

**Minutes of the House Staff Council  
Mount Sinai School of Medicine**

**December 29, 2010**

Present:	Dr. S. Abramowitz	Excused:	Dr. M. Barghash
	Dr. J. Chase		Dr. A. Bird
	Dr. B. Coakley		Dr. S. Cohen
	Dr. L. Doyon		Dr. M. Crochet
	Dr. L. Friedman		Dr. G. David-West
	Dr. C. Halverstam		Dr. B. Ferguson
	Dr. E. Ko		Dr. J. Galjour
	Dr. A. Malbari		Dr. K. Gestuvo
	Dr. D. Maman		Dr. J. Gonzalez
	Dr. S. Motivala		Dr. R. Guarino
	Dr. R. Panara		Dr. A. Ikeako
	Dr. R. Park		Dr. M. Jiang
	Dr. A. Pawale		Dr. K. Kemp
	Dr. M. Rocco		Dr. H. Koncicki
	Dr. B. Shah		Dr. A. Lim
	Dr. M. Shimonova		Dr. M. Luttrull
	Dr. S. Sicular		Dr. R. Meyer
	Dr. J. Siefferman		Dr. E. Morency
	Dr. A. Sim		Dr. K. O'Connor
	Dr. N. Sun		Dr. J. Park
	Dr. S. Yang		Dr. R. Patel
By Invitation:	Mr. P. Johnson		Dr. M. Pilapil
	Mr. P. Williams		Dr. A. Thomas
			Dr. P. Vaishnava
			Dr. M. Walkup
			Dr. A. Yang

1. Dr. Sicular called the meeting to order and welcomed the house staff representatives. The minutes of the November 3, 2010, meeting were approved without correction. Dr. Sicular provided an update on some items in the November minutes. Dr. Nash continued to welcome resident participation on quality assurance committees. Council members who were interested in participating should contact Dr. Sicular. The review of house staff benefits was ongoing. Mount Sinai decided not to license the LanguageMate program for Medical Spanish; feedback from Council members was helpful in making this decision.
2. Dr. Siefferman reviewed educational benefits for house staff. The Executive Committee of the Council had met with Ms. Caryn Tiger-Paillex, Director of Human Resources for Mount Sinai School of Medicine (MSSM), and Mr. Johnson, Director of Graduate Medical Education. The Executive Committee determined that its highest priority was to request an \$800 educational benefit for PGY-2 and -3 residents in calendar year 2011. The Executive Committee subsequently planned to request an adjustment to house staff salaries. Dr. Siefferman noted that it was an appropriate time to make such a request, as 2011 budgets

were currently under consideration. There would be further discussion regarding the cost for ACLS recertification, but it would be handled separately with the Nursing Education Department. Dr. Siefferman requested that any concerns should be emailed to him so that they could be addressed at the next meeting of the Resources Subcommittee.

3. Dr. Shah provided an update concerning the Education Subcommittee, which was developing an interdisciplinary speakers bureau. Council members were encouraged to contribute their suggestions for speakers in their department who would be willing to provide education to other departments.
4. Dr. Sicular presented an update concerning the Work Environment and Quality Subcommittee on behalf of Dr. Barghash. The Subcommittee was seeking greater resident involvement in the inpatient implementation of Epic as well as quality assurance committees.
5. Dr. Sicular reminded the Council that the GME Office had provided a \$10,000 budget to the Council. Dr. Sicular and other Council members made numerous suggestions for using the funds, including a benevolence fund, gym equipment, seminars, and social events. A list of options was to be compiled for residents to prioritize.
6. Dr. Sicular continued to investigate disaster relief volunteer opportunities for house staff, and was reviewing issues such as liability insurance and resident schedules.
7. Dr. Sicular demonstrated a draft of a website for the Council, which included pages for by-laws, initiatives, minutes, subcommittees, and frequently asked questions.
8. The Council was reminded that some of its representatives had been appointed to serve as resident representatives on Mount Sinai's Graduate Medical Education Committee (GMEC). The GMEC valued the participation of these representatives for their contribution to the Committee's work. The Committee selected Dr. Yang as an additional GMEC representative for the 2010-2011 Academic Year.
9. Dr. Sicular updated the Council on recent GMEC concerns, including the new ACGME duty hours requirements, the 2011 Match, resident salaries and benefits, and Internal Reviews to assess the quality of sponsored residency programs.
10. Dr. Malbari suggested that Council members could send updates on Council activities to house staff within their departments. It was agreed that it was important for Council members to communicate regularly with house staff and to bring their concerns back to the Council.
11. There was a discussion regarding the Council initiative to create a medical salvage program. The Council wished to clarify whether salvaged items would be donated to charity or resold, and Dr. Sicular replied that the program would have a charitable purpose. Dr. Yang suggested that veterinary schools may wish to receive donated equipment. It was suggested that medical students may have free time to coordinate this initiative, and Dr. Sicular agreed to approach the Student Council.
12. With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting was to be scheduled for February 24, 2011, with further details to follow.