Unconfirmed Minutes of MODA Curriculum Consultative Committee (MC³)
10am, 25 May, 2007; Seminar Room, Dept Pharmacology

Present
Chair: CW Taylor (chair, Teaching Committee)
Secretary: Zoltan Sarnyai (MODA course organiser)
Clinical School representative: Kevin O’Shaughnessey
Vet School representative: Mike Herrtage
Robert Henderson (secretary, Teaching Committee); Lesley MacVinish (class co-ordinator); Peter McNaughton (HOD) Mike Edwardson, Steve Hladky, Dermot Cooper, Margery Barrand, Ruth Murrell Lagnado, Robin Hiley (Dept lecturers, MODA), Virginia Searle (taking notes)

Apologies: Rik van Veen

1. Minutes
The Minutes of the previous meeting on 26th May 2006 were approved

2. Lectures
2.1 The changes agreed last year were successful. As well as Dr Gibson’s lectures on Anthelmintics, Dr J Brearly had given two lectures on Aspects of Special Veterinary Pharmacology for VST. These will be continued.
2.2 For the coming year, CRH will take over the ‘Pharmacology of Peripheral Neural Transmission’ lectures from DMFC.
2.3 Feedback from medical students indicated that they would like some lectures to be given by clinical lecturers from the Clinical School. This was impracticable within a crowded timetable.

3. MCQs and Negative Marking.
3.1 CWT said that this may be the last year that negative marking would be used. SBH commented that the GMC has said that negative marking discriminates against women because they were more cautious. There was prolonged discussion in the meeting as to what we should do in future – i.e. go with what Pathology or PDN do, or mark our own way. Agreed that a shared policy across the Faculty would be best, and that we should prompt discussions at faculty Board. 

**ACTIONS:** Teaching Committee to discuss the options further
Zoltan (MODA organiser) to ensure via Don MacDonald and MVST Ctte that the issue is brought to Faculty Board.

3.2 Some lists of answers to MCQs are circulating amongst students, but not all answers may be accurate. After discussion, PMcN suggested that we publish a list of about 120 answers on the web which we know to be unambiguous, and put out a notice to say that we are doing this, although we are not obliged to.

**ACTION:** To be discussed at the next TC meeting.

4. Practical classes: Extended Investigation
4.1. This would be continued, but there had been negative feedback: classes were large and there were not enough demonstrators. LMacV proposed that the class should be split into two classes and the practical given over a 4-week period so that the better students would not be bored and the weaker ones would have more help. RM-L suggested that students would take practicals more seriously if they had something to give in for evaluation (e.g. a poster or write-up sheet).

**ACTION:** LMacV to timetable revised arrangements for extended investigation.
4.2 CRH commented that one less practical would affect diligent attendance – currently 60%. New attendance requirements for MODA as of 2007-8 are that MVST students attend all practicals, and if they are absent they should have a form signed by their tutor to explain why.

4.3 In order to show the relationship between the drug list and practical classes, the next drug list should have a note beside the drugs indicating which practical they were used in and by which lecturer.

**ACTION:** LMacV to ensure that this is done.

7. Communication with students and supervisors. Camtools (LMacV)
CamTools had been introduced from October 2006 and was fulfilling its purpose. However, there were complaints of too many e-mails announcing unnecessary new notices. Agreed that only important notices announcing, for example, cancellation or changes in lectures should be posted on CamTools. A paragraph in the course handbooks would be added advising students to check CamTools at least once a week for added resources as they would not be notified on CamTools. Lecturers should also advise each class when the handouts would be added to CamTools.

**ACTION:** Course organiser (ZS) to update handbook. LMacV to place this info on CamTools site.

8. AOB
None.

The meeting ended at 10.55am
Next meeting TBC (similar time in 2008)
Unconfirmed Minutes of NST1B Pharmacology Curriculum Consultative Committee

A meeting was held at 9am on 25 May 2007 in the Seminar Room, Department of Pharmacology.

The following were present: Colin Taylor (Chair), Peter McNaughton (HoD), Lesley MacVinish (TC Secretary), Dermot Cooper, Robin Hiley, Zoltan Sarnyai (current NST IB lecturers), Virginia Searle (Minutes secretary)

Apologies: Rik van Veen, Robin Irvine, Ruth Murrell-Lagnado

1. Minutes
   The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2006 were approved.

2. Lectures
   2.1 As CWT would be away for part of the Michaelmas term, it was arranged that he would give his first two lectures as timetabled (5th and 8th October), then RFI would give his four lectures from 10th to 17th October, and CWT would continue his series of lectures from 19th October.
   **ACTION:** LMacV to put a notice on the supervisors’ CamTools site to announce this change.
   2.2 CRH was of the opinion that ‘Antibiotics’ in the title of RvV’s lectures should be changed as it did not accurately reflect the content.
   **ACTION:** LMacV to discuss with RvV on his return. CRH had subsequently suggested that “Pharmacology of infections” might be appropriate.
   2.3 PMcN will take over T-PF’s lectures while the latter is on sabbatical, but said he would prefer the title to be ‘Inflammation and Pain’. This was agreed.
   2.4 The increase from 10 to 11 lectures in Cardiovascular & Renal Pharmacology (CRH) had been had been successful, with positive feedback.

3. Role of seminars in NST teaching
   The amendment of the timetable to incorporate useful seminars into the practical timetable had worked well and should be continued.

4. Mini projects and their examination
   The number of miniprojects offered had been reduced to ensure that most accommodate full number of students for most efficient use of staff, equipment and materials.

5. Communication with students and supervisors
   5.1 CamTools had been introduced from October 2006 and on the whole was fulfilling its purpose. However, there were complaints of too many e mails announcing unnecessary new notices. After some discussion, it was agreed that only important notices announcing, for example, cancellation or changes in lectures should be posted on CamTools. A paragraph in the course handbooks would be added advising students to check CamTools at least once a week for added resources as they would not be notified on CamTools. Lecturers should also advise each class when the handouts would be added to CamTools.
   **ACTION:** Course organiser (RvV) to update handbook. LMacV to place this info on CamTools site.
5.2 Recruitment to Pharmacology course had been slightly lower this year than recently. **ACTION:** RvV is to send out an advertising poster.

6. AOB
6.1 DMFC said that the Poster sessions had been worthwhile, as they encouraged students to distil information, but he suggested that an oral assessment could be incorporated so that students could expand on their work for the posters. It was agreed that 3 NST examiners could accomplish this in 2 afternoon sessions. The students would be made aware of who the assessors were, so as to distinguish between them and other individuals who were asking questions simply out of interest. More UTOs should be encouraged to attend the sessions in future.

The meeting ended at 9.35am. The next meeting would be held at a similar time in 2008.