policy will be brought back to MSEC for further discussion and approval prior to the beginning of the 2024-25 academic year.

Dr. Bird asked if this same kind of data on absences were available for the clerkships. Kortni stated that student absences are recorded and that this data is available for review. Dr. Click stated that the clerkship data could be brought back to MSEC for review at a future meeting.

**No voting action taken at this point in time.**

The MSEC meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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#### **MSEC Meeting Documents**

MSEC Members have access to the meeting documents identified above through the shared Microsoft Teams document storage option made available with their ETSU Email account and login.

**If you are unable to access Microsoft Teams MSEC Team please contact: Aneida Skeens at: [skeensal@etsu.edu](mailto:skeensal@etsu.edu). Telephone contact is: 423-439-6233.**

#### **MSEC Meeting Dates 2023-2024: (Zoom meetings unless noted)**

January 16, **2024** – 3:30-6:00 pm  
February 20 – **Retreat** – 11:30 am-5:00 pm (**in-person**)  
March 19 – 3:30-6:00 pm  
April 16 – 3:30-6:00 pm  
May 21 – 3:30-6:00 pm  
June 18 - **Retreat** – 11:30 am-3:00 pm (**in-person**)  
June 18 - **Annual Meeting** – 3:30-5:00 pm (**in-person**)