



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Department of Veterinary
Medicine

TEACHING STRATEGY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting held on 9 March 2016

Present: Clare Allen, Katheryn Ayres, Jackie Brearley, Jane Dobson, Judith Drinkwater (Secretary), John Gibson, Michael Herrtage, Laura Owen, Gareth Pearce, Alun Williams (Chair)

Apologies: Murray Corke, Nicky Holdstock, Ian McCrone, Kate Smith, Penny Watson

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2016

The minutes were approved.

2. Matters arising

2.1 Minutes of Accreditation Working Party (formerly AVMA Consultation Visit Steering Group) meeting on 29 January 2016

AW reported that the first draft of the documentation was due to be finished by 31 March. He asked that anyone who had been approached to provide material for the self-assessment document should provide it in a timely manner. A short video would be produced as part of the submission, and the Department was seeking a provider for this.

2.2 Clinical Skills Training in preparation for final year

JMD explained that a working party had been convened to look at ways of better preparing students for entry into the final year rotations. The working party had discussed 4th and 5th year teaching and had drawn up a list of generic and specific skills that were a prerequisite for entry into the final year rotations. A new group, with representation from course organisers, was now needed to take this forward and plan the integration of the skills into 4th and 5th year rotations. JMD noted that the Farm and Equine rotations were clearly organised with clear aims and objectives across the 4th and 5th year, and it was mainly the Small Animal rotations that needed to be addressed. JMD explained that there was overlap between the list of skills drawn up by the working group and the skills delivered in the Clinical Skills Centre, but notwithstanding this, the 4th year clinical rotations would be reviewed and revised as currently they contained no coherent strand of skills teaching. JCB agreed that the purpose of the Clinical Skills Centre was to permit honing of skills rather than initial teaching of skills, which should be done in rotations. The revision of 4th and 5th year teaching would allow some material currently delivered in lecture format to be brought into the rotation, which was an exciting opportunity. LCVA offered to facilitate the course design process.

It was noted that the impact of the CSC on students due to join the 6th year in 2016 would be taken into account when 4th and 5th year rotations were revised.

ACTION: a small group to be convened to take design of 4th and 5th year rotation teaching forward

2.3 Professional Clinical Practice Strand

AW noted that there were multiple initiatives underway that would come to fruition in the medium term.

Some small changes were planned for preparing for the veterinary profession for 2016-17. The longer term plan was to integrate Preparing for the Veterinary Profession and Principles of Animal Management, and to run a professionalism strand through the integrated course.

LCVA had been in touch with the two staff responsible for delivering the professionalism strand in preclinical and clinical medicine, who were interested in collaborating on projects, although currently preclinical and clinical were disarticulated. Preclinical medicine had recently introduced an e-portfolio to enable students to keep track of and reflect on professionalism interactions. The funds secured from the Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund (see 4 below) would permit the Department to take up the medical model and introduce a two-year pilot scheme in veterinary medicine for 2016-17. Details of a pilot project had yet to be agreed, and LVA would involve all interested parties, e.g. EMS co-ordinators, before moving forward.

ACTION: LCVA

2.4 Subject teaching reviews

AW reminded that a series of light touch reviews by external assessors was being introduced. The Farm Animal section would pilot the reviews. AW and IMcC would discuss with the assessor whether it was possible to deal with the full breadth of the farm animal course. AW would update the committee by circulation.

ACTION: AW

2.5 Final Vet MB Examinations

JSG had produced a document outlining the rationale behind the course examinations in 2014 and had recently updated this. When a review of examinations is undertaken in 2016-17, further revisions would be made as required.

2.6 Staff training day about feedback, 5 February 2016

The slides from the event had been posted on Moodle. LO had been doing trial feedback for final year rotations on a weekly basis, seeing individual students for a brief face-to-face meeting, and felt this was a useful exercise. She would present her findings to the Teaching Committee.

ACTION: LO

3. E-learning strategy

The Department did not have an e-learning strategy but a recommendation of the RCVS Visitation in March 2015 had asked the Department to address this. A scoping exercise was needed to outline the Department's needs in this area and to make a proposal for a new role in the Department, to be occupied by an individual with the knowledge and skills to drive this forward. The following group members were suggested: KMA, IT support member, Catherine Wager, Alex Chebroux, Heike Rudorf.

ACTION: AW

4. Teaching & Learning Innovation Fund

The meeting was pleased to note that LCVA had been awarded £13,805 for her project entitled 'E-portfolios to enhance student reflection in workplace learning environments'.

5. Deputy Director of Teaching business

5.1 Responses to Reports of External Examiners, 2015

The Faculty Board of Veterinary Medicine had seen a preliminary draft of the responses to the external Examiners, as submitted by the Chairs of Examiners, and had recommended that these be expanded and re-written. JSG had redrafted the response and had circulated them for comment. He would send them to Chairs of Examiners for their comments. The revised response would then be sent to the Chairman of the Faculty Board for approval under Chairman's action, prior to being communicated to the External Examiners.

ACTION: JSG/JAD

5.2 Deadlines for submission of draft examination papers

JSG reminded the meeting that the deadline for receipt of draft examination papers for Part III was 8 February and for Part II was 29 February. Some draft examination scripts had not been received within these deadlines (or indeed at present) so could not be sent in timely fashion to the External Examiners. This had an impact on KMA, who was unable to provide the administrative support for arranging the examinations, and conveyed a poor impression to the External Examiners. He hoped that colleagues would provide examinations questions by the deadline in future.

6. EMS Co-ordinator report

There was no report.

JMD noted that the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine might be able to provide BCG vaccinations. She would check and would let AW and KMA know.

ACTION: JMD

7. Clinical Skills Centre

A report from February 2016 appears below.

JCB said that the feedback from 4th and 5th years from the clinical skills rotations in Lent Term suggested that the format of the rotations was generally welcomed.

JCB explained that the students had asked to introduce peer teaching and that this had been piloted with the help of LO and Jon Hall. Seven students had been trained to be peer teachers for suturing, and had received instruction about suturing, how to provide feedback and how to construct a small group teaching session.

8. Dates of meetings 2015-2016

All Wednesdays 12.00-13.00:

27 April 2016

25 May 2016

Report for Teaching Strategy 9/03/16

Activities and classes provided

Lent 2016	Class 2018	4 th yr rotation	EMS skills – opportunities for supervised rehearsal of anaesthesia, clinical pathology, equine, medicine, nursing and surgery skills.
	Class 2017	5 th yr rotation	Case based anaesthesia and surgery skills (equine); case based medicine and clinical pathology skills (feline) Friday morning allocated for 5th year as a timetabled drop in session
	Class 2016	6 th yr rotation	CPR seminars

Other usage

Staff open morning

1st and 2nd year students open evenings

Final year student tutorials with rotation staff

Forthcoming PAM canine handling assessments

Teaching aids

Video guide to PAM canine handling assessments

iSimulate

Continuing development of Moodle site

Jugular blood sampling models – feline, canine and equine

Purchases and acquisitions

Fibreglass horse

Display screen

iSimulate (with iPads)
Large animal anaesthetic machine
Radiography positioning model (on order)

Major items still to purchase

Consulting room furniture
Milking cow
Critical care model
Rat intubation model (funded by CUVZS)
Additional surgical instrumentation

Requests

Blacksmith buddy
Tables
Half screens
Microhaematocrit centrifuge
Another person

Academic activities

Started research programme looking at Effect of the CSC and online material on skills proficiency on entering Final year
Future idea - Survey of vet schools to collate information about clinical skills teaching
Validation of Intubation model with UCD
Planned attendance at Learning in Simulation conference at UCD