PRESENT  Winthrop Professor Martyn French (Chair), Dr Jill Finlayson, Clinical Professor Richard Herrmann, Associate Professor Patricia Martinez, Associate Professor Liam O’Connor, Winthrop Professor David Ravine, Clinical Associate Professor Samuel Vasikaran.

Ms Cora D’Souza (Minutes)

APOLOGIES  Professor Sandra Carr, Winthrop Professor Jeff Hamdorf, Winthrop Professor Jennet Harvey, Professor Patricia Price, Professor Frank van Bockxmeer, Winthrop Professor Paul Waring.

DECLARATIONS OF POTENTIAL FOR CONFLICT OR PERCEIVED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair invited members to declare potential for conflict or perceived conflicts of interest with regard to items on the agenda. None were declared.

1  MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Teaching Committee held on 11 June were confirmed.

2  BUSINESS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

2.1  Update on Improving Current Third and Fourth Years of MBBS Course

- Associate Professor O’Connor reported that he had developed a template for case-based teaching. He had commenced on the development of six pilot cases, one for each discipline, in consultation with discipline groups. He advised that a case would be ready for demonstration at the next meeting of the Teaching Committee.

Action:  Associate Professor O’Connor

2.2  Update on Improving Pathology Teaching in Fifth and Sixth Years of MBBS Course

- Clinical Associate Professor Vasikaran reported that he had not received any feedback in response to the discussion paper “Laboratory Exposure for Medical Students” circulated to members of the Teaching Committee. In order to proceed with the implementation of the proposal, it would be necessary to ascertain the amount of teaching time available.

- With regard to the immediate term, Associate Professor Vasikaran advised that he had been invited by Ms Vivien Alexander of the Faculty’s Education Centre to present a session in Campus Week scheduled for mid-August. As this would not provide adequate time for preparation, he has had to decline the invitation.
• The Chair reported that Professor Waring had met with Professor Ian Puddey, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences (FMDHS), who had expressed the view that the School should have a greater involvement in clinical teaching programmes. In order to progress this initiative, it was suggested that Professor Sandra Carr be invited by the Chair to provide the Teaching Committee with an overview of the Fifth and Sixth Year curriculum with a view to determining how this could be developed.

Action: Professor French

• The Chair advised that Associate Professor O'Connor had made the suggestion that students be introduced to laboratory disciplines through the use of “virtual laboratory tours”. He suggested that this could be followed by teaching on laboratory practice that would include the opportunity for students to ‘track’ specimens from patient bedside through to laboratory analysis and student involvement at CPC meetings.

Associate Professor O'Connor requested discipline groups to provide him with information on the material to be included in their discipline's “virtual laboratory tour”.

Action: Discipline Groups

2.3 Proposed Changes to the Third Year of the BSc Degree

The Chair reported that

• Professor Waring had been nominated by the FMDHS to be its nominee on the University's Board of Studies for the BSc degree. The Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences (FLAPS) would be holding a forum on 30 July, open to all staff, to discuss the development of the new BSc degree.

• Professor Waring had been holding discussions with Professor van Bockxmeer, Associate Professor Richard Allcock, and Professor French in order to clarify the School’s position with regard to majors to be offered in the BSc degree. An expression of interest form is being developed and the completed form will need to be submitted to the interim Board of Studies by 30 September. During discussions, it had become apparent that the School should be involved in two majors:

a Biomedical Science
   This major would be suitable for students who are likely to progress to a post-graduate degree course in Medicine. The Faculty of preference would be FLAPS rather than FMHDS, and the Dean of Medicine had indicated that he would have no objections to this arrangement.

b Pathology and Laboratory Medicine
   This major would be suitable for students who wished to undertake a broader BSc focusing on human disease with emphasis on laboratory practice.

These preferences would be prepared for submission to the interim Board of Studies as the School’s expression of interest in the BSc course.

Action: Professor French
         Professor Waring
         Professor van Bockxmeer
         Associate Professor Allcock
• Discussions would be held with FLAPS to determine which components of the BSc required a teaching contribution from the School.

**Action:** Professor French  
Professor Waring  
Professor van Bockxmeer  
Associate Professor Allcock

### 2.4 Proposed Changes to the MLM Degree

Clinical Professor Herrmann reported that discussions were continuing with discipline representatives and that a group of scientists was being established to develop the new MLM degree. Anatomical Pathology was in the process of identifying funding to employ a trainer.

He advised that any participation by Microbiology appeared to be constrained by the lack of resources. It was suggested that Clinical Professor Herrmann should make contact with Winthrop Professor Geoff Shellam of the School of Biomedical, Biomolecular and Chemical Sciences.

**Action:** Clinical Professor Herrmann

### 3 UPDATE FROM DISCIPLINE GROUPS

#### 3.1 Update on Formation of Discipline Teaching Groups and their Activities (including MBBS, BSc and MLM)

- **Genetics**  
  Professor Ravine advised that he had held discussions with some individuals with regard to the teaching of Genetics.

- **Clinical Biochemistry**  
  Clinical Associate Professor Vasi karan advised that discussions were on-going with the Clinical Biochemists with regard to case-based teaching.

- **Anatomical Pathology**  
  Associate Professor O’Connor reported that a case-based tutorial on “Breast” would be ready for presentation during Second Semester.

- **Clinical Immunology**  
  Associate Professor Martinez reported that she had met with those involved in the teaching of Clinical Immunology with regard to the introduction of the case-based teaching method.

- **Haematology**  
  Dr Finlayson reported that the Haematology Teaching Group had not met recently.

- **Clinical Microbiology**  
  Associate Professor O’Connor noted that there was nothing to report for Clinical Microbiology.

### 4 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### 4.1 Creating Greater Visibility of the Medical Curriculum

• In Professor Waring’s absence, the Chair noted that this item related to the invitation to be extended to Professor Sandra Carr to present an overview of the Fifth and Sixth Year curriculum with a view to facilitating the greater involvement of the School in clinical teaching.
It was suggested that the School take steps to improve its profile through the coverage of stem cell biology in its teaching in the medical and science courses. The Chair agreed to raise this issue with the Head of School.

**Action:** Professor French

5 **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on 13 August 2009 at 8.00am in the ten Seldam Seminar Room 1.6, First Floor, M Block, QEIIIMC.

The meeting closed at 8.50 am.