



Medical Student Council Meeting
Thursday, **September 9th** at 6:00 PM
Virtual meeting via Zoom
Minutes

Voting Members in Attendance

Aaron Conway, Alfonso Caetta, Rachel Baum, Joya Ahmad, Kunika Chahal, McKenzie Andrews, Lulu Wei, Srishty Amarnani, Anna Lieberman, Alana Engelbrecht, Liam Deegan, Hamza Khilji, Alexandra Greenberg, Ian Winthrop, Alice Hercheck, Jack Nasar, Priscilla Varghese

Guests in Attendance

Freddie Birnbaum

**Minutes recorded by Priscilla Varghese.
Alfonso Caetta presiding over the meeting.**

New Business

1. Budget Request

- a. No Submissions for Budget Requests

2. Class Updates

- a. 2022

- i. Academic Societies

- 1. Announcements regarding acceptance to AOA will be communicated in the following week.

- 2. Gold Humanism

- a. Students have found out from their clinical dean that they are in the society

- b. We hope for it to be a class wide announcement instead

- i. According to Dean Putman, there will be a schoolwide announcement regarding this

- ii. Clarification on MS4 credit requirements for students 2nd semester

- 1. A minimum amount of credits is required

- a. Students need to be a full time student for 8 semesters.

- b. Summer is not considered a semester

- c. Once 8 semesters have been completed, you may be

pro-rated.

d. Students must be students half-time to receive aid.

iii. Updates on MSPE - *Medical school performance evaluation*

1. Equivalent to a Dean's Letter

a. Letter of recommendation for residency based on medical school performance

2. Will be sent out to (emailed) students next week

a. Subject heading will include work "Draft"

b. You can add comments through adobe PDF if you think something is wrong with the letter

c. Afterwards email it back to administration and they will make necessary changes

d. Time line depends on who is writing your letter, some faculty may take longer than others

3. The letter will highlight grade distributions across specialties and where you fell within that distribution

4. Feedback from students may be limited to grammar, spelling, punctuation

a. The content of the letter may remain as is

5. Additionally students can 3 unique characteristics that the Dean will include on your behalf

6. Leave of absence and disciplinary troubles would be included in this

b. 2023

i. MS3s are currently on 2nd set of rotations

1. Everything is going well

2. No site based issues of right now

ii. Two Humanism Grand Rounds have occurred already

1. "They've been amazing"

c. 2024

i. Re-election for the open position on the COM24 Council

1. Liam Deegan has been elected on

ii. Update on health clearance

1. 172/202 are currently cleared

2. Students that are not cleared will be contacted

3. Health Clearance seems to be an inefficient process year to year
a. How can we improve this system so that it does not take such a long time for students to be cleared?

i. Dean Putman's response - This was because of the covid regulations that this was pushed back

ii. Students are technically required to come into student health to be cleared.

1. But this was not communicated to students for whatever reason

4. The new medical record system should help combat future delays

a. Students will have access soon to the system soon

b. The system will include

i. Automated clearance

- ii. Health records upload
 - iii. Notifications regarding health requirements and updates
 - c. Student counselling
 - i. They painted the student counseling area
 - ii. They also received new ACs
 - iii. Will be open to students soon
- 5. How can we streamline student health related communication?
 - a. We are trying to get one source that will put out all relevant information
 - i. Currently, students expect to get information from different members of faculty
 - ii. This should be improved with the new system that will be implemented
- 6. New student health services
 - a. 2 NPs for Medical students
 - b. Additional administrator that is assigned to medical students themselves
 - c. Timeline is for services to be up and running by October
 - d. System that will be used is not the same system as Downstate Hospital
 - e. Only student health will have access to this health network
- iii. Prayer space for MSA
 - 1. A space on the second floor of the Basic Science Building is being cleared out
 - a. Want to put a new floor in with carpeting
- iv. There will be an announcement regarding all of these updates communicated to the student population
- v. There is a clear communication issue between faculty and students
 - 1. Students would appreciate updates even if there isn't anything to update regarding
 - 2. Silence from faculty when a concern is communicated by students makes it seem as if the concern is being ignored.
- vi. Potential Day trip to Six Flags for Peer Mentorship
 - 1. Issue is money and transport
 - 2. How can we as faculty and Greater Medical Council support this idea?
 - a. We can find a way to share expense for this
 - b. Main issue is transport - bus/vans options need to be explored.
- vii. Use of Masks and Outside Vendors
 - 1. Masks are mandated as necessary
 - 2. Eating - there being more spaces available to eat
 - a. Weather is getting colder
 - b. Currently working on more spaces
 - 3. Clubs are directed to have an inside event and shift outside (grove) to eat.
 - 4. Use of Outside Vendors

- a. We need to find vendors that follow guidelines
 - i. Meals need to be individually wrapped
 - ii. Students cannot serve themselves
 - 1. Volunteers can serve students
 - 2. We can have grab and go
 - iii. Are clubs allowed to look for vendors that have individually wrapped foods?
 - 1. Yes - we need to make sure that they have insurance
 - b. A predominant amount of cases where students contract covid are because of sharing meals in close quarters.
 - i. For this reason regulations regarding vendors and masks are non-negotiable
 - 5. Academic Advisor Open Position
 - a. Last year we were down an academic advisor - Dr. Robbins was not available. What is the update with this position?
 - i. Dean Putman: Finding individuals with the qualifications of being an academic advisor is not easy
 - 1. This position will be posted soon to be filled
 - 2. We last spoke about this in January and the position has still not been posted
 - 3. We hope for a rapid onboarding
 - 6. Need for additional student counselors
 - a. A need for additional counselors was also communicated last year
 - b. Faculty is hiring two additional counselors for the center
 - c. We also have a per-diem counselor currently
- d. 2025
 - i. New Eboard members!!!
 - ii. Election email for SLC has been sent out
 - 1. We hope to hear back next week with candidates
 - iii. Patagonia orders are being started
 - iv. OSCE Lab practice
 - 1. Lots of panic with students being unsure of what OSCE will look like
 - 2. Students would like to have a mock-run of the OSCE formate
 - 3. This may be something that could be achieved through the Neer Peer program with the help of Dr. Ovitsh and Dr. Eisner
 - v. Anatomy Exams
 - 1. If exams are in person, tutoring should be in person.
 - a. Putman will be reach out to Dr. Langley to have tutoring in person
 - 2. Tutoring is starting too late in the unit for first years
 - a. Issue may be that tutors are being chosen too late. Why is this happening?
 - i. There is an issue with funding for tutors
 - 1. Administration is not sure how many paid

- tutors that they can hire
 - b. There should be no time where tutors are not available
 - i. There should be a rollover for tutors that have already been trained
 - ii. Maybe there's a possibility to send an email to tutors that are already trained to do sessions during unit 1.
 - c. Budget issue
 - i. If Dr. Langley were open to sending an email earlier in July asking for tutors to volunteer, there would be a number of responses
 - ii. Tutors should get paid and not be asked to volunteer regardless
 - 1. Is there an option for back pay for tutors?
 - a. No this is not allowed according to SUNY regulations
 - iii. Tutors can also be paid through work study or as a student assistant
 - 1. Student assistant protocols take longer
 - d. A Running list for year to year tutors should be created so that there is not a lag between the start of Unit 1 and the start of tutoring sessions.
- vi. Email regarding formatives
 - 1. Recently students received an update email regarding their academic performance
 - 2. Students are worried and overwhelmed as a result
 - 3. The related Academic Support session has been pushed back 2x
 - 4. This should not be the case
 - vii. Summative Panel
 - 1. Run by 2024 for 2025
 - a. Essay questions
 - b. Rubric for essays
 - 2. Per Alana
 - a. There is currently a debate on whether essays will continue on
 - i. Additionally - essays are considered the only subjective portion of summative week

3. Additional Updates

- i. Jason Lazar
 - 1. Vice Dean of Education
 - 2. Participated in the first digital health symposium today
 - a. Connected various schools together
 - 3. Wants to strengthen the ties between Downstate and affiliates
 - a. Maimonides, Brookdale, etc
 - 4. Feel free to CC Dean Lazar if you are not getting a response from administration

- ii. Dr. Markell
 - 1. She is no longer part of the Dean's office
 - 2. She is a faculty member of the Department of Medicine at Downstate
 - 3. Is there anything students can do to advocate for her to come back in an educational role?
 - a. Administratively any gap that she has left has been filled
 - i. This may be true on paper but Dr. Markell cannot be replaced
 - 1. Her mentorship and guidance is key for a lot of medical students
 - b. Gaps in leadership that resulted from Dean Markel's repositioning may still exist
 - i. Curriculum Reform Group (CRG)
 - 1. Dean Markel was our advocate in the dean's office regarding curriculum reform
 - 2. This is a group focused on health equity and social justice
 - 3. This role has not been replaced yet
 - 4. Students spent a majority of last year pushing for specific reforms
 - 5. This has not been followed up with
 - ii. Per Dean Putman - An education subcommittee can be created under the Dean's Council
 - 1. Students part of the reform group have already reached out to Dean Boutinfoster who mentioned she was unsure of this process
 - 2. The CRG did meet with Dean Boutinfoster but this was focused on publishing information not implementing the reform changes previously agreed upon
 - 3. Additionally, Dr. Boutinfoster is spread very thin
 - a. We should have a dedicated role for this
 - b. Per dean Putman - will get a faculty member to be part of these meetings
 - c. In the mean time, The CRG should egroup with Dr. Boutinfoster
 - d. Additionally, Dr. Lazar will follow up with Dr. Boutinfoster
 - iii. Possible petition for Dean Markel's reinstatement
 - 1. Is there a way that we can get her specifically, back in a position involved with education
 - 2. Faculty response - There is no clear answer

here

- a. There is no “if I do this, can she come back”
- b. You are not first to ask - there have been a number of people that have expressed gratitude and strong comments regarding her
- iv. Who can we bring our concerns to regarding this?
 - 1. Dean Brunicardi
 - 2. Our current conversation is an expression of the student bodies concerns
- c. Personnel issues regarding her change in role cannot be discussed

Trending Topics

- 1. Bylaws rewrite
 - a.
- 2. Mental health and wellness support for preclinical and clinical students
 - a. Wellness room
 - i. Student center or basic science building
 - ii. They are working on finding a location
- 3. Cross-classes mentorship

Closed Meeting

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

Meeting is now closed.

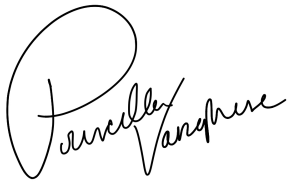
New Business

- 1. **Approval of August 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

**Motion to end meeting by Kunika Chahal
Seconded by Alfonso Caetta
Meeting Closed at 7:58 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