



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF GDAŃSK
English Division Student Council
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Poland



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MUGED Meeting with Rector Moryś and Vice-Dean Biernat

1. After some discussion & negotiation, Rector agreed that it is a good idea to provide some plastic anatomical models [brain included] for student's learning inside the MUG Library. This 'anatomy table' will be available in the beginning of the 2011/2012 academic year, using the models provided by the Anatomy Department. If the budget allows, some models might be purchased specifically for the Library and would become Library's property.

2. Future construction on MUG campus

Rector explained MUG's priorities:

- #1 the expansion of MUG Library – no response yet from the government regarding the 6 million PLN grant needed for this project
- #2 the construction of a new Health Sciences building across the street from the current Tuwima 15 building – 60 million PLN are needed
- #3 the construction of a new dormitory adjacent to the Pharmacology/Forensic Medicine building on Dębowa 23 – however investors are not at this time interested in constructing buildings for rent

3. Clerkships in USA/CAN

Rector stated that this issue is under the supervision of Vice-Dean Dudziak. Added that there are no barriers for a student attending such clerkships, as long as the clerkship course hours are equal or greater to the MUG course hours for that same subject. Once the student is officially admitted to a clerkship program s/he must notify the Dean's Office and provide all necessary information prior to leaving MUG. However, at this time MUG does not have bilateral agreements with any US or Canadian medical school, therefore upon returning from a clerkship the student will have to arrange and pass the final test or exam for that particular course at MUG.

4. Rector informed us that MUG is working on an exchange program with the English Divisions at the Medical Universities in Poznań and Kraków.

5. Exam cards

Rector concurred that the paper exam cards are temporary, but it will take 2 or 3 more academic years to establish the electronic grade system as a standard operating procedure. The Rector also agreed that the current system forces the student to prove that s/he has passed a course and that this is not an acceptable nor necessary practice.

6. Departments not updating grades electronically

Vice-Dean Biernat stated that it is not acceptable that Departments are not updating grades soon after the course ends. He asked Year Reps to e-mail him or Vice-Dean Dudziak the names of specific departments which have not updated grades from 1st semester courses. The Rector added that if students petition that they want exam grades to be posted on eDziekanat only [not on extranet, not on bulletin boards in hallways], then he will support in writing such a petition.

7. Departments losing exam cards

In case a Department loses a student's exam card, the student should notify the Dean's Office about this.

8. Departments limiting access to test papers

Rector and Vice-Dean both stated that any Department or teacher who is limiting the student's access to his/her test answers, test questions and/or answer key is in violation of the MUG Rules & Regulations. This regulation applies to every student, regardless if s/he passed or failed that particular test. They added that each academic year all Department Heads receive a written memo quoting this rule. In case this rule is violated, students should report it to their Tutor of the Year.

9. The Internal Medicine exam card

Rector as well as Vice-Dean were surprised that such additional exam card was created and has become a requirement to write the final exam in the V year. Vice-Dean Biernat agreed to address this issue with Prof. Sworzczak, the author of the card.

10. The „20% rule“

Rector as well as Vice-Dean stated that there is no rule in the MUG Rules & Regulations regarding any minimum number/proportion of students that must pass a final test/exam in order for the results to be officially valid. However, they did agree that all final tests/exams may not test knowledge of material that is outside the curriculum or was not presented in the course. In such cases, the Year Rep should request the Vice-Dean to officially review the exam. [few years ago students questioned a Physiology final exam and after the Vice-Dean's review, the results were cancelled and students wrote a completely new exam]

11. The internship greenbook

Every student is required to learn the procedures listed in the greenbook and obtain a doctor's signature for each procedure. The only exception is the „pronouncement of death“ procedure.

Rector agreed that the instructions about this were not communicated clearly in writing by the Tutors of Years and Dean's Office.

12. Changes to the medical curriculum

Current MUG students [ED and WL] will graduate under the old curriculum. The new curriculum applies to the new students admitted for the 2011/2012 academic year. This curriculum will be similar to the rest of EU: an exam after the pre-clinical years, an exam after the clinical years, more emphasis on practical skills, the VI year will be completely clinical/same as an internship/foundation year.

13. Quality of the teachers' English

Vice-Dean clarified that the selection of staff who will teach students is done at the level of Department Heads. Also added that MUG offers its teachers a 50% discount on English courses at a private institution – however this course is not mandatory and each year there are fewer participants.

14. Teacher evaluations on-line

Rector and Vice-Dean both encouraged the Year Reps to motivate students to complete the teacher evaluations on-line. They explained how the system works, how the anonymity is protected and how the results are reviewed. They emphasized that the results of the surveys are one of the main factors that Department Heads and MUG Administrators use in deciding whether a member of Faculty will continue teaching or not. Year Reps suggested that the best incentive for ED students to complete the surveys will be a published summary of last year's results as well as a summary of the administrative actions taken by the Departments and Vice-Rector Kamińska. Rector confirmed that the next improvement of the on-line evaluations will include adding the pictures of teachers.

15. Surprise audits

In addition to the on-line evaluations, the Rector has commissioned a team of MUG Staff who will conduct surprise visits to all theoretical as well as clinical classes and audit the quality of education. The Departments who demonstrate the highest quality of teaching will receive financial incentives.

16. MD/PhD program

Rector stated that it is possible for any student [ED or WL] to get involved in research during his/her MD studies. He described the process as follows: student finds an area of research, then approaches the relevant Department [either via SKN/Student Scientific Club or directly] and conducts as much research as possible towards authoring his/her own research papers and PhD dissertation. The financing of the research project is arranged at the level of the Department. After graduation, the student would need to spend an additional 1-1.5 years completing the dissertation and review process. He suggested that Associate Professors/Docents are most likely to be open to student help/involvement in research.

17. Possibility to work in Poland after graduation

Rector stated that it is possible for ED students who are EU citizens to work in Polish hospitals after graduation [the internship year is called staż], as long as s/he has command of the Polish language. After completing the staż and national licensing exam [LEP], the medical licensing authority [Izba Lekarska] will check the young doctor's command of the Polish language.

18. Official documentation of extracurricular activities

Students have a right to have their extracurricular activities officially documented in the Supplement to the Diploma. This applies to activities that are formally recognized by MUG: Student Council, Student Scientific Clubs, Awards, Prizes, participation in student scientific conferences. Information about involvement should be presented to the Dean's Office in the form of an official letter from the organizers/supervisors of the particular activity.

19. 2011/2012 academic year

The Rector and Vice-Dean stated that the rumors are false and that there will not be any changes to the start or end of the 2011/2012 academic year. The only change due to the 2012 Euro football championships is that the final exams will be planned not to conflict with match days in Gdańsk [due to foreseeable traffic problems].

20. Dormitory Issues

The Rector clarified that all Dormitory-related questions and disputes are the responsibility of the Chancellor. Also confirmed that the Dormitory Directors have limited authority [eg. are not allowed to evict a student without decision from Chancellor]. Thus, all the Council's questions regarding increases in dorm rent, request for explanation of the different prices of summer rent for different groups of students, questions about dorm renovations, questions about increasing parking space around the dorms should be directed to the Chancellor + copy to Rector [due to the fact that the Chancellor does not know English]

21. Mandatory lectures

The Rector and Vice-Dean stated that lectures **are** mandatory at MUG because all lecture hours are part of the 5500 hours of courses required by the EU. However, they also added that this rule has rarely been enforced by Department Heads and Vice-Deans.

22. MUG Library hours

The Rector stated that it might be possible to extend the Library Reading Room hours during the exam sessions [especially in September, when the hours are the shortest] including weekends [busiest time of the year] – ED Council needs to write a request.

23. Dean's Office hours

The Rector and Vice-Dean stated that it might be possible to extend the Dean's Office hours in late September/early October [busiest time of the year] – ED Council needs to write a request.

24. Required number of facultative hours

There has been a lot of confusion among the students of different years about the number of required facultative subjects. The ED Council decided to write a formal letter to the Dean's Office, requesting information on required hours for each year of study to be posted on extranet as well as on the facultative registration website.

25. Rules & Regulations

The Rector as well as Vice-Dean stated that a Teacher or Department Head may not expect students to do/know/abide by something that was not written in the Rules & Regulations of the subject at the beginning of the year.

26. Signed copies of Rules & Regulations

The Rector as well as Vice-Dean stated that there is no rule/reason/justification that prevents Year Rep from receiving a xerox copy of subject Rules & Regulations s/he signed at the Dean's Office. All cases of refusal to give a copy should be reported to the Vice-Dean.

27. Issues with a Department Head/Vice-Dean

Vice-Dean Biernat explained that all cases of a student's dispute with a Department whose Head is also a Vice-Dean are automatically handled by the other Vice-Dean. Thus, there is no conflict of interest.

28. VI year UK & IRE students

The current VI students from UK have missed the deadlines for the Foundation Year because Dean Siebert refused to sign the necessary documents on-time and took 1 month to sign a document stating that Vice-Dean's signature is going to be an equivalent in this matter. By the time Vice-Dean Dudziak signed the documents, it was already too late. The UK & IRE students need priority with arranging the dates for their last exam [Surgery oral exam] as well as additional documents [grade point average ranking in class, early transcripts etc.]. The Rector stated that this is not a problem, but the students must contact Dean's Office at the beginning of VI year, explain exactly what they need & what the deadlines are.

29. Mandatory Insurance

Rector explained that the Accident insurance is required by the UCK/hospital. Whereas MUG does accept insurance from company other than InterRisk. The students are required to give a proof of insurance to the Dean's Office or to purchase the InterRisk insurance [in addition to the 5zł Civil Liability insurance, also from InterRisk]. Rector and Repts agreed that it is the responsibility of the Tutors of Years to explain the basic details of insurance and remind students about it. Repts asked if the mandatory Civil Liability insurance can be included in the cost of tuition – Rector responded that this should be possible and the ED Council should write a formal request to the Chancellor + copy to Rector.

30. Public computers in Biomedicum & Atheneum Gedanensis/Dean's Office

The Rector stated that the current, non-functioning computers located for public use in the hallways of Biomedicum & Atheneum are going to be replaced with new Dell computers in time for the 2011/2012 academic year.

31. Internet in Building 27 [Pathophysiology]

The Pathophysiology Dept has provided new computers for students to use during seminars to search for data relevant to the cases discussed in class. However the internet service in that building has been not functional for most of the 2010/2011 academic year. The Rector confirmed that it is the UCK/hospital IT Dept that is responsible for maintaining the internet service of all hospital buildings. During this meeting the Rector has called that IT Dept Head and reminded him that Prof. Witkowski has already written 2 letters to IT Dept requesting repairs to the internet service in that building.

32. Dr. Chabior

Rector stated that this is not the first time he has received complaints about Dr. Chabior's rude/unprofessional behavior, refusing to see/examine ED students, prescribing antibiotics without performing a physical exam. The Rector stated that the reason why a pediatrician [Dr. Chabior] is assigned to treat ED students is that he is one of the few doctors at the MUG outpatient clinic that speaks English. The Rector suggested that the ED students seek medical treatment from the doctors they have in class [is that correct?] and that the ED Council writes him a formal complaint.

33. Graduation reception

MUG has never organized nor paid for this event. It has always been the decision of the graduating students whether to have it or not and how big/costly it should be.

The meeting has ended in a friendly atmosphere.

Janusz Springer
Secretary General
ED Student Council