



Medical Student Council Meeting  
Thursday, **April 16th** at 6:00 PM  
Virtual meeting via Zoom  
\*\*\*Minutes\*\*\*

Attendance (based on Zoom participant list): Jordana Schmidt-Swartz, Alexandra Greenberg, Rabani Bharara, Marine Coste, Krystal Ealy, David Choueka, Boey Li, Adriana Kavoussi, Sejal Shah, Jonathan Leong, Sarah Galler, Kingsley Cruikshank, Elaine Fletcher, Alfonso Caetta, Alice Herchek, Aaron Conway, Aaron Huang, Ian Winthrop, Jack Nasar, Alana Engelbrecht, Hyuck-Jin Kwon, Srishty Amarnani

Minutes recorded by Alexandra Greenberg.

Jordana presiding over the meeting. Alexandra is scribing the minutes.

## **New Business**

## **Old Business**

### 1. Class Updates

#### A. 2020

- Confusion with email, if we're graduating early, seems Downstate doesn't want this and would not hire but later in email is unclear, one of the questions in the list this week, response from Dr. Smith confused people, email clarification would be important
- Is it paid if we will be graduating early to join the workforce? What is the downside of graduating earlier if not being hired by DS/starting residency early besides risk of losing insurance? - no other risk, allowed to work and can choose to accept job or not (no requirement to work if you graduate), MD/PhD additional risk bc losing money for that month but only two people
- If people are going to work for DS when will we be getting info on doing this?
  - Brunnicardi: fluid situation, for those who want to graduate and work 3 options: assigned at UHB, work for an NYCHH hospital like King's or if allowed start residency early (need to contact your match program)
  - ACGME said new docs on May 2nd not getting ACGME credit for starting work and residents cannot supervise them so have to

now create a model to have incoming students work with faculty members and not interns/residents

- You will be paid a prorated salary of an intern, trying to figure out where that money will come from and how it will be delivered
- Governor said you will be covered malpractice-wise
- Loan repayment question, health insurance coverage still unclear (return to parent's insurance if under 26?), and of course concern over safety of students BUT if you graduate you are technically not under medical school's purview, also lost time between ending school and going to work as usual around middle of June to start residency, unclear what rush is to get out there and work but 140-150 are already volunteering behind the scenes
- Students at other schools have done this, have we looked into how they are navigating these challenges? - Mt. Sinai, Columbia, NYU all students working for that institution so easier, potentially giving them insurance, we are too small at UHB to hire everyone here so answer may vary based on where you are assigned, less clear what position you will have and what you will be paid bc depends on where you are assigned, even Stony Brook students are assigned to their own hospital only right now
- This is why student health insurance goes through July 31st, this is only if you are on student health insurance though, it used to matter for parents that you were a student but now it only matters if you age out, concern is if you have different insurance coverage
- What if a student gets ill with COVID-19 and can't start residency? A concern right now
- Graduation - May 1st small group of students, need to know who is committed to graduating on May 1st to have a number to give to President Riley > could be an event like virtual match day
- Yesterday all five deans agreed to regularly scheduled May 20th graduation for all schools, hiring a production company to put this together, big motivation was that there may be no large in person events allowed for remainder of 2020
- Re: in person graduation they were looking at October but concern is can't predict what situation will be for holding large-scale events, now considering people returning next May for a joint graduation with Class of 2021 (lengthened ceremony in Carnegie Hall)
- Still a possibility of October but can't promise anything as of right now, also can't guarantee Carnegie Hall for that time of year
- Understand desire for answer or date for decision but it's up to the pandemic, can give May date now though and can tell chiefs it will either be in October or then
- Match list?? - Dr. Putman will take care of this

#### B. 2021

- Really want to thank Dr. Lazar and Dr. Markell
- Directed from hysteria over classmates, from AAMC (dad working there),

hinted that no aways, aways help us stand out for residency, concern without this bc our departments are not always great at advocating for our students here, what can we tell students to ease their minds?

- Putman: We simply don't have an answer about aways but yes, it is being discussed among AAMC, meeting today 5-6, want it to be as fair as possible, wouldn't be fair if students in certain parts of country can do aways, should be a national decision for whether aways are allowed so even playing field, discussing whether exception can be granted if home institution doesn't have that specialty, could it be local? Ie NYC, metro area for us
- Other side of this is we know it's an issue, asking in terms of LCME, chairs of ISA analysis to help run focus group to give Brunicardi info on how to improve career process, we know this is an issue (urology ex of good supportive dept but others less so), we are working on it
- Also issue with 2 spots in OB/GYN, 20 of us, up to May won't have time to all rotate... issue depends on when we can get back into clinical environment, we know this is weighing on minds of rising 3rd and 4th years, only today extended stay-at-home alert so we don't know when we can get you back in clinics, absolutely one priority is if you are planning to go into a specialty we will make sure that you get your rotation and what you need to be a competitive applicant, even for those who "missed" when they were signed up because it was cancelled at that time of year
- Right now looking at June or July to restart clinical rotations, think July for sure right now, June unclear
- Concern addressed to a degree = number of SUB-I spots before app is due, more opening up as weeks progress but still students without spots even by September, concerned about getting letters of rec, maybe people in SUB-I for surgery or OB/GYN it could be counted for SUB-I for medicine
  - Depends on when we can get people back in rotations, being considered if necessary, every discussion with state edu dept, LCME, etc = be flexible while ensuring get education you need and keeping you safe
  - It may be we have to move people who aren't going into medicine bc those people need to get there SUB-Is, priority will be getting people what they need by when they need it
  - Already planning to call and ask people if they will give up their spots
- Decision in early March made for RAs who are med students not being allowed to work, updates coming soon for all classes, discussion happening later tonight
  - Simple fact is RA program in current form is over, done decision, end of story, 7 RAs complained to former dean that workload was interfering with ability to take Step 1 last year, incompatible with LCME rules and our policies so program is over, this was being decided before the pandemic, we know this may affect student

housing and funding so for now housing is guaranteed and paid for through at least end of December, RAs only notified last week so appreciate more information, you can choose to move out after December if we cannot cover additional months, not locked in to one year lease

- Can there be another iteration of this program? We will be discussing this when convenient, other priorities right now

#### C. 2022

- Big thing is trying to transform medical education within a matter of weeks, for rising 3rd and 4th years creating two plans = first plan is can see patients on July 1st or 6th, second plan is if can't (LCME ban not lifted) > back-up
- Given NY state extension on stay-at-home, recommendation for Step 1 now revised, will be shared at town hall tomorrow, not necessarily same rec as for Step 2 given to 3rd years
  - Critical to get you back into wards, can't let Prometric being closed be deciding factor, have to balance this, not in our control again
- As MS2s, only 5 people have taken Step so big concern but for those who have tried to reschedule, there aren't openings in May or June online right now, want to make sure it's on admin's radar
  - If postponed much later, in terms of financial situation, paying for all of the study resources again, is there a consideration for support? - Putman: if there's something affecting you financially right now, there will be a way to let admin know that, there should be money coming from federal government to award for this (grant money), once it's confirmed admin will tell students next steps

#### D. 2023

- Things generally okay, transition to off-site learning has been fantastic, education not delayed at all, some hiccups but overall great, especially seeing other classes we appreciate how things are moving along and appreciate town halls
- Biggest concern is summatives plan for unit 4, whether it will be like unit 3, we understand that these questions are going to take time to answer, updates on progress would be great
- Concerns around getting updates more regularly, any plan B more concretely (what is homegrown going to be? Formatives or something new)
- Gateway updates especially!! Very hard to learn clinical skills self-directed, any adjustments would be great, we know SLC and faculty are working on this too
- Any actions that can be taken by admin to make online learning more interactive would be greatly appreciated

\*General comments: emails and town halls have been great, can this be weekly for each class? Other schools have been getting emails daily and multiple virtual check-ins, can we have this in a more scheduled fashion, is this possible?

- Putman: we will talk tomorrow about an ongoing schedule that makes

- sense, whether one for each class makes sense, all have been about an hour except first years, one joint one would be too short likely, TBA
- Brunicardi: First town hall took a week to prepare but now getting the hang of it, technology adopted by admin and they enjoy talking to students too so definitely a plan

## Trending Topics

1. Wellness -
  - a. Adriana: On COVID response student taskforce under Dr. Lazar, wellness effort, working with psych dept to run twice weekly support check-ins, essentially free therapy, good to remind students these sessions are available, also working to design other options, if you have friends you can even agree to go together, these are graduating residents so no overlap in rotations, student counseling and psych dept are also still doing telemedicine, also have class groups up on Zoom, weekly coordinated with Adam Bergman, yoga, book clubs, meditation, also humanism grand rounds per class virtually > Dr. Putman will add in what to do if you're concerned about someone in email about student psych support tomorrow
    - i. Dree will talk to team about making an infographic about sessions happening right now to clarify and will discuss whether psychiatry sessions being class-specific or not
  - b. If we're worried about someone around us what can we do? - send an email to counseling? Dree will look into this, Dr. Michael Meyers is ombudsman too, Dean Christoforou was peer wellness point person, also can reach out to Dean Putman, only counseling center completely confidential, university has doxy, telehealth is up and running across UHB
  - c. New concerns around HIPAA violations, be careful!
2. Budget proposal for 2020-2021 - unless any discussion, vote

## Closed Meeting

- I. Motioned by David Choueka
- II. Seconded by Krystal Ealy

III. **Meeting is now closed.**

## New Business

1. Approval of March Minutes
  1. Motion to approve February minutes made by Rabani Bharara
  2. Seconded by Hyuck-Jin Kwon
    - i. Vote
      1. For - 21
      2. Against - 0
      3. Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to approve March minutes**

## 2. Approval of Budget for 2020-2021

1. Motion to approve proposed budget made by David Choueka
2. Seconded by Hyuck-Jin Kwon
  - i. Vote
    1. For - 21
    2. Against - 0
    3. Abstain - 0

### **Motion passes to approve Budget for 2020-2021**

## 3. Elections for Greater MC

### i. Vote On Greater MC Vice President

1. Alice Herchek nominated by Kingley Cruikshank
  - a. Alice talked about being on E-board as treasurer, experience with budget, also working with student-facing initiatives from year to year like SF show, involved in operations for student life, SEHS communications with Jordana, care a lot about communication needs of student body to MC overall, represent different voices
2. Alfonso Caetta nominated by Elaine Fletcher
  - a. Alfonso spirit of VP representing all four classes = strongly advocates for all students, would do so for incoming class too, posts on FBs to make small gains consistently for everybody's wellbeing, in role too haven't served on GMC but will take efforts to read bylaws, be up to speed and proactive in understanding president's role, involved in ISA and BFC, lots of leadership experience
3. Vote anonymously via Qualtrics

### **Alice Herchek elected as Greater MC Vice President**

### ii. Vote On Greater MC President

4. Sejal Shah nominated by David Choueka
  - a. Sejal talked about time on MC being very valuable part of DS experience, having community and monthly meetings, being on MC is an honor and responsibility to get to represent peers, support and advocate for one another, bring to light concerns, improve experience for not just our class but all students, cares a lot and will continue to work towards this, Donor Memoria, study breaks, best patagonias, COM calendar, MS3 tracks and scheduling and shelves, new initiatives for MC like food pantry contribution, lots more we can do, for wellness can support events and participate too, be role models for our classes and school as a whole, especially now during time of social distancing, also idea of partnering with other schools over next year, growing relationship with alumni assoc, improving transparency and communication among classes and with admin, maybe googleform moving forward, anonymous or not, student town halls for students to raise points outside MC, not on GMC yet but can tackle that challenge and handle responsibility it takes

5. Rabani Bharara nominated by Kingsley Cruikshank
  - a. Rabani talked about finding from MC that it taught a lot about leadership and communication, very rewarding because can reach out to classmates and other years and even other schools, getting an overall true DS experience, worked as treasurer and now VP, knows ins and outs of how clubs and funding works, opportunity to work on FSA board, understand that process, as VP learned a lot from Jordana and other members, shown how leadership should work, how to set and achieve goals for coming year, my goals = student wellness, already working on this but more we can do, commend peer wellness but UC and student center can work with students more, even now remotely, 1-2x per month, even once a week if rotating who is leading then, increase communication, during uncertain times taking more steps to increase student voice, understand uncertainty right now but this can continue moving forward, strong line of comms, weekly google doc, form, Icahn has a website, link to googledoc to write concerns, we can update our website as MC, add links, calendar, etc., increase comms with admin and MC and students as well, respond more proactively to student concerns and lessen anxiety which will support wellness, also working on finding an MC space, an office for office hours, class council meetings, etc., useful when we return to campus, also really important to know and hear amazing ideas from rest of MC, all of us has been important and integral in implementing change on campus and want to facilitate all of MC members' ideas and allow everyone to contribute and work together to support and advocate for student wellbeing and best interests, want opportunity to keep doing this for our student body
6. Vote anonymously via Qualtrics

### **Sejal elected as Greater MC President**

#### **Postpone budget request approvals from March meeting**

1. Motion to postpone all funding approved by Greater MC in March made by Jonathan Leong
2. Seconded by Ian Winthrop
  - i. Vote
    1. For - 21
    2. Against - 0
    3. Abstain - 0

### **Motion passes to postpone funding for March 2020 club and individual budget approvals**

**Motion to end meeting by Adriana Kavoussi**

**Seconded by David Choueka**

**Meeting Closed at 8:21 PM**

**Minutes were scribed by Alexandra Greenberg**

**Approved by Alexandra Greenberg - Medical Council Secretary**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alex Greenberg', written in a cursive style.