

**Minutes of the meeting of the
Executive Committee**
SUNY-Downstate College of Medicine
October 2, 2017

Present: C. Brown, S. Eisner, R. Jackman, P. Maccabee, M. Hammerschag, V. Anderson, S. Miller, H. Siddiqi, R. Viswanathan, A. Gintzler, A. Quinn, R. Gupta

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Brown and minutes were approved with revisions.

Guest Speaker-Dr. Jeffery Putman

Dr. Putman, Vice President of Student Affairs, was invited to the Exec. Committee to provide clarification on the Master's program in the College of Medicine.

- 1) Dr. Putman stated that the College is currently proposing a Master's program in Medical Science for the College of Medicine, which must be approved by the State. The Master of Science degree will help students who are not prepared for Medical School. Dr. Putman is working with Dr. Macrae to complete and submit the formal proposal to the State. Dr. Putman and Dr. Macrae would like for it to be approved for the next semester.
 - 2) Since Downstate has not been approved to offer this degree, College of Medicine has created a program called Bridges. Currently, this program has seven students who attend specific courses with the 1st year College of Medicine students. The students who are currently participating in the Bridges program are students who interviewed for the COM last year. These students had potential, but did not have the numbers or were not able to convince the COM faculty that they were ready for Medical School. Also, these students are considered underrepresented and have social, economic and educational disadvantages. They are from New York City. Dr. Putman stated that it had been difficult recruiting students who are underrepresented. In the past, Downstate was very successful recruiting underrepresented students. Unfortunately, students who are underrepresented select other medical schools that offer scholarships. This year, Downstate has increased the number of underrepresented students to 18%.
 - 3) These students are required to attend lectures and parts of small group discussions. These students are not included in PBL and parts of the Anatomy curriculum. They will get additional assignments and work with Academic Development to learn test-taking strategies and time management skills and participate in an online program through Harvard University, which Downstate is paying for. The online program is geared to help these students with the Sciences. These students must pass a 4-unit exam (These exams will not include PBL or Anatomy), and if they meet all the qualifications, they will be accepted in the College of Medicine. Students in the Bridges program can apply to other medical schools only if they are dismissed from this program.
- The Bridge students do not pay tuition since it is a non-credit course. They are given a stipend of \$700 a month and free housing in the residence halls.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen E Powderly, PhD

