



TO: Rosemary Dale, Co-Chair, Educational Stewardship Committee
Brian Reed, Co-Chair, Educational Stewardship Committee

FROM: David V. Rosowsky, Provost and Senior Vice President

DATE: April 10, 2018 (revised)

SUBJ: Report on Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) curricular concerns

Thank you for your report dated March 15, 2018, “Report on Concerns Raised RE: LCOM, MMG 201, and Undergraduate Offerings,” prepared by the Educational Stewardship Committee (ESC). Your report clearly articulates process, discussions, and recommendations. I am grateful to the Committee members for their important work.

I am summarizing below each of the issues taken up by the Committee and the specific findings and recommendations. My responses are shown in *blue*.

MMG 201: Concerns are resolved by actions taken by the LCOM dean.
No further action needed. ESC will continue to monitor.

High Quality, High Cost Laboratory Courses: The ESC is urging academic units to consider what is best for the students when making decisions regarding laboratory course offerings.
Please share how ESC is communicating this to academic units.

Curricular Oversight Mechanisms in LCOM: The ESC’s assessment is that processes are now in place that are sound and well-conceived.
I am pleased that LCOM has established curricular oversight processes, but I also recognize that LCOM is still building its understanding of our undergraduate curriculum. For this reason, in an email dated March 2nd of this year, I asked that the ESC to be part of the formal review process for all LCOM undergraduate courses. The Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning is responsible for coordinating this oversight and both reviewing and approving all LCOM undergraduate course proposals in concert with the ESC.

LCOM’s Current Involvement in Undergraduate Curricula:

Wellness Environment: The Committee is recommending either (1) a reduction in COMU 001 credit hours from 3 to 1, making the course comparable to those offered (or planned to be offered) in the other residential learning communities; or (2) an adjustment in IBB 2.0 that provides for a more equitable allocation of undergraduate revenue.

The IBB Steering Committee, as part of its work over the next year, is specifically looking at Algorithm 1 and the resulting revenue distribution. I feel confident that this issue will feature in those discussions.

The Curricular Affairs Committee (CAC) reviewed the Behavioral Change Health Studies (BCHS) minor in 2015. The minutes of that meeting reflect the committee's discomfort with the proposal as submitted. The committee recommended changes in the program's developmental design and supports for undergraduate students. The committee also recommended that the program be reviewed two years after launch. COMU 001 is a gateway course to the BCHS minor. If the CAC of the Faculty Senate wishes to consider credit allocation within the BCHS minor as part of their review, they are welcome to do so.

Special Topics Courses: The Faculty Senate president has agreed to appoint an LCOM faculty member to the Senate's open ad hoc seat on the ESC.

The Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning should review and approve all LCOM undergraduate Special Topics courses in concert with the ESC.

General Concerns about Special Topics Courses: The ESC is developing a protocol.

The reporting tool and protocol developed by the ESC will be useful to the deans' offices, but central oversight may also be helpful, at least initially. The Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning should partner with the deans' offices in the review of special topics courses looking at both potential overlap with other courses and offering frequency.

LCOM's Future Plans for Curriculum Development: LCOM has no plans for new undergraduate programs, but remains open to partnerships for new or existing programs with other colleges at the University. The ESC suggests that academic units should capitalize on valuable collaborations with LCOM where appropriate. LCOM does plan to increase graduate program offerings, consistent with the University's strategic plan.

No further action needed.

Please extend my thanks to the members of the Educational Stewardship Committee. You are welcome to post this memo on your committee's webpage as a response to the March 15, 2018 report.

cc: Cathy Paris, Faculty Senate President