



Medical Student Council Meeting
Thursday, **August 18th** at 6:00 PM
Minutes

Voting Members in Attendance

Attendance: Alexandra Greenberg, Joya Ahmad, Lulu Wei, McKenzie Andrews, Mohamed Heiba, Rachel Baum, Dan Kwon, Amanda Jirgal, Priscilla Varghese, Alana Engelbrecht

Guests in Attendance

Michele Liu, Raphael A Kirou, Joydeep Baidya, Alvin John, Laureen Chan

**Minutes recorded by Lulu Wei. 6:10PM
Alexandra Greenberg presiding over the meeting.**

New Business

1. Budget Requests

- a. AANS – presenter Alvin John
 - i. \$50 spent to create the chapter
 1. AANS formed in middle of the year so they didn't submit a budget
 - ii. \$200 for intro meeting and speaker fees, attending national conferences
 1. Explained they need a date, specific speaker, number of people to request
 2. Explained as a new club, they have \$250, should have come last year because budget is finalized
 3. Explained the budget guidelines
- b. IMIG - presenter Raphael Kirou
 - i. \$200 for food for interest meeting next Thursday
 1. 30 people came to last year's interest meeting
- c. PM&R - presenter Lon Yin Chan
 - i. Club trip budget for 4 students
 1. Chan explained each line item is the cheapest possible
 2. 4 presenters, one has 2 posters, all are applying for PM&R this year
 3. Explained policy to seek funding from other sources before GMC
 4. Explained that each student should apply separately for GMC funding if other sources are not available
- d. Independent project - presenter Carolyn Andrews

- i. \$1280 to present at The Generalists in Medical Education annual conference in Nashville, TN
 - 1. Explained policy to seek funding from other sources before GMC
 - 2. Explained that each student should apply separately for GMC funding if other sources are not available
- e. Adam :)
 - i. Activities fair 9/8
 - 1. New change: each club gets up to \$25 in funding if requested
 - a. Can be used for food or giveaways, any kind of promotion during the event, giveaways cannot have downstate logo
 - 2. Requesting \$1000 from GMC
 - a. UC is giving \$500 and SCGB covers the rest as needed
 - b. Funds will be deposited in a new student activities account if vote passes

2. General Items

- a. Adam :)
 - i. Basketball court repairs complete
 - 1. Repairs were under budget, GMC will get \$3,750 back
 - ii. Block party 9/1
 - 1. Will have mechanical bull, hot dog cart, pretzels, cotton candy, etc
 - 2. 9 student organizations participating
 - 3. SCGB and MC are contributing to funding
 - iii. Student org forms have been updated
 - iv. SC reorganization. Closet can be used for storage for student orgs and councils
 - v. Goal for the year is turn SC into a student social environment
 - 1. Will feature social couches, tv, board games, etc
 - 2. Plan for an art contest Sept-Oct ish with SC gallery reception
 - 3. Will increase student spotlights
- b. Welcoming first years to medical council
 - i. Explained med council attendance rules
 - ii. Introductions

3. Class Updates

- a. 2023
 - i. KCH wants social security card for clearance. Told us today.
 - 1. Admin will fix this; this should not be required
 - ii. Downstate residency fairs: Downstate students are hearing about it from students of other schools
 - 1. Should be announced to our students
 - iii. Moving elective dates - policy that department chair needs to sign add/drop forms, but some never email back creating huge scheduling issues/blocking people from certain electives/aways/transcript records
 - 1. Chairs never deny date requests anyway; is unnecessary burden for the student
 - 2. Registrar requires this, won't be changed
 - a. Is proof that the site knows you're not coming for those

dates

- iv. Kings theater as a graduation venue?
 - 1. Admin has considered it but there are problems including insufficient parking and no nearby subways
 - 2. Admin still looking at alternatives, will announce in Sept-ish the location and date
- b. 2024
 - i. Student health clearance is slow
 - 1. New hire will speed this up
 - a. One clinician to review clearance and one admin to enter forms into medicab
 - ii. Grading/expectation inconsistencies for psych clerkship sites
 - a. One site director grades based on a single non-clinical meeting
 - i. Harmful to MSPE and not reflective of clinical aptitude
 - b. One site requires 30 write-ups over 6 weeks for a portfolio, way beyond the requirements of other sites
 - c. Student got a grade that didn't seem reflective of them, Dr. Feola told the, the only way to potentially change it was for the student to write a letter to that attending
 - i. The policy is literally to not do that and not contact the attending
 - d. Students can meet with Dr Jacobson-Dickman and she can mediate without retaliation
 - i. She will clarify grading policies with all psych sites
 - 1. MSPE does include these comments and they either are not reflective on clinical aptitude
 - 2. No Clinical Advisory Deans yet
 - a. They are busy writing MSPEs now and are not useful for MS3s yet
- c. 2025
 - 1. Clearance for bedside preceptorships
 - a. Sites sending clearance info for incomplete student lists
 - b. Leo says Monday and Thursday have site orientation on leo but at least some sites are not aware
 - i. VA told student they can't come, 9/6 is earliest to get fingerprinted to even get in
 - c. Admin has not responded to any emails about clearance until yesterday
 - d. 83.3% of MS2 said they have no info on how to get onboarded or cleared
 - e. 95.8% of MS2 said they have no scheduling information at all
 - f. Same for 2024 - delayed start to first or 2nd week of september
 - g. 2024 asked admin about health clearance as early as the summer and still had delays and was told to just wait, student health said they didn't know we were coming for health clearance
 - 2. Same for 2023 - we know this happens every year, but planning is still poor, no anticipatory guidance, no accountability or apology
 - 3. Unacceptable to give only two days notice for clearance

- a. especially when one day has mandatory learning
 - b. Dean Bianchi and Lazar will be told
 - c. Physically impossible to get clearance from sites because they also need to send site-specific forms
 - ii. Medicab issues
 - a. Medicab does not tell them when their clearance is due as promised
 - i. If you've been cleared since Feb, should have recent info in medicab, but not earlier
 - 2. Updated immunizations only
 - a. Missing mask fitting, PPE form, clearance form, other forms
 - 3. Portal does not accept certain forms
 - a. Some things are manual input but fields are not formatted correctly so you can't input it
 - i. Hep B
 - ii. Won't let you skip questions to the next one either
 - 4. No scheduling function
 - iii. UWorld order
 - 1. Ms Lee wants to rely on a student coordinator but student does not have access to institutional information
 - a. Admin cannot ask a student to do things where they do not have access
 - 2. Should be a priority for academic advising because it saves ~10k for students
 - iv. Tutoring hiring
 - 1. What are the criteria to be eligible to be a tutor for MS1s? Dr Langley refused to say
 - a. Cut off summative scores vary based on how many people applied and the hiring budget that year
 - i. Dr. Langley should announce a number of tutors once budget is known
 - ii. Minimum criteria could save ppl who don't qualify time spent on applying
 - iii. Students should have an opportunity to receive feedback
 - 1. Dr langley did not respond to emails
 - 2. Tutoring has started -earlier than usual - so that's great
 - v. Tutoring for units 5 and 6
 - 1. In progress, HR said they can authorize tutors with 1 week turnaround, also pre-checking if student is eligible for work study to save more time
 - 2. Payroll for tutors has been changed so tutors will be paid every two weeks (plus NYS pay lag) instead of as lump sum at year's end
 - vi. Re-election for 1 seat on COM2025
 - 1. After COM2026
 - vii. Holding COM2026 elections for MC and SLC
 - 1. Mo will run point on this
- d. 2026

- i. Formatives are graded now
 1. Grade change had not been announced before orientation, has not had student input
 - a. Why did they do this without talking to students?
 2. Admin have not explained the overall grade breakdown despite multiple inquiries
 - a. "The response was that we will not give you information and you should not be asking"
 - b. Curriculum should be easily accessed on Downstate's website - students have a right to know
 3. Formatives are being rewritten to prevent cheating
 - a. Unclear if NBME topics or lecture topics will be emphasized, but summatives are NBME-based
 - b. Students do not have input to share how reflective they think the formative is of exams
 - c. Histo/path/anatomy questions have historically posed a lot of problems on formatives (can't zoom in, etc)
 - d. What are the quality control measures? There have been huge inconsistencies between formatives depending on writer, typos, incomprehensible questions, wrong answers indicated as the right answer, etc
 - e. Formatives are short - if there are only 2 PC questions, 1 wrong is half of your points gone for that week
 4. Timing is problematic - Only open 1 day, Monday to Tuesday
 - i. But should be focused on that week's material and not previous material
 - ii. On same day even if it's a holiday so people cannot take that day off
 - iii. Dean putman says it's so they can assess whether topics are being taught effectively
 5. After unit 1, people tend to rely less on lecture but formatives have historically been lecture heavy
 6. Dr. Roman's review session in U3 with board style questions was liked by students. If formatives are graded, they should be closer to that
 7. During student interviews, graded exams at the end of blocks instead of dispersed through blocks is a huge highlight people commonly point to - we don't have this anymore
 8. Changes the welcoming learning environment and makes it harder for students to succeed, does not take into account diverse learning styles/timelines of students
- ii. Orientation communication problems
 1. Announcing grading change was incredibly detrimental during orientation
 - a. MS1s felt lied to because they were advertised a different curriculum
 - b. Orientation leaders noticed extremely poor morale
 - c. Survey of MS1s showed that multiple students said they

- would not have come to Downstate if they had known
2. Upperclassmen had no idea of the change and said that formatives don't count during the upperclassmen panel
 - a. They had been asked to represent the school and volunteer their time to speak to the new students but the contradicting info made everyone confused and wasted time
 - b. If you're going to have upperclassmen volunteer their time, they should know what is happening
 3. MC wants a meeting with admin involved in grading change to understand why this happened and why it was communicated like this

Trending Topics

- a. 2023 had talked about creating a communications committee to make sure conversations were happening regularly between students and admin, has been 3 years and no committee has been created
 - i. We are graded strictly on professionalism but many things communicated are not reflective of that same criteria
 1. Ex. preceptorships and health clearance
 2. Ex. notice about grade system changes
 - ii. Constant story of emailing admin for time sensitive things with no response for months but time is strictly enforced for us

Closed Meeting

- I. Motioned by Dan kwon
- II. Seconded by Joya Ahmad

Meeting is now closed. 7:52pm

New Business

1. **Approval of May Minutes**
 1. Motion to approve May minutes made by Joya Ahmad
 2. Seconded by Rachel Baum
 - i. Vote
 1. For - 14
 2. Against - 0
 3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to approve May minutes

2. **\$1000 for Activities Fair**
 1. Option to fund \$1000
 2. Motion to fund \$1000 made by Joya Ahmad
 3. Seconded by Dan Kwon
 - i. Vote
 1. For - 14

2. Against - 0
3. Abstain - 0

Motion passes to transfer \$1000 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to the new student activities fair account that will be created

3. Club and Individual requests

- A. IMIG - Attachment #1
 1. Option to fund \$250 for IMIG interest meeting
 2. Option to not fund
 3. Motion to fund \$250 made by Joya Ahmad
 4. Seconded by Dan Kwon
 5. Vote
 - a. For - 11
 - b. Against - 2
 - c. Abstain - 3

Motion passes to transfer \$250 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to IMIG (40-70276-012-30001)

**Motion to end meeting by Dan Kwon
Seconded by Joya Ahmad
Meeting Closed at 7:55 PM**

Minutes were scribed by Lulu Wei.



Approved by Alexandra Greenberg - Medical Council President.

Please check one box:

University Council Funding ONLY
 Med Council Funding ONLY
 Other: _____

ORGANIZATION NAME: INTERNAL MEDICINE INTEREST GROUP (IMIG)

PRESIDENT: EDWARD BAE

VICE PRESIDENT: ARIEL GIDON

TELEPHONE: (631) 871-4993

TREASURER: RAPHAEL A. KIROU

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
IMIG General Interest Meeting (08/25/2022): Panel of Attending and Resident Physicians will discuss their experience in Internal Medicine	Pizza and beverages for attendees (to be served on Student Center Patio after event): \$200	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00