Town Hall Minutes

Date: May 1, 2020

Reflection: Post-traumatic growth

1. **Question/Concern: Removing personal items left on campus**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** Contact Rachel Bingham – she will share the protocol with you and. You must wear a mask, temp screening, answering questions, schedule a time – only necessary items

2. **Question/Concern: Stay-at-home orders from the city/state**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** Just because things are re-opening at a city level does not mean UIW will start operations again at the same times. We will work based on what UIW administration recommends. Our team is developing scenarios to bring back people back to campus. There are no official dates yet so stay tuned.

3. **Question/Concern: Academic calendar**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** Clinical Affairs is making some adjustments to the year 3 calendar, and hopefully next week you will receive the updated version. Keep in mind there still could be adjustments made as time goes on and situations arise.

4. **Question/Concern: Apartment lease agreements**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** Student Affairs has contacted the area apartment complexes and discovered that leasing managers encouraged learners to discuss their specific situations if need be.

5. **Question/Concern: CARE funds**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** There was an e-mail sent on Wednesday about emergency aid (CARE Funds) which is grant-funded assistance. You can apply online through UIW Financial Assistance website – apply ASAP if you are interested. Contact Celia Velez (cavelez1@uiwtx.edu) with questions. Apply for scholarships we have listed on our website as some of the deadlines are approaching.

6. **Question/Concern: Immunizations**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** We are transitioning to a new system for immunizations (PreCheck). In the next few weeks, you will need to set up a new account. Yes, your documents from Castle Branch have been uploaded into the new system, but you will still need to create a new account to complete the process. Also, this is a reminder that you will still have access to Castle Branch to view your records, but you need to always keep copies of everything you have for future reference. Soon, you will also need to take new drug tests, background checks, etc. and they will be due by July 1st – plus an updated CITI training course.

7. **Question/Concern: Scheduling events**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** If you are planning on hosting any online events, please make sure you get them approved through Engage. Contact Alex Shipley (ashipley@uiwtx.edu) if you have any questions.

8. **Question/Concern: NBOME updates**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** There was a rumor that COMLEX was cancelled at a higher rate than the USMLE, but both exams were cancelled at the same rates. As far as the testing centers, some locations were opening up already, and some are not – everything is happening on a local level at this point. They were exploring remote proctoring options, but there are too many precautions to consider about the safety/sacredness of the exam. Learners can contact NBOME via email or phone if they have any questions. There were also reports of fake ProMetric sites trying to schedule exams – make sure you are going through the right channel.

9. **Question/Concern: If my exam is during 14-day social isolation in order to start rotations in San Antonio/Laredo, how will this situation be handled?
a. **Answer/Solution:** We will have to work with you directly/individually as these issues arise as not every preceptor will require the same thing.

10. **Question/Concern: Curriculum in the dean’s letter**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** Curriculum will be included already in the dean’s letter, so you will not need to add any specifics on the curriculum unless you want to add how the curriculum affected you as a learner/future doctor.

11. **Question/Concern: Can I use the time provided to prepare for COMLEX for the USMLE if I don’t need it for COMLEX?**
   a. **Answer/Solution:** No. All the committee has approved is COMLEX preparation.

**Department/Individual Updates:**

**Alex Portillo**

- Behavioral Health Open House: Alex will be hosting these sessions if you want a chance to ask questions about mental health, study habits, performance, etc. Links will be sent via e-mail.

**Dr. Madson**

- Reminder: we are keeping our fingers on the pulse on what is going on at other medical schools and taking those items into consideration when making our own decisions
- We will only share information with you that is confirmed, not just rumors/unconfirmed information
- Reminder: get outside (keeping in mind social distancing) and reduce your cabin fever!

**Dr. Warden**

- **COMLEX**
  - ProMetric started randomly reassigning people already (about half of the UIWSOM students have been reassigned at this point)
  - The COMLEX testing window by UIWSOM has been opened from today until the end of December
    - Reschedule for the earliest date you can find if you need to reschedule
    - If you have not rescheduled, we recommend keeping your date (at least until you have taken your COMSAE)
    - You can reschedule during clerkships and during readiness week as well
  - Check for additional sites (not just San Antonio) – more Texas sites have opened
  - COMLEX/USMLE – COMLEX is required – prioritize that
- **COMSAE – May 11th** (everyone will be taking it on this date) – this will help us know if you are ready for the COMLEX – you will at least have a score to help you see where you stand
  - Scores greater than 450: you are approved for COMLEX
  - Scores below 450: you will be contacted by a COMLEX readiness team and determine whether you require reassessment or not
  - Once you take the COMSAE, you will get the score right away

**Dr. Parker**

- Kaplan Prep access has been extended to October 2020

**Dr. Sanderlin**

- **COMLEX**
  - The COMLEX is not a final exam – it is designed by the states to protect the public and provide safety
  - It is not advisable to cram for an exam like this – the curriculum is truly the best preparation
You will be excused from clinical rotations to take your exams (and possibly the day before)
You might be given time off for the COMLEX (not USLME) to prepare
Unless the COMLEX committee tells you that you need to reschedule, do not push it back
Most hospitals will not let you back in without PPE

Other updates
- You will need a physical, ACLS or PALS, background check, drug test (complete the required trainings when you are scheduled to – you will not be able to go into your rotations if you delay)
- Rotation 1 and 2 might have to be half didactics and half hospital time depending on availability
- The hospitals will not allow you back in unless you have 14 days of social isolation in San Antonio or Laredo, depending on where you are rotating – make sure you are back in SA or Laredo two weeks before you start
- Everything on your schedule should be the same – you might not know until last minute where you are going to rotate
- COMLEX is not going to be P/F
- Right now, your graduation date will not be affected by the current situation

Dr. Steele
- Wash your hands, wear your masks, stay home, and take care of your mental health!
- Check your e-mails for confirmed information about UIWSOM specifically. Even if you hear confirmation about main campus, it might not apply to UIWSOM – you will receive direct communication from UIWSOM about our protocols and plans.

OASA:
- Encourage your classmates to contact us if you or any of your classmates need assistance with anything!
- [Cardinal Care resource page](#) (full of resources to help you navigate this difficult time)
- Financial Aid – Celia Velez is available to assist ([cavelez1@uiwtx.edu](mailto:cavelez1@uiwtx.edu))
- Behavioral Health – our SOM counselor is available for tele-counseling ([alportil@uiwtx.edu](mailto:alportil@uiwtx.edu))