



Medical Student Council Meeting  
Thursday, **April 14th** at 6:00 PM  
\*\*\*Minutes\*\*\*

Attendance: Alfonso Caetta, Aaron Conway, Tatyana Yassenko (non-voting), Aaron Huang, Kelsy Sklar (non-voting), Alexandra Greenberg, Alexis Roth, Lulu Wei, Srishty Amarnani, Freddie Birnbaum (nonvoting), Amanda Jirgal, Ian Winthrop, Elaine Fletcher (zoom), Dean Lazar, Dean Putman, Dean McNeil

### **New Business**

1. Study/Lounge Storage space/ call room: Dean Lazar presenting, Deans Dr McNeil and Dr. Putman present
  - a. 5th floor BSB adjacent to UHB is an old lab that is a proposed new study space
  - b. UHB: Open seating area longe, Relaxation and meditation space, Eating and Dining space with fridge, microwave, eating space: All 3 interconnected
    - i. Demolition not done yet, in planning phase too but space identified, furniture comes later
  - c. Kings County has an identified space for only downstate students in the B 3rd floor near the medical education office for SUNY Downstate students, the space is 5 interconnected rooms, a contract with president and dean's signature on this. Multiple room space with lockers > currently finishing demolition and floor plans drawn, planning for rebuild and furniture
  - d. Time table is Summer!
  - e. Will chairs have back support? Ideally yes: Computer stations: Yes, and charging stations
    - i. Contact Lazar with any thoughts or feedback, furniture not yet ordered
  - f. For other sites: Tell students where to find these relaxation spaces
  - g. Student Health has had a ribbon cutting ceremony, separate from employee health, with EMR
  - h. Student Counseling Center has now a full time director - Ms. Deutcher
    - i. Hiring two new full-time therapists, currently two and Dr. Deutcher now full-time
  - i. Dr. McNeil: speak up about concerns on your clinical sites, so we can ensure you have as good as an experience as possible
  - j. Re academic advising > 2 people being hired, should start soon, both approved and just waiting to determine exact start date

- i. Issue of appointments not being based on student availability and hard to even get one within time it is needed
- ii. Broader issue of people who serve at advising not understanding medical school process and not having answers often to student questions
- iii. Use student knowledge, create institutional memory, without onus on upperclassmen, through advising
- iv. Laborious process to hire someone new, funding not always guaranteed
- k. Issues raised to Dr. Lazar regarding scheduling and availability of appointment of academic advisement > just set up a calendar to sign up
  - i. Issue will be revisited at future MC meetings to ensure we take opportunity with 2 new people to make real changes to office
  - ii. Would be great to have them meet with students right away to get input and feedback
  - iii. Dr. Langley giving a lot of the same advice to students, can we consider small group sessions?
  - iv. Also tension btw lectures alone not prepping you for exams but advising sticking to telling students to use them as outline for studying and not pushing outside resources enough, don't actually help students find ways to improve study skills and then you have to fail first to get real help
  - v. Dean Lazar will meet with Langley to discuss some of these concerns
- l. Also issue of getting info about exams > MS1s getting score reports and breakdowns on NBMEs now
  - i. More people failing Step 1 than prior years this P/F cycle, 10 vs 1-2, each reached out to 1-on-1, mix of not doing as well as on practice exams and not prepping enough and misc. Issues
    - 1. Langley's session on Step 1 prep not recorded, slides just visuals and meetings with him NBME was down, then couldn't reschedule
    - 2. Trend across country, first years and second years saying not given info, framing or access to knowledge from prior years on how to tackle step 1, need national conversation to figure this out and clear missed mark in shifting approach with change to p/f especially in context of pandemic and decreased connections across classes and with admin
    - 3. Will get perspective of those who didn't pass but also those who did so can compare and contrast > possibly a board review program for Step 1, used to actually have this but lack of interest at time
      - a. Also should get perspective from pre-P/F since this wasn't the fail rate before, what changed?
    - 4. Just another reason we need improvement and increased access to advising services
  - ii. In person makes a big difference and with coming back in person will help a lot
  - iii. Uworld access sooner?

## 1. Budget Requests

- a. Student Conference - Kelsey Sklar
  - i. Oral Presentation at NEGEA 2022, "A Student-Led Approach to

- Embedding Health Equity within Basic Science Curricula using TBL"
  - ii. \$250 Request
    - 1. Requested money from alumni assoc but too soon, has to be >1 mo out, not advertised that this is required
    - 2. Last requirement for meded pway before graduating
- b. Student Conference - Tatyana Yatsenko
  - i. Poster Presentation at AUA 2022, New Orleans "Pilot study of surgical technique and outcomes in transwomen undergoing robot-assisted sigmoid vaginoplasty"
  - ii. \$687.19 of \$887.19
    - 1. Working with a PI at Mt. Sinai, joint study but first author and presenter
    - 2. Booked flight, hasn't booked hotel yet, also need poster printed and \$80-90
    - 3. Applying to alumni association
    - 4. May 13th-16th but just going for weekend
    - 5. Based on application, can possibly tentatively say will fund if alumni assoc won't and if they don't respond and need funding also can let us know
- c. Gym Floors - Adam Burgman
  - i. If Med-Council can contribute \$7500 toward the repairs, with the \$7500 UC and the \$15k SCGB already voted on for this project, that will be more than enough for the repairs and whatever isn't used in that account can be redistributed to the councils program and projects in the fall.
  - ii. Working with FM&D and my team on how to maintain the court until the leaks are fully addressed over the next few years but I have full confidence we will prevent it from becoming as horrible as it currently is.

## 2. Class Updates

- a. 2022
  - i. Senior Week - approval signed, boat cruise and wine tour and picnic
  - ii. Awards Day
  - iii. Commencement - 6 tickets!
- b. 2023
  - i. A little freaked out by shooting/attack on subway but otherwise chugging along, no one we are aware of that was directly affected by it
- c. 2024
  - i. T2C
    - 1. Thank you to everyone who helped!
    - 2. For future years can we do better in planning in advance, having communications and support from faculty and translating form prior student leads with key info and docs early on
    - 3. Covid session on Thurs night was a lot and session on Thurs night on grading and requirements for clerkships a bit late, tired, would be good to have it sooner
    - 4. Would be good if time during T2C to help students struggling with

- clearance, share info and common problems early on (medicap will help)
- 5. EMR info can be shared before first day too bc hard to first be getting access and figuring system out then and residents get annoyed
- 6. For ppl rotating at BHC for ob/gyn make sure you start clearance early!! Multiple additional steps needed relative to other sites
- 7. Don't know sites yet for after first two rotations, this is normal per other classes, often bc spots not shared yet
- ii. Academic Advising
- d. 2025
  - i. Can someone update the school website for med council?
    - 1. Adam working on it
  - ii. Meetings should not be changed a day prior to the scheduled meeting. Hard to be proxy'd if you don't know candidates running and if there are two vying for the same position, how do you pick without being there to hear from them.
  - iii. Each student received a unit 3 breakdown for the NBME exam which was being pushed by MC and SLC.
- e. General
  - i. Inflation is crazy, food is more expensive, will loans go up next year?
    - 1. Will depend on budget, tuition same but likely yes

### **Trending Topics**

- a. Survey update - sent to all classes, 144 responses
  - i. Another email coming soon but already good comments, encourage classmates to fill it out
  - ii. All anonymous outside year you are

### **Closed Meeting**

Motion to close meeting by Alfonso Caetta

Seconded by Aaron Conway

**Meeting is now closed.**

### **New Business**

- 1. Approval of March Minutes (Vote)
  - 1. Motion to approve march minutes - alfonso
  - 2. Seconded by Ian
    - i. Yay - 17
    - ii. Nay - 0
    - iii. Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to approve March minutes.**

2. Vote on club & Individual Requests

1. Kelsey

- i. Option to fund in full; Option to go back to alumni association
- ii. Motion to fund in full by Amanda
- iii. Seconded to fund in full by Aaron Conway
- iv. Yay- 17
- v. Nay - 0
- vi. Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to transfer \$250 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Kelsey Sklar**

2. Tatyana

- i. Option to wait and only fund what alumni association will not cover in terms of flight and hotel
- ii. Motion to fund what alumni association will not, up to full funding
- iii. Seconded by Aaron Huang
- iv. Yay- 17
- v. Nay - 0
- vi. Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to fund remaining balance following Alumni Association funding from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Tatyana Yatsenko**

3. Funding for basketball floor

1. MC \$1700, UC \$7500, SCGB \$15000 then can cover repairs, have three quotes and what is not used will be redistributed to councils
2. Working with FMND and SCGB for maintenance so not ruined again
3. Option to fund in full
4. Motion to fund in full by Amanda Jirgal
5. Seconded by Aaron conway
  - i. Yay- 16
  - ii. Nay - 0
  - iii. Abstain - 1

**Motion passes to transfer \$1700 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) for Basketball Court repairs and maintenance.**

4. Vote Greater MC Secretary

1. Srishty Amarnani nominates Lulu Wei
2. Alfonso Caetta nominates Liam Deegan, declined
  - i. Yay- 16
  - ii. Nay - 0
  - iii. Abstain - 1

**Motion passes to elect Lulu Wei as 2022-2023 Greater MC Secretary.**

5. Vote Greater MC VP
  1. Alfonso Caetta nominates Amanda Jirgal, declined
  2. Lulu Wei nominates Srishty Amarnani
  3. Alexis Roth nominates Lulu Wei
    - i. Srishty elected as VP

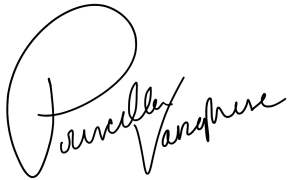
**Motion passes to elect Srishty Amarnani as 2022-2023 Greater MC Vice President.**

6. Vote Greater MC President
  1. Srishty Amarnani nominates Alexandra Greenberg
    - i. Yay- 16
    - ii. Nay - 0
    - iii. Abstain - 1

**Motion passes to elect Srishty Amarnani as 2022-2023 Greater MC President.**

Alfonso motions to end meeting  
Seconded by Ian Winthrop  
Meeting ended at 8:11 PM

**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, looped initial "P".

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

Event/Project Title: Oral Presentation at NEGEA 2022, "A Student-Led Approach to Embedding Health Equity within Basic Science Curricula using TBL"

Attachment 1

Date(s) of event/project: May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Brief description of event/project: My abstract was accepted for an oral presentation to the 2022 NEGEA Virtual Annual Regional Meeting. The registration fee is \$250, which I was not anticipating and is not in my budget as a graduating 4th year medical student. This project is the culmination of my work in the Medical Educator Pathway at SUNY Downstate. I was accepted to provide an oral presentation on an innovation in medical education. The project itself will directly benefit the Downstate College of Medicine curriculum, particularly as it involves teaching health equity to medical students.

Lead coordinator/planner: Kelsey Sklar email: kelsey.sklar@downstate.edu

List other student(s) working on the event/project: Students that have contributed to this work include the following students in the College of Medicine: Wajiha Kazmi, Andrea Martinez, Aaron Kuang, Alexandra Belzie and Latia Skerving.

How many people do you expect to attend? 1 (I will be the only presenter of the project). I am not sure what the projected attendance at the conference will be, potentially over 100 people.

The event/project was advertised/pertains to the: (select all that apply)

College of Medicine       Graduate School       CHRP       Entire Downstate Community

How was the event/project advertised?

Email       Class Announcement(s)      Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Has this event/project ever been done before?  Yes  No      If yes, when (e.g. annually)? \_\_\_\_\_

Are there any clubs/organizations co-sponsoring this event/project?  Yes  No

**Itemized Budget:**



<u>Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)</u>	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
Registration Fee	\$250	\$250

Total: \$250

*minus other funding:* [redacted]  
Asking amount: \$250

**Funding Request:**

Amount from Med Council: \$250    University Council: [redacted]

Amount from other resources (i.e. grants, department donations, etc.): \$0

Please include any additional information that you believe Med Council should be aware of.

[redacted]



Event/Project Title: Poster Presentation at AUA 2022, New Orleans

Date(s) of event/project: May 13-15

**Attachment 2**

Brief description of event/project: Pilot study of surgical technique and outcomes in transwomen undergoing robot-assisted sigmoid vaginoplasty

Lead coordinator/planner: Tatyana Yatsenko      email: tatyana.yatsenko@downstate.edu

List other student(s) working on the event/project:

How many people do you expect to attend? 1

The event/project was advertised/pertains to the: (select all that apply)

College of Medicine       Graduate School       CHRP       Entire Downstate  
Community

How was the event/project advertised?

Email       Class Announcement(s)      Other: nohe

Has this event/project ever been done before?  Yes       No      If yes, when (e.g. annually)?

Are there any clubs/organizations co-sponsoring this event/project?  Yes       No

**Itemized Budget:**

<u>Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)</u>	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
poster printing	80	80
Hotel/Airbnb	\$100-200/night	200-400\$
Flight	\$407.19	\$407.19

Total: 887.19

*minus other funding:*

Asking amount: 687.19?

**Funding Request:**

Amount from Med Council: 687.19      University Council:

Amount from other resources (i.e. grants, department donations, etc.):

Please include any additional information that you believe Med Council should be aware of.

Presenting a moderated poster presentation at the AUA 2022 National Meeting. Research done at Downstate (virtually) with Mount Sinai faculty member Dr. Purohit and Dr. Djordjevic, pioneers in gender-affirming surgery.