



Medical Student Council Meeting  
Thursday, **August 12th** at 6:00 PM  
Virtual meeting via Zoom  
\*\*\*Minutes\*\*\*

Attendance: Alfonso Caetta, Priscilla Varghese, Alexandra Greenberg, Srishty Amarnani, Ian Winthrop, Elaine Fletcher, Jack Nasar, Aaron Conway, Alexis Roth, Amanda Jirgal, Hamza Khilji, Lulu Wei, Kingsley Cruickshank, Alana Engelbrecht

Minutes recorded by Priscilla Varghese.

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

## **New Business**

### **1. Budget Request**

- a. Please Note: Club gifts to speakers are limited to \$50**
- b. Evidence Based Medicine - (Account Balance: \$350)**
  - i. Introduction to EBM
    - 1. Visiting speaker: Dr. Joel Horovitz
    - 2. Food, Drinks, Speaker Gift - \$100
  - ii. Journal club
    - 1. Aduhelm(aducanumab) for the treatment of Alzheimer's
    - 2. Food and Drinks - \$50
  - iii. Compassionomics
    - 1. Speaker Gift + Food - \$100
  - iv. Journal club
    - 1. Clinician's Capacity Assessments
    - 2. lead by Dr. Omar Mirza
    - 3. Food/Drinks - \$50
- c. White Coats for Black Lives - \$900**
  - i. Social Justice Healthcare Conference: ASL Interpretation for 9 hours
- d. Interventional Radiology Interest Group (Account Balance: \$350)**

- i. General Interest Meeting /Catheter Demo
  - 1. Food/Drinks - \$200
- ii. Access Makes Perfect
  - 1. Food/Drinks - \$200

**e. Downstate Art Installation Society (DAIS). (Account Balance: \$350)**

- i. Painted Ceiling Tiles
  - 1. \$375
- ii. Paint night and interest meeting
  - 1. \$75

**2. Student Center Update**

- a. Robert Beal
  - i. Please contact Robert if you have any questions or concerns
  - ii. UC President
  - iii. [Robert.beale@downstate.edu](mailto:Robert.beale@downstate.edu)
- b. Fall Refund has been approved
- c. Current Budget has not been completed for the 2021-2022 school year
  - i. We are advised to proceed as if the Programs and Projects budget has been approved
- d. Block Party
  - i. Need clubs to sponsor booths
    - 1. Involves students to be present at the booths
  - ii. Location -Tennis Courts
- e. Student Meetings
  - i. Can start in person again
  - ii. Students cannot eat during meetings
  - iii. Clubs can provide food to go for students afterwards
  - iv. Currently, there are only two zoom accounts
    - 1. We are pushing for students to do meetings in person
- f. Swimming Pool
  - i. Funding has been allocated but pool still out of order
  - ii. There is currently two bids
  - iii. Hope is that it will be ready to use in the next year
- g. Basketball court
  - i. We do not have two full courts
    - 1. There are leaks on the court
  - ii. For this reason we cannot do intramurals this year
  - iii. Basketball courts are estimated to be repaired around 2023-2024
  - iv. "Can we communicate with the administration that this is necessary for students?"
    - 1. "Is there a way to discuss this outside of this meeting?"
    - 2. Robert Beale will follow up with Putman to advocate for this
  - v. Basketball Club
    - 1. Currently, unofficially run by Downstate students that are interested
    - 2. Locations used include outdoor parks and Downstate facilities
    - 3. There is not enough capacity for this to be opened up to the whole

- school
- vi. Gym Hours
  - 1. Hope to have more hours by October 1st

## Old Business

### 1. Class Updates

#### a. 2022

- i. Fourth Year is Amazing
- ii. Class is working on applications
  - 1. Applications are stressful
- iii. Waiting on Gold Humanism
  - 1. Will hear about it by Sept 1st
  - 2. Process of Nominating People for Gold
    - a. From faculty - "Testimonies are truly amazing."
- iv. Hoping to use the year to bond with classmates and focus on other priorities after

#### b. 2023

- i. Classing is chugging through
- ii. Bylaws rewrite
  - 1. Members will continue to re-write
  - 2. Elections 2025
    - a. Will be run by 2024
- iii. Mental health and wellness support for preclinical and clinical students
- iv. Reporting and mistreatment
  - 1. Revisit during next meeting
- v. Cross-classes mentorship
  - 1. 2024 is planning to have mentorship with 2025
- vi. Distinctions
  - 1. Distinctions have not gone out yet
  - 2. Lazar will be in communication
- vii. Covid Check in

#### c. 2024

- i. Unit 1 Panel/Buddy System Update
  - 1. Alexis will be emailing out pairings
- ii. Carrel Space - Temperature issue
  - 1. There is no AC in the building
  - 2. PBL this week was on the 8th floor in a cramped room with 12+ ppl in each room
  - 3. The issue is that the first years are also doing something at the same time
  - 4. Is there a way to have PBL via zoom for tomorrow
  - 5. Social Distancing is no longer a thing
  - 6. Masks are a requirement
- iii. In general the entire building is warm

**d. 2025**

- i. Lectures
  - 1. Can lectures be live streamed
  - 2. Putman will get you an answer
- ii. Gender Separation
  - 1. For CS Lab
  - 2. CS lab is mixed gender
    - a. This makes a lot of students uncomfortable
    - b. This is not accommodating to different religions or cultures
    - c. Regardless, mixed gender CS labs should not be the case
  - 3. Email Ovitish if you are a student who feels strongly about this
    - a. There will be rooms that will make this a priority
  - 4. Demonstrating CS on both males and females
    - a. Unfortunately there is not enough time to do this
  - 5. You can specifically request a same gender facilitator
    - a. You need to request this ASAP
  - 6. Groups were always previously separated by gender
  - 7. Putman - Will reach out to Ovitish regarding these issues

**2. MSA**

- a. Issues with scheduling for MSA prayers on Friday
- b. A student had reached out regarding scheduling during this prayers
- c. Students are excused during the prayer time
- d. Come back to POPs
- e. Scheduling around this will be difficult given the requirements for scheduled time
- f. They have identified a space for the prayer room
- g. They are going to put a carpeted/soft floor
- h. They are working on this - will take a few weeks
- i. It is in the basic science building but accessible for the 5/6th floor
- j. Bianch will send an email regarding tomorrow
- k. Any one of these religious things

**Trending Topics**

- 1. Bylaws rewrite
  - a. We have bylaws that havent been updated for a good amount of times
  - b. There is a google document
    - i. Present at our September or October Meeting
    - ii. [https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Rb7o7\\_LM6FsPt7ltRLlQ-FHjAh8JNlIZ9ykG34W2jk/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/17Rb7o7_LM6FsPt7ltRLlQ-FHjAh8JNlIZ9ykG34W2jk/edit?usp=sharing)
    - iii. Check the slack for those who are interested to join a group to help with initial revisions
- 2. Elections of the 2025
  - a. Get started on elections for next week
  - b. Interest Meeting for the next week

- c. Also remember that SLC elections are around the corner
  - d. MC 2025 should be elected by next medical council meeting
- 3. Mental health and wellness support for preclinical and clinical students
  - a. Can revisit for next Greater Medical Council meeting
- 4. Reporting and mistreatment
  - a. Ongoing challenge linked with the mental health and wellness support
  - b. MS3 - we definitely do not have a space to reflect as a group
    - i. Are there more things we can do besides kudos and concerns
  - c. There is a new wellness website on the Deans website
    - i. Every "new" thing is another path for students to talk to someone
    - ii. There is nothing for someone to see someone in person
    - iii. A one hour conversation of what is available
      - 1. Was this not a conversation that happened during orientation
      - 2. Dr. Deucher gave an half hour session
- 5. Cross-classes mentorship
  - a. 2024 is planning to have mentorship with 2025
- 6. "Meddy" System
  - a. Student Health Record
  - b. System is currently active
  - c. They have loaded all the records already
  - d. Hope to be released by the end of the month to students
- 7. Student Health Service
  - a. New center construction is done
  - b. The furniture is ordered
  - c. They are in the process of interviewing staff specifically for students
    - i. 2 NPs
    - ii. 2 administrators
    - iii. There are two MDs for the whole school with
  - d. SHould be open soon
- 8. Covid Check in
  - a. ⅓ of out team is COVID patients
  - b. Even with everyone being vaccinated - there are additional cases within our class
    - i. What are the current policies?
    - ii. Who do we tell should we be exposed?
    - iii. How do students update faculty?
      - 1. Policies and people are the same
      - 2. If you have had an exposure you will be sent for testing
      - 3. Definition of exposure changed?
        - a. Previously was unmasked for 8 min
        - b. For Delta the exposure is for seconds
        - c. So this has changed
        - d. If you are vaccinated - and was exposed - this was not considered an exposure
          - i. Now it is
          - ii. Even if you are vaccinated and both people were maskless, you need to be tested
          - iii. If you had symptoms you will be placed on isolation even if you are negative

- iv. Any of the people at downstate that have gotten breakthrough infections - all of this had been minor as far as symptoms

iv. Vaccination exemptions

1. Are we accepting religious exemptions?

- a. Yes
- b. The chancellor supported by a board of trustees issued a mandate that all students had to be vaccinated by 2021
- c. This was predicated on approval for the vaccines by the FDA
- d. Pfizer, moderna, J+J - in that order are projected to be approved
- e. Then about three weeks ago maybe a little less - the governor - issued another mandate that said that anyone that is in a NYS run healthcare facility who may potentially have contact with the patient must be vaccinated
- f. This means that anyone who is coming to class in person needs to be vaccinated
  - i. The exceptions to this is medical contraindications and if the vaccine would negatively impact your relationship with your deity
  - ii. Student have to apply to this through student affairs
  - iii. There are about 10 student school wide (not within medicine) that have asked for the form
  - iv. Those people who have the exception approved have to be tested weekly or more often
  - v. There is also a question of this should be a saliva test or a nasal test
  - vi. Already about 800 students have submitted their vaccination cards
- g. Student Employee Health runs the flu vaccine fair
  - i. Because this is a government requirement it was done as part of your employee health record
  - ii. When they gave the covid vaccine there was no requirement
    - 1. You were given the vaccine as a patient of University Hospitals
    - 2. Therefore you are protected by HIPPA
    - 3. This is why students have to send in their COVID vaccination card
- h. Mandatory Masks
  - i. There has been a discussion about changing mandatory masks
  - ii. This is still considered mandatory
  - iii. The only places you can have your masks off is in your own office by yourself, when you are eating in

- designated areas, and when you are outside
- i. Social Distancing Rule
  - i. The social distancing rule has only been released for classes, laboratories, and educational activities
  - ii. This means club meetings need to be socially distanced
- j. Class Vaccination Cards
  - i. Class of 2025
    - 1. 185/195 sent in vaccination card
  - ii. Class of 2024
    - 1. When do students need to get their TB shots by
    - 2. Will get an email regarding if students are missing anything prior to bedside

## **Closed Meeting**

- I. Motioned to close by Alfonso
- II. Seconded by Hamza

**Meeting is now closed.**

## **New Business**

### **1. Approval of May Minutes**

- 1. Motion to approve May minutes made by Alfonso Caetta
- 2. Seconded by Ian Winthrop
  - i. Vote
    - 1. For - 14
    - 2. Against - 0
    - 3. Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to approve May minutes**

### **2. Budget request**

#### **1. EBM - Requesting \$300, (Current balance: \$250)**

- i. Option to fund \$50
- ii. Motion to fund in full by Ian Winthrop
- iii. Seconded by Amanda Jirgal
  - 1. Vote
    - a. For - 13
    - b. Against - 0
    - c. Abstain - 1

**Motion passes to transfer \$50 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Evidence Based Medicine Club (40-70382-012-30001)**

**2. White Coats for Black Lives - Requesting \$900**

- i. Option to fund revised request of \$900
- ii. Motion to fund in full Elaine Fletcher
- iii. Seconded by Aaron Conway
  - 1. Vote
    - a. For - 12
    - b. Against - 0
    - c. Abstain - 2

**Motion passes to transfer \$900 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Downstate White Coats for Black Lives (40-70075-012-30001)**

**3. Interventional Radiology Interest Group - Requesting \$400 (Current balance: \$350)**

- i. Option to correct budget request form to \$50 and fund \$50 in full
- ii. Motion to fund in full Aaron Conway
- iii. Seconded by Ian Winthrop
  - 1. Vote
    - a. For - 14
    - b. Against - 0
    - c. Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to transfer \$350 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Interventional Radiology Interest Group (40-70290-012-30001)**

**4. Downstate Art Installation Society (DAIS) - Requesting \$450**

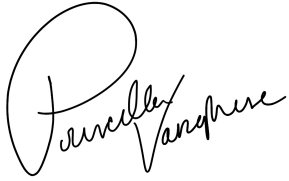
- i. Additional Requests
  - 1. Painted Ceiling Tiles
    - a. \$375
  - 2. Paint night and interest meeting
    - a. \$75
- ii. Option to fund revised budget request of \$900 in full
- iii. Motion to fund in full Hamza Khilji
- iv. Seconded by Jack Nasar
  - 1. Vote
    - a. For - 14
    - b. Against - 0
    - c. Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to transfer \$900 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Downstate Art Installation Society (40-70392-012-30001)**



**Motion to end meeting by Alfonso Caetta  
Seconded by Elaine Fletcher  
Meeting Closed at 8:36 PM**

**Minutes were scribed by Priscilla Varghese**

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

**Approved by Priscilla Varghese - Medical Council Secretary**

Please check one box:

☐ University Council Funding ONLY

☒ Med Council Funding ONLY

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** Evidence Based Medicine

PRESIDENT: Kevin Moattari VICE PRESIDENT: Ethan Kidde

BOX #: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: 714 313 6235 TREASURER: April Lee

| PROJECT   | ITEMIZED EXPENSES   | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM UNIV COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM MED COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM OTHER SOURCE<br>(please specify) |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Introduction to EBM – Visiting speaker: Dr. Joel Horovitz               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food/drinks for the event</li> <li>- Speaker gift (Downstate Bookstore)</li> </ul> |                                       | \$100                                |   |
| Journal club: Aduhelm (aducanumab) for the treatment of Alzheimer's     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food/drinks for the event</li> </ul>   |                                       | \$50                                 |   |
| Compassionomics – Visiting Speaker invitation sent to the authors       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speaker Gift (Downstate Bookstore)</li> <li>- Food for the event</li> </ul>        |                                       | \$100                                |   |
| Journal club: Clinician's Capacity Assessments – lead by Dr. Omar Mirza | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Food/drinks for the event</li> </ul>   |                                       | \$50                                 |   |

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



Please check one box:

☒ University Council Funding ONLY ☒ Med Council Funding ONLY ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** White Coats For Black Lives

PRESIDENT: Andrea Martinez VICE PRESIDENT: Isabella Giunta

BOX #: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ TREASURER: Lisa Kim

| PROJECT  | ITEMIZED EXPENSES                          | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM UNIV COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM MED COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM OTHER SOURCE<br>(please specify) |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Social Justice Conference:<br>Healthcare Segregation | ASL Interpretation for 9 hours -<br>\$1200 | \$600                                 | \$600                                |   |
|  |  |                                       |                                      |   |
|  |  |                                       |                                      |   |



Please check one box:  
☐ University Council Funding ONLY ☒ Med Council Funding ONLY ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** Interventional Radiology Interest Group

PRESIDENT: Blake Gershon VICE PRESIDENT: Cristina Agudelo

BOX #: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: 757-513-4556 TREASURER: Michael Dubner

| PROJECT   | ITEMIZED EXPENSES | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM UNIV COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM MED COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM OTHER SOURCE<br>(please specify) |
|---|-------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| General Interest Meeting /<br>Catheter Demo<br><br>We want to give a broad<br>introduction into the field including<br>paths to residency and exciting<br>developments in the specialty | Food and drinks   |                                       | \$200                                |   |
| Access makes Perfect<br><br>Workshop on establishing femoral<br>access via Seldinger technique  | Food and drinks   |                                       | \$200                                |   |
|   |                   |                                       |                                      |   |



Please check one box:

☒ University Council Funding ONLY

☒ Med Council Funding ONLY

☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**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<br>FROM UNIV COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM MED COUNCIL | AMOUNT REQUESTED<br>FROM OTHER SOURCE<br>(please specify) |
|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Painted Ceiling Tiles             | 16 Ceiling Tiles: \$100<br>20 Paint Sets: \$325<br>Primer: \$50 | \$100                                 | \$375                                |   |
| Paint night and interest meetings | Food and drink: \$100   | \$25                                  | \$75                                 |   |
|                                   |   |                                       |                                      |   |
|                                   |   |                                       |                                      |   |