

## **WWAMI Advisory Council Meeting**

**(Minutes)**

**February 6, 2017 6pm-7:00 p.m.**

**Zoom/ Conference call**

### **Present:**

**Advisory Council Members-** Sheila Bush, Wendy Braund, Rob Monger, Paul Johnson, Cindy Works.

**University of Wyoming** - Joe Steiner, Kevin Murray, Marivern Easton

**University of Washington School of Medicine** - Suzanne Allen, Larry Kirven

### **Absent:**

Advisory Council Members – Eric Boley, Eric Cubin, Howard Willson  
University of Wyoming - Tim Robinson

#### **I. Update on Foundations Curriculum**

Acting Director (Marivern Easton) spoke about the foundation curriculum and noted that it is going well. She mentioned that she and Dr. Kirven met with the second year students to see who they were coping with the transition because the only second year students across the sites to go to Seattle. They reported that they made the transition well. They had a mini-orientation which went very well. Student completed the foundations stage in December 2016 and are preparing for Step 1 boards in February 2017.

Based on feedback, the entering 2016 class benefitted from the adjustments and are still adjusting.

Marivern shared that this summer, money was set aside to renovate the existing WWAMI classroom which included adjustable tables set in pods with 4 students to a pod. She described the tables that are set at standing height can be lowered and giving students the option of standing or sitting. The classroom was also updated with a new audio visual (AV) system. The upgrades were implemented based on feedback from students and faculty.

Wendy Braund added that it was fun to teach in the new classroom and it is a great learning environment, even though there are a few glitches to work on, as she encountered a few challenges with the AV system. Marivern added that the goal of the remodel is to make the environment more conducive to active learning.

## II. Patient Care Curriculum (PCC)

Dr. Kirven briefed attendees with an update on the PCC mentioning that current students are taking boards and finishing off with Capstone in preparation for their clerkships which will begin the next six (6) weeks. Some students will be asked to take an elective for their first rotation because of an overlap. WRITE students will start rotations on March 27<sup>th</sup> in Lander, Powell and Douglas. He added that PCC will start early and they will have more time to look at residency programs. There are 4 students doing 4<sup>th</sup> year clerkships in Wyoming and there is a difficulty with OB clerkships. Dr. Kirven explained that they are trying to add rotation at the Wyoming Medical Society (WMS) and one more Internal Medicine clerkship in Cody. He reminded attendees about the legislative luncheon on February 16<sup>th</sup> in Cheyenne, where he will acknowledge the residency programs and the roll that they play. He further extended an invitation for the luncheon to all council members.

Dr. Kevin Murray noted that the current SUB that exists will be converted to advanced care and will give students more responsibility and experience for patient care and these clerkships will have more structure. He added that the student competencies needed to be reviewed to ensure that they reach particular milestones. Dr. Kirven assured that the students will still have the opportunity to reserve a true SUB and that it is not really different it is just more structured.

## III. WWAMI Space

Marivern mentioned the search for new WWAMI space and asked Dean Joe Steiner to elaborate on the progress. Dean Steiner mentioned that there has been an issue with the existing space since the new curriculum change. A study was commissioned from CTA Engineering Architects a year and a half ago. They proposed two options which we were not in favor of. The first was in the range of 4- 5 million dollars and the other in the \$9 million price range. This came at the same time the state budget crisis developed and the University of Wyoming was transitioning to a new administration. The issue was tabled for a while and revisited this fall. He noted that even though the goal was to keep all WWAMI facilities at the current site a compromise was made where we maintained most of WWAMI at the current site, but moved the anatomy lab to the Physical Sciences building. Due to funding issues the change had to be made to build a new anatomy lab at the Physical Science building which will include refrigeration for pro-sections to facilitate all of WWAMI's anatomy needs. He added that when the current lab is vacated it will be converted to a study space and class space for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year students. This will be from the \$1.5 million funding that was put together from various sources. He anticipated that the amount would be able to cover expenses without making any requests from the State legislature. There may be a shortfall of about \$200,000 but we should be fine if payment is made overtime.

Marivern noted that the new president is very supportive of the WWAMI program. She added that the program has enjoyed good favor and has an excellent return rate. The hope is that the entering class of 2018 will be the first class to stay for the full 18 months. The request for tender will go out on February 17<sup>th</sup> if the Board of Trustees approves. WWAMI will continue to share space with the School of Nursing, which has been a benefit of the new curriculum.

Dr. Paul Johnson asked if the new anatomy lab will fit a maximum of 20 students or if it will allow for more students. Marivern responded that it will be designed to fit more than 20. There is an adjacent space that is not committed, but there is uncertainty if it will be available to WWAMI.

In response to Dr. Johnson's question, Dr. Murray further added that we are in the process of revisiting expansion with the UW administration and have to use a bare bones proposal to make it as inexpensive to take care of both classes, as there is no appetite to accept building for more than is needed now.

Dr. Cynthia works asked about if the lab will be able to fit both first and second year classes. Dr. Murray responded by saying that the proposed space will be double what the existing lab is now, but will only fit 20 students. The existing lab is crowded and more storage is needed. Marivern added that the new space will include cold storage which is not a feature in the current lab. Dr. Justin Hopkin noted that cadaver labs are designed based on the number of cadavers and not the number of students. Marivern further added that there will be 5 cadavers and a 6<sup>th</sup> for pro-sections.

#### **IV. WWAMI Interactive Map and WWAMI Information sheet**

Marivern stated that a packet was sent to the Wyoming legislature which included a compiled student list (by graduates and community catchment areas) in addition to an information sheet on WWAMI and a cover letter from Dr. Kirven and Dr. Suzanne Allen. The intention was to educate the legislators about new developments in WWAMI. Dr. Kirven noted that he had not received any feedback from the legislators regarding the packet.

## V. Admissions

Marivern thanked Dr. Works and Dr. Monger who were a part of the 2016 interview committee. She noted that there were 63 applicants with 43 interviewees. The accepted interviewees have until the end of April 2017 to hold multiple acceptances, however we do not usually find that we have to take many from the alternate list.

Dr. Monger added that the 20 students who were selected were great and there could easily be 5 to 7 selected who are on the alternate list who would make excellent medical students. He mentioned that he sat on the Alaska admissions committee and our students are very competitive.

Dr. Works thought that the process was really well organized and she enjoyed the whole process. She praised the WWAMI staff and everyone who helped to put it together adding that it is a daunting responsibility to hold the dreams of persons in your hands but it was a really positive experience.

Wendy Curran thanked the persons on the admissions committee for their hard work. Marivern agreed by adding that with commitment of six years, give one week out of their time, with 4 originating from Wyoming and two from Seattle. They are really dedicated and humbled and understand the gravity of the situation.

## VI. RUOP

Marivern stated in regards to RUOP, a majority of the Laramie students participate 4 weeks in the program where they are placed in a primary care setting in Wyoming. She informed the committee that RUOP posters for the past 4 years are posted on the WWAMI website. She attended the Medical Research Conference in Carmel where students have to apply to participate. This trip was also intended to touch base with the students. Six of our E-2015 students participated at the event where one student presented at the poster session and the other five presented and had discussions.

## VII. Other business

Sheila Bush mentioned that concerning WWAMI funding everything should be pretty secure. The message has been consistent from UW and the Medical Society so there

shouldn't be any surprises. Dr. Murray added that the language of the bill is identical to last year's bill for both residencies and WWAMI. Dean Steiner stated that he has not heard anything regarding the WWAMI budget from the University of Wyoming legislature folks and as far as he is aware there hasn't been a change.

Marivern will work with Sheila Bush to find a time for the next committee meeting, adding that June sounds good for the next meeting while at WMS.

Dr. Fall moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:48. The move was seconded by Cynthia Works.