

Foundations Committee Minutes

Date	January 26, 2021
Time	9:00 – 10:30AM
Location & Zoom Info	Zoom: https://uw-phi.zoom.us/j/255260274
Co-Chairs	<i>Edith Wang, Matt Cunningham</i>
Attendees	Academic Chair: <i>Matt Cunningham</i> ; Executive Chair: <i>Edith Wang</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QUORUM REACHED: 12 (> 50%: 10)	Voting Members: <i>Matt Cunningham, Alyssa Stephenson-Famy, Bruce Silverstein, Cassie Cusick, Catrin Pittack, Chris Hague, George Hodges, Karen McDonough, Leo Wang, Mark Whipple, Rebekah Burns, Vicky Le</i>
	Guests: <i>Alison Doherty, Cindy Knall, Doug Schaad, Esther Chung, Gerald Tolbert, Jaime Fitch, Jeff Seegmiller, Jessica Wheeler, John Willford, Julien Goulet, Kathy Young, Kelley Goetz, Kellie Engle, Kristen Hayward, Maggie Tarnawa, Marilyn Cope, Martin Teintze, Meghan Kiefer, Michael Campion, Nick Cheung, Peter Fuerst, Raye Maestas, Sara Kim, Teresa Jewell, Tim Robinson, William Sayres</i>
Regrets	Voting members: <i>Amanda Kost, Cierra Dauenhauer, Gerald Groggel, Holly Martinson, Isabela Covelli, Natasha Hunter, Ruxandra Ionescu</i>

Agenda

	ITEM	LEAD	TIME	ATTACHMENTS	ACTION
1	Approve December minutes	Matt Cunningham	5 min	Attachment A	Decision
2	Energetics and Homeostasis block level objectives	Bruce Silverstein	15 min	Attachment B	Decision
3	Foundations 2022 Update	Meghan Kiefer	70 min	Attachment C	Discussion

Next Meeting: February 23, 2021 at 9AM

1. Approval of December Minutes		
Discussion: The committee reviewed the December meeting minutes.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[11] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
Decision: The Foundations committee approved the December meeting minutes.		

2. Energetics and Homeostasis block level objectives		
Discussion: The committee reviewed the proposed block level objective changes for Energetics and Homeostasis (included in meeting materials). The committee discussed whether objective #10 (“Demonstrate effective communication by interacting with patients and/or other medical colleagues to analyze, breakdown, or solve clinical cases”) should be included since there aren’t plans to have narrative assessments as the course will be taught over zoom this year. It was decided that this objective should be removed for this year since the course will not be assessing it.		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DECISION REQUIRED?	[11] VOTES FOR	[0] VOTES AGAINST
Decision: The Foundations committee approved the revised Energetics and Homeostasis block level objectives		

3. Foundations 2022 Update		
Discussion: Dr. Kiefer reviewed the calendar for Foundations 2022 approved by the Curriculum Committee (included in meeting materials).		
<u>Background:</u> The U.S. Department of Education issued new regulations requiring quarters be between 9-13 weeks long. The current Foundations phase fall quarters (terms 1 and 3) are 15 weeks long and need to be reduced to come into compliance and to maintain financial aid.		
In May 2020, the Curriculum committee charged a Foundations data workgroup to develop principles to guide the development of the new Foundations phase for Fall 2022. The workgroup committed to a data-driven approach. The workgroup developed eight guiding principles:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foundations should be longer 2. Blocks should be ≤ 8 weeks and more uniform in length 3. Hematology should be earlier and before cardiovascular 4. HFF complexities deserve special attention when constructing the schedule 5. Threads need a larger and more integrated presence in blocks 6. Set time aside during Foundations for review and integration 7. Consider burden of disease when determining depth of coverage 8. Give more time to B&C, MSK, Immunology and threads 		
The Foundations data workgroup proposed three major changes:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summer quarter at beginning of medical school • Incorporate final exams into all Foundations blocks • More time off for students during Foundations 		

In fall 2020, there was a retreat to review and make improvements to draft schedules with stakeholders throughout the WWAMI region (including block and thread faculty, students, Foundations deans, and staff). From this retreat, stakeholders identified content priorities:

- Hematology and Immunology in one block
- Microbiology connected to Immunology
- MSK in winter quarter (prepares students for PCP)
- Renal before Cardiology
- Endocrine before Lifecycle

The Foundations committee reviewed the guiding principles and identified how these have been addressed by the approved schedule:

1. Foundations should be longer

Currently there are 788 instructional hours in the Foundations phase. Starting in 2022, there will be 830 hours.

2. Blocks should be ≤ 8 weeks and more uniform in length

Blocks have been shortened with a range of 5 to 7 weeks instead of the current range of 2 to 9 weeks.

3. Hematology should be earlier and before cardiovascular

This has been achieved. Hematology will be in fall of year one.

4. HFF complexities deserve special attention when constructing the schedule

HFF representatives on the call feel their considerations have been taken into account.

5. Threads need a larger and more integrated presence in blocks

This guiding principle has not yet been met since the Foundations 2022 renewal is still at a big picture level. This principle will continue to be applied as work continues.

6. Set time aside during Foundations for review and integration

Four weeks of integration have been added.

7. Consider burden of disease when determining depth of coverage

This guiding principle has not yet been met since the Foundations 2022 renewal is still at a big picture level. This principle will continue to be applied as work continues.

8. Give more time to B&C, MSK, Immunology and threads

This has been accomplished.

The committee discussed the integration weeks. These weeks will not introduce new material, rather they will be used for review and synthesis. The integration weeks will not be standalone courses, rather they will be part of the preceding block. The committee provided suggestions for the integration weeks:

- Expose students to NBME exam questions in a low-stakes environment. Questions could be integrated from all the blocks that they have completed up until that point.
- The integration weeks are required but not graded.
- The same faculty should lead all the integration weeks (similar format to a thread)

- Discuss multi-system diseases (diabetes, hypertension, etc.) and cover burden of disease
- Use these weeks for board exam preparation
- Build in clinical skills/patient-focused practice

Dr. Kiefer solicited feedback from the committee on how to give the threads a larger and more integrated presence in the blocks:

- Acknowledge that threads do not have an 'off-season,' they teach year-round
- Improve communication and collaboration between threads and block faculty