

Medical Student Council Meeting
Wednesday, **May 19th** at 6:00 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom
Minutes



Attendance: Sejal Shah, Alexandra Greenberg, Alfonso Caetta, Hamza Khilji, Adriana Kavoussi, Ian Winthrop, Jonathan Leon, Elaine Fletcher, Srishty Amarnani, Kingsley Cruickshank, Aaron Huang, David Choueka, Amanda Jirgal, Lulu Wei, April Kessler, Priscilla Varghese, Daniel Kwon, Alana Engelbrecht, Jack Nasar, Aaron Conway

Minutes recorded by Priscilla Varghese.

Alfonso Caetta presiding over meeting. Priscilla is scribing the minutes.

New Business

1. University Council Newly Elected President
 - a. Robert Beale - MS4
 - b. Contact Information - (914) 563 - 7315
2. Med Council Office Space in PHAB equivalent to SPH Student Council Office
 - a. Putman - No student Organization has an office
 - i. Not sure how Public health received
3. Peer Support
 - a. For MS2/MS3
 - i. Proposal to create a buddy system so that each class is paired with the class below them
 - ii. Boston University has a similar program called PODs
 1. POD: Each pod spans all four years
 2. Per Elaine: This is an idea that is currently being discussed
 - iii. What would such a program look like at Downstate?
 1. Possible next steps include to gauge how many individuals are interested and apply the program on a trial basis between 1st and 2nd years
 - iv. Current issue with implemented buddy system is lack of in person interactions
4. 2021-22 MC Student Activity Fee Budget
5. Considerations for any Spring 2021 Activity Fee Refund
 - a. We were able to approve this for the Fall
 - i. There seems to be a current issue returning this fee through the banner system

- b. Council shows shows unanimous sentiment to approve activity fee for Spring 2021
 - c. Per Adam: University Council will also be holding a June meeting regarding this topic
 - i. Meeting will most likely will be the second week of June and should involve both UC and MC
6. "Recent Emails"
- a. An email was sent from Dean Brunicardi (5/17)
 - i. *It has been brought to my attention that some, or all, of you received messages containing sensitive material that some of you have found offensive. Please accept my sincerest apologies, as such material should never have been distributed to a College of Medicine-wide listserv.*
 - b. Note: Dean Brunicardi is not present for this discussion
 - c. The timeline associated with the email sent from Dean Brunicardi seems to follow an email sent from the MSA entitled *MSA in Solidarity with Palestinians*, which was sent to the Downstate Listserv
 - i. Dean Putman response:
 - a. The distribution lists are not supposed to be used for anything other than meetings or activities
 - b. There has been some discussions at the institutional level regarding requiring approval for emails that are directed towards the listserv
 - c. This is not a comment on the content of the message
 - d. The email lists are considered state resources that are not supposed to be used for other means of communication
 - ii. Student Responses
 - 1. "This is the first instance that an email was sent rescind a previous email"
 - 2. "This (response) should be an open conversation rather than an administrative-only discussion"
 - 3. Emails have been sent regarding the influx of attacks and prejudice against those of the Asian population - *Hamza*
 - a. The timeline regarding the response (from Dean Brunicardi) is problematic
 - b. The MSA is not the first club to make a statement outside of what is considered "allowed" for the listserv
 - iii. Dean Putman response:
 - 1. Listservs are not supposed to be used for personal or political purposes
 - a. There is a differentiation between comments/emails from the administration (i.e. Downstate president) and emails from other members of the Downstate community
 - b. There will be a comment regarding this situation from the administration
 - i. Student response: "Is there a space for students/administration to have conversations regarding health inequities and political issues that

- arise" - Ali
 - ii. There needs to be a solution where clubs and organizations can communicate with students to allow for clear and efficient communication
 - 1. Most campuses have another platform to have these sensitive conversations
 - 2. It cannot be our current email system
 - iii. Shutting down the email system so that clubs need approval is not an appropriate solution
 - 1. Another means of communication needs to be established
 - iv. Student Concerns:
 - 1. When Dean Brunicardi apologizes for a specific email - it gives off the implication that the content of the email is not supported.
 - 2. There is no other way than to interpret that Dean Brunicardi's response was in regards to the MSA email
 - 3. Additional Concerns: Eid was not mentioned in any email prior
 - 4. "Do you think this could have been handled in a more professional manner?"
 - 5. There is a need to hold administration accountable
 - v. Jason Lazar Response: Professionalism
 - 1. Very hard for a general consensus of what is professional
 - 2. Best next steps may be an apology and a clear communication from administration regarding this situation
 - 3. Downstate falls under SUNY policy
 - a. We need to follow policy
 - b. The institution will follow up with a clear statement regarding this topic
 - vi. Student Request: Follow up email should directly take back this apology on behalf of administration
 - 1. Emails regarding political statements is not a new thing for Downstate
 - 2. It was mentioned that this response from the administration was based on an influx of emails regarding politics. This has not been the case. The schools response seems extremely islamophobia - Saim Siddiqui
 - a. There was nothing political about this email. It was a sad day for a lot of individuals in one of the holiest cities in the world.
 - b. This email was targeted. This email is a representation of censorship.
 - c. The apology should be rescinded
 - i. Downstate apparently values open dialogue - but this email was a direct contradiction to this
 - d. Whether or not this was the intent (of Dean Brunicardi's email) - this (seemingly responding to MSA email) was the impact

- e. Per MSA: We had first reached out to the administration to comment on this issue
 - i. We followed a sequential order
 - ii. We did not get a response from the school.
 - f. This (Dean Brunicardi's) email response exacerbated the political issue at hand instead of elevating it. There were no specifics given the limitations of listserv usability regarding students and clubs.
- vii. Putman response
 - 1. This (comment on current world affairs) level of conversation requires a response from the President
 - 2. It would have been better for administration to be transparent regarding the steps being taken
 - a. Specifically by responding to the initial email from MSAs requesting admin response regarding recent political events
 - 3. Acknowledgement of Eid
 - a. There was an acknowledgement of the start of Ramadan
 - b. There was none for the end
 - c. We recognize that this is something that should have been done
 - 4. Per Putman:
 - a. This was something that had been done following the email sent from MSA
 - b. It is unfortunate and wrong that the response from administration was timed when it was.
 - c. There needs to be a space for this conversation and conversations like these to occur
- viii. Petition response from Jewish Students - Per Ali
 - 1. Also expressed that the email from Dean Brunicardi was not well received
- ix. Student request for belated acknowledgment regarding Eid and also the situation in Palestine mentioned in the MSA email?
 - 1. Putman: Should that be deemed appropriate this will be brought up
 - 2. Putman's answer to "Was that email really the best response?"
 - a. Dean Putman - the minimum should have been a response from adminstartation regarding that we are not ignoring this email
 - i. As a state employee I am not allowed to take a position - Putman
 - ii. The president is allowed to take a position.
 - iii. This means of communication was a failure.
 - iv. Putman apologizes for the lack of acknowledgement regarding MSAs initial email
- d. Student Concern: Censorship is censorship regardless of what level it occurs at
 - i. Actionable item

1. The listserv policies should be expressed soon
2. What other solutions are available for us to have such conversations on a campus wide level?
 - a. Is the determination of what is considered political from the state?
 - i. Putman response: It should not be allowed to be based on content
 - ii. Basic definition - Non political is based on "business"
 1. Messages about meetings
 2. As opposed to messaged about content
- e. Student request: Possible meeting with Dean Brunicardi in the next week
 - i. Inviting the MSA and the Jewish Student Association, together or seperate
 - ii. Putman response: Yes

7. Club and Individual Requests

- a. Black Students of Excellence - Leandra Laundry
 - i. Represented by Kieva
 - ii. Newly appointed Club
 1. Request for the incoming year
 2. New Clubs are funded for \$300
 3. Requesting \$650
 - iii. Two events over the summer
 1. Vision Party - All students are welcome to create vision board and contribute to the vision of the event
 2. Controversial Convo - Viewing party regarding Black students in america and within the healthcare field

Old Business

1. Class Updates

- a. 2021
 - i. Request for additional funding for senior activities
 1. Per Schyler - We are able to donate funds that would have been for yearbook advertising
 - a. SCGB - \$500
 - b. University Council - \$350
 - ii. Waiting Area for Students post graduation
 1. The venue is on the Coney Island Boardwalk
 2. As many individuals can come and wait
 - iii. Possible third ticket for graduation
 1. This is a continued conversation with the venue
 2. There is no clear answer to this yet
 - iv. Schyler will be evaluating the venue tomorrow to see how feasible it for graduation to occur with proper COVID protocols

- v. Also exploring a means to have the ceremony broadcasted
- vi. Request - email from administration regarding updates about Commencement.
 - 1. Putman - there will be an email tomorrow with an clear answer/updates OR a communications email stating current status regarding a third ticket/graduation.
- b. 2022
 - i. Some students are studying for STEP1/STEP2/Third year rotations
 - ii. Getting adjusted to MS4
 - iii. Have been in touch with current MS4s - to brainstorm potential issues early on
 - iv. Update: Northwell is considered one of our home institutions
 - v. 2022 is interested in aforementioned interclass program
- c. 2023
 - i. Most of our class has started rotations
 - ii. Some of us have taken our first shelf
 - iii. We are surviving
- d. 2024
 - i. Security Issues
 - 1. Updates: The chief did review the complaint
 - a. Even pre-covid there were such issues
 - b. This is considered a training issue
 - 2. If you are coming between midnight and 4am
 - a. 445 - Main hospital entrance
 - 3. Can we have an email outlining the rules regarding the regulations for entry into school
 - 4. 395 - cannot enter through this entrance after 7pm because there is no guard there
 - 5. Please ensure that the guards also know what the rules are
 - ii. Custodial Staff
 - 1. Blatant Issue regarding Asian students
 - a. This was immediately handled once submitted to Kudos
 - 2. Three complaints
 - a. Two did not mention a name, one did
 - b. Incident occurred in the PHAB building
 - c. This is being investigated by labor relations and the office of student diversity inclusion
 - d. The students that gave their name will be contacted for their statements
 - i. Students can choose to participate or not.
 - ii. There are no associated repercussions for the student
 - iii. Their anonymity will be protected
 - iv. The effects on the employee is highly variable
 - e. Any SUNY campus that receives a complaint of racism will be investigated
 - f. This is a bigger issue than training. This issue is being handled with the greatest of sensitivity

- g. How are students updated on the action that results based on submissions on KUDOs
 - i. Lazar will reach out them should they want that
 - ii. Can we establish a system to update students that submit a kudos non-anonymously
 - 1. General/standard email stating that your response is submitted and being reviewed
 - 2. Include contact information regarding who students can reach out directly to for updates

Closed Meeting

- I. Motioned by Afonso
- II. Seconded by Elaine

Meeting is now closed.

New Business - NOTE ALL BUDGET APPROVALs are for 2021-2022

- 1. **Approval of March Minutes**
 - 1. Motion to approve March minutes made by Alfonso
 - 2. Seconded by Hamza
 - 3. Proxy Kingsley - Rabani
 - 4. Proxy Elaine - Alice hercheck
 - i. Vote
 - 1. For - 16
 - 2. Against - 0
 - 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve March minutes

- 2. **Vote on funding for Black Students of Excellence - \$650**
 - 1. Option to fund introductory \$250
 - 2. Motion to fund in full by Alana
 - 3. Seconded by Srishty
 - i. Vote
 - 1. For - 15
 - 2. Against - 0
 - 3. Abstain - 1

Motion passes to approve funding for Black Students of Excellence from Programs and Projects (40-70174-012-30001)

3. Vote on funding for Downstate Art Installation Society - \$350

1. Option to fund in full
2. Motion to fund in full by April
3. Seconded by Elaine
 - i. Vote
 1. For - 15
 2. Against - 0
 3. Abstain - 1

Motion passes to transfer \$350 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Downstate Art Installation Society (40-70256-012-30001)

4. Budget Approval for 2021 - 2022

1. Option to Approve budget as is
2. Motion to fully fund Hamza
3. Seconded Elane
 - i. For 16
 - ii. Against - 0
 - iii. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve MSC Budget for 2021-2022 School Year

**Motion to end meeting by Priscilla
Seconded by Elaine**

Meeting Closed

Minutes were scribed by Priscilla Varghese.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Priscilla Varghese". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Approved by Priscilla Varghese - Medical Council Secretary



Interim Budget Request Form

Date: May 13, 2021

Attachment 1

University Council Funding ONLY
 Med Council Funding ONLY
 Other: _____

Please check one box:

ORGANIZATION NAME: Black Students of Excellence (BSE)

PRESIDENT: Kievra Appleton

VICE PRESIDENT: LaToya Campbell

BOX #: N/A

TELEPHONE: N/A

TREASURER: Leandra Laundry

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
<p>The Vision of BSE – This introductory event for the BSE would be held around Juneteenth. During this event, we hope to celebrate the accomplishments of African Americans by providing a fun and engaging atmosphere for students to interact, play games, learn more about the organization and help shape the future of the organization. Attendees will create personal vision boards as well as a vision board for the organization.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Drinks Cutlery Prizes Decor Supplies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boards - Markers/Pens - Balloons - Magazines/pens - Stickers - Glitter - Tape/Glue - Scissors - Instant camera - Picture Frames 	N/A	\$350	N/A
<p>Controversial Convo- BSE would like the opportunity to congregate with other students, watch a controversial film (Two distant Strangers or Monster) and discuss some of the relevant themes and issues that still affect us today. We also plan to discuss how we can work together to bring more awareness to, and drive change moving forward.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Drinks Food Drinks Cutlery Prizes Decor Supplies 	N/A	\$300	N/A

USE THE BACK OF THIS FORM IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED. PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY AND CLEARLY. ILLEGIBLE REQUESTS WILL BE REJECTED.



Interim Budget Request Form

Date: 5/7/2021

Attachment 2

University Council Funding ONLY
 Mad Council Funding ONLY
 Other: _____

Please check one box:

ORGANIZATION NAME: Downstate Art Installation Society (DAIS)

PRESIDENT: Nancy Li VICE PRESIDENT: Rachel Corona

BOX #: _____ TELEPHONE: 347-935-4843 TREASURER: Hannah Yep

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
Painted Ceiling Tiles	50 Ceiling Tiles: \$75 20 Paint Sels: \$325 Brushes: \$50	\$100	\$350	

USE THE BACK OF THIS FORM IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED. PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY AND CLEARLY. ILLEGIBLE REQUESTS WILL BE REJECTED.