REVIEW OF THE VETERINARY CURRICULUM
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine
University of Nairobi
Kiama S. G.
FUTURE FOCUS

Participants at the Faculty Strategic Planning Retreat
INTRODUCTION

HISTORY

1940: Diploma School
1962: Conversion Course - BVSc

1968/69: Major review of BVM curriculum-to include public health and to expand Animal production
ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

DEAN

ASSOCIATE DEAN

CHAIRMEN OF DEPARTMENTS

- Department of Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology
- Department of Animal Production
- Department of Veterinary Pathology, Parasitology and Microbiology
- Department of Public Health, Pharmacology and Toxicology
- Department of Clinical Studies

Associate Department

- Department of Biochemistry
NEW COURSES

- Livestock Economics and Marketing
- Elements of Economics
- Communication Skills
- Law in Society
- Aquaculture
Admission Requirements

- Kenya Advanced Certificate of Education
- Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education
- Higher National Diploma
- Equivalent qualifications
COURSE DURATION

- 5 Academic Years: Learning from September to June.
- The first 4 years consist of 3 semesters (Total 38 weeks)
- The 5th Year has 2 semesters (30 weeks)
- The program is covered in 5380 hours
Reviews has been necessitate by:

- Changes in national education policy
- Funding mechanisms for public universities
- Privatization of the veterinary practice
- Innovation of new technologies/mode of delivery/program models
- Need to introduce new topics
- Curriculum is too packed
- Need to ensure student develop confidence to practice before they venture into the market
- Changing nature of employment opportunities
Learning outcomes

These are specific measurable changes that are intended to be brought about in a learner. These may be divided into three domains:

A. Knowledge domain:

B. Skills domain

C. Behaviors domain
Knowledge domain

Students should have a basic understanding of:

- Anatomy and physiology
- Biochemistry
- Pharmacology and toxicology
- Pathology
- Microbiology and parasitology
- Immunology
- Medicine
- Public health
- Animal production
- Surgery
- Theriogenology
- Law in Veterinary practice
Skills domain

Students should be able to:

- Communicate effectively with owners, colleagues and the general public both orally and in writing
- Perform common anesthetic, surgical, obstetrical and medical procedures
- Perform careful physical examination
- Interpret historical, physical examination, laboratory and radiological findings to diagnose diseases.
- Conduct necropsy examination
- Conduct meat inspection
Behavior domain

Students should develop;

- Respect for colleagues, clients and animals

- Good professional values - responsibility, honesty...

- Commitment to continuous self improvement

- Willingness to seek and accept feedback on their knowledge, skills and behaviour
In considering possible changes in program structure, several alternatives are available.

1) Lockstep program
2) Core and elective Program
3) Streaming program
4) Tracking program
5) intercalated program
All students fulfill the same academic requirements for graduation: Model suited for educating and training the omni-competent veterinarian

Advantages:
Easy to administer and schedule
Limited number of Faculty engaged at any one time
Graduate ready to fit in any discipline

Disadvantages
This model provides a curriculum that is a “mile wide and an inch deep”
Does not provide opportunities for students to explore their area of interest
Does not allow for maximizing the use of resources
Core and Elective

A program with a defined core plus some elective opportunities

Advantages

♦ Provides the potential for diversifying the curriculum and producing graduates to pursue careers other than clinical practice
♦ Students are free to choose electives of their own interest

Disadvantages

There is need for counseling/advising of students

Depending on the number of elective opportunities the model could result in an increased teaching load for the faculty.
Possibility of under-subscription which could result in inefficiencies
Streaming

A program in which the majority of the courses are core but with some opportunity to stream according to species interests in the clinical year.

Advantages

- Allows students the opportunity to focus on clinical areas of their interest thus becoming more proficient in selected areas
- All students cover much of the same material

Disadvantages

- Potential for a student to obtain minimal exposure in certain important areas
- Does not allow for flexibility of choice in the pre-clinical years
- Has potential to produce an overloaded curriculum
- Limited or no opportunity for students to pursue their areas of interest to a greater depth.
- Potential for under subscription
Tracking

A program in which a limited number of core courses are completed in one (or two years), with the remaining years designated “career tracks” with widely diverging courses for each track. There is little to no cross-over of course content between designated career tracts.

Advantages:
- Potential for increased competence and confidence of new graduates
- Matching student interest with material resource could derive maximum benefit of available resources
- Curriculum would allow track specific disciplines to be taught

Disadvantage
- The traditional broad approach of veterinary program could be markedly diminished
- Model does not contribute to broadening the scope and the future growth of the profession
- Graduates would fare hardships in changing career directions
- Expensive
Current graduates are highly rated with respect to their basic knowledge but lack business knowledge and confidence in clinical practice. The challenge is to design a curriculum that gives students more practical experience while maintaining a broad-based curriculum all within the constraints of a five-year program.

“IF YOU KEEP ON DOING WHAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS DONE, YOU’LL GET WHAT YOU HAVE ALWAYS GOT”
Intercalation provides an opportunity to study a subject in depth.

- B.Sc in Veterinary Microbiology
- B.Sc in Veterinary Pharmacology and Toxicology
- B.Sc in Veterinary Physiology
- B.Sc in Comparative Anatomy
- B.Sc in Veterinary Pathology
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- Information Computer Technology and E-learning
- Internship before final examinations
- Harmonization of the curriculum with International Schools
- Merger of Livestock economics and management course with Elements of Economics
- Communication skill to be strengthened and shifted to later years
- Veterinarian and the Law - (Law and Society)
- Detailed study on camel healthy and production
- Training on Fish health and production
- Wildlife medicine
- Laboratory animal medicine
- Ostrich medicine
- Animal Welfare
- Apiculture
- Small animal nutrition
- Alternative veterinary medicine (ethnoveterinary medicine)
- Molecular Biology
- Research Methodologies
OTHER DECISION TO MAKE

Nonresidential 3rd semester

Lecture free 5th Year

More emphasis on practicals in all the courses
DECISIONS MAKING

“LEWIN’S FORCE FIELD ANALYSIS”

**FOR**

- Information available more quickly: 5
- Accurate and consistent information: 4
- Free up people’s time: 4

**PLAN:**

- Upgrade company
- Information gathering
- Process from manual to automated

**AGAINST**

- Cost of Technology: 4
- Staff dislike automated processes: 4
- Disruption during change: 2
- Complicated to implement: 2

Total = 13

Total = 12