TO: ALL STUDENTS
FROM: Jacque Chadwick, M.D., Vice Dean for Educational Affairs
       JoAnna Leuck, M.D., Associate Dean for Curriculum
       Natalie Lundsteen, Ph.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs
DATE: January 9, 2023
SUBJECT: Professionalism: Expectations For All Students

Students,

Happy New Year! We have so much to look forward to in 2023, including our first class Match Day and Graduation, continued work on the new building, and the 150th anniversary of TCU (hopefully as National Champions!).

A new year also gives us time to reflect on where we are as a SOM and opportunities for improvement. We have gotten some feedback on professionalism, both from our on campus faculty, as well as our clinical and community partners, citing quite a few recent examples of SOM students demonstrating behaviors that are a poor reflection on you as well as our school. Here are a few recent quotes, each from different groups:

“Can you let your students know that if they want lunch, they must stay for conference? There is a trend of arriving late, grabbing lunch, and leaving. If they don't intend to stay, they can't take lunch. Also, we are hearing rumblings from students complaining they have to stay at the hospital after noon. Somehow their expectation is they get to leave early every day. Can you remind them that we are here to educate, they should take advantage of the opportunities provided, and they should plan to stay until the team is finished with duties each day?”

“With regards to the clinical work, it sounds as though the students were more concerned with passing their Step 1 exam, and were continually seeking to be excused from clinical work to go study.”

“Your students are developing a reputation of being entitled compared to other schools, they want to show up at their convenience and seem to be more focused on scores and grades than on learning how to take care of their patients.”

“Your fourth year students are behaving like they have already matched and don’t have to participate.”

“I was really surprised they came to our community meeting in gym clothes.”— from one of our community partners

This is just a selection of the communication we have received, and the feedback has come from across classes. We know that these behaviors involve only a minority of students, but unfortunately the number and theme of the comments have risen to a level where these actions are impacting the reputation of all. We would ask that you first look individually to determine if there are any areas of improvement you might undertake personally, and also work together as peers to hold each other accountable.

Additionally, as discussed, and in response to extensive student feedback, the new professionalism protocol is attached and will also be posted on Canvas. The hope is that this
document will provide clarity on expectations and also clarity and standardization in approach when expectations are not met.

We believe that you all want to behave in a professional manner and know that you want the best for your patients, your training and your school. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Drs. Chadwick, Lundsteen and Leuck