



Medical Student Council Meeting  
Thursday, **September 14th**, 2023 6:00 PM  
Student Center Main Lounge  
\*\*\*Minutes\*\*\*

**Voting Members in Attendance: *Name (proxy for name)***

Eric Acosta, Joya Ahmad, Srishty Amarnani (proxy by Amanda Jirgal), McKenzie Andrews (proxy by Anna Lieberman), Amanda Azmi, Alberto Barrientos, Rachel Baum, Hannah Brown, Hayley Carabello (proxy by Rachel Baum), Kunika Chahal, Liam Deegan (proxy by Amanda Jirgal), Rahat Elahi, Mohamed Heiba (proxy by Joya Ahmad), Carl-Frederick Janvier, Amanda Jirgal (non-voting), Anna Lieberman, Michel Liu, Christopher Montalvo, Abiha Naqvi, Ijeoma Okoronkwo, Kyle Reid, Alexis Reid (proxy by Amanda Jirgal), Lulu Wei (proxy by Amanda Jirgal)

**Guests in Attendance:**

Lindsay Blank, Freddie Birnbaum, Joshua Singaravapu, Nadia Celestin, Mousa Payinkay, Adam Burgman, Schuyler Hooke, Jeffrey Putman, Jason Lazar

**Minutes recorded by Hannah Brown.  
Amanda Jirgal presiding over the meeting.  
Meeting called to order at 6:12pm**

1. New Business

- a. \*Note - approved absences for this meeting: Lulu Wei, Srishty Amarnani, Liam Deegan, Alexis Roth
- b. Updates/thank yous from Adam:
  - i. Over 300 participants at the Student Activities Fair, yay!
  - ii. Over 400 participants at the Block Party, yay!!
- c. Trending Topics (all MSC)
  - i. **Ongoing issues; requesting updates from Dean Lazar and Dr. Putman:**
    1. Club Registration Forms for each class council
      - a. 2027 is done
      - b. 2026 will do
      - c. 2025 is working on it

- d. 2024 is done
- 2. Constitution Committees Updates
  - a. Rachel is on the committee
    - i. Also Lulu, Mo, and Jack
  - b. No progress yet
  - c. Once constitution is done, we need to send it to all of COM for them to approve it

**ii. New issues:**

- 1. Halal Food not being provided in downstate funded events
  - a. Muslim students in the class of 2027 felt like they weren't being catered to
  - b. They were told just to eat the Kosher food (but they don't eat Kosher food)
    - i. They feel disrespected
  - c. Dr. Putman: they're well on their way to fixing this issue!
    - i. This is their issue (not our issue to solve)
    - ii. They've had an issue getting a vendor for Halal food who accepts our tax exempt form
    - iii. Now, there's a vendor that will sell us halal meat, and they're working with a caterer
    - iv. They're also working with a vendor that will provide chicken nugget-type food
    - v. Dr. Putman acknowledges that there was an attitude in the past that halal students can eat vegetarian or Kosher, but that's not good, and they're changing that
  - d. There's also been a lack of vegetarian food (not enough at orientation)
    - i. Dr. Putman says this hasn't usually been a problem in the past
    - ii. Dr. Putman says they need to do better control so only the vegetarian people can eat the veggie food
    - iii. Joya adds that it could be helpful to have way more off the "special" food than just for the people who registered for it
  - e. Another issue is that some people go to the Kosher table with their non-Kosher food, and then that food becomes non-Kosher
    - i. Kunika brought this up to Schuyler
    - ii. Maybe we could change the signage/some other way to protect the food

d. Class Updates

i. 2024

**1. Ongoing issues; requesting updates from Dean Lazar and Dr. Putman:**

a.

**2. New issues:**

- a. When is transition to residency (TTR)? It is not listed on the academic calendar.
  - i. Some previous MS4s said that some days of TTR had nothing, or just virtual events – could those be

consolidated?

- ii. It would be nice to have time off before residency
- iii. From Dean Lazar:
  - 1. He'd like to come back next meeting with answers
  - 2. TTR wasn't the administration's idea – it was something the students asked for
  - 3. ~ 2/3 of medical schools have TTR programs
  - 4. Dr. Quinn interviewed residents and asked them what they wish their med schools could have done better to prepare them for residency, and spoke to residency directors as well
    - a. Dr. Quinn then put together a preliminary program, and asked for feedback from the students, and residents who were former students
    - b. There was also a focus group of 7 students, who gave constructive criticism
    - c. There was such positive feedback, that the school made it mandatory instead of an elective
      - i. But this means there were “scaling” issues, in trying to make it available for all students
  - 5. Some of the awkward scheduling has to do with the fact that most of it happens in the Sim Center, and there are other events happening in the Sim Center around that time
  - 6. Dr. Quinn is very busy, so Dean Lazar needs a month to chat with her to see what the plans are for TTR
- iv. Many students are really grateful for TTR, it is just important to listen to students about what their ideas are (maybe Half I and Half II could be separated, and some of it could be virtual?)
- b. From comments/concerns form:
  - i. Multiple submissions requesting that Transition to Residency be optional and/or remote
    - 1. Example submission: “I would like to request the consideration of making the transition to residency course scheduled in April virtual. I understand it is necessary to help prepare our class better for residency, however many of my peers and myself may either have finished our other coursework well before this date, or will be making adjustments to our living situations that will leave us away from campus during this time. If this course is truly mandatory, I believe it would be fair to at least offer a zoom component or recordings to facilitate ease for everyone. Thank you for your consideration!”

2. "If there's no way out of it, will it be moved to the two weeks preceding commencement? It's still on the schedule for 4/22-5/3."
3. Can it be for 1 week instead of 2?
- c. Will June and July rotations and evals be included in MSPE and transcripts? Can the admin do something to ensure they will be?
  - i. They're working on getting the grades (but some of the clinical sites haven't submitted the grades yet)
  - ii. As soon as the grades come in, they're going to go into the letters (even if it's the last minute – at least 2 days before MSPE has to be submitted)
  - iii. There's been a lot of burden put on the students to remind their preceptors to get the evaluations in
    1. Now the deans are personally reaching out to them, so less burden on the students
    2. If they still haven't responded, they get a personal phone call (first from the clerkship director, then Dean C., then higher ups)
  - iv. Some of the evaluations are coming in on paper, and they have someone typing all of them up
  - v. Follow-ups may not be available from the August electives
    1. Students could reach out directly to them, but the same level of follow-up cannot be done by the deans
    2. If someone is getting a LOC from the August sub-I, the deans are reaching out to those people to get that letter submitted ASAP

ii. 2025

**1. Ongoing issues; requesting updates from Dean Lazar and Dr. Putman:**

- a. Clarity on clerkship grading, absences, communication before the start of rotations
  - i. Lack of feedback for specific aspects of clerkship grades
  - ii. Comments
  - iii. People are still waiting on grades from their first clerkship (ended in the end of June)
    1. Could there be a deadline for submitting grades?
    2. From Dean Lazar:
      - a. This used to happen all the time, and they thought it was resolved (people are supposed to have grades after 30 days)
        - i. Over the past month there has been some "slippage"
      - b. The main issue has been Maimonides surgery (there was an issue with leadership changing?)
      - c. Every site director is mandated to meet with the clerkship director quarterly

(minutes are required from these meetings)

- b. Accommodations issues for shelf exams
  - i. From Dr. Putman:
    - 1. A debrief happened – most of the problems would be resolved if the exams were not remote
    - 2. Going forward, the exams will be in person (Dr. Putman will be around for that)
  - ii. From Joya: there's been issues with people with accommodations not knowing where the exams are until the morning of
    - 1. Dr. Putman talked to Dr. Berkowitz about this today
      - a. The disability faculty member left in April, so Dr. Berkowitz is helping "assign" accommodations for students in COM
        - i. Dr. Putman is doing this for other schools
      - b. The search has begun for a new VP to handle disability – search committee is going to get it down to 3-4 people, and then the student councils will be involved in the interview process
        - i. If everything goes well, hopefully the person will be hired by December
    - iii. Also! More counselors in student health are coming!
- c. Distinction in Foundations Notification
  - i. Dean Lazar will come next meeting with an answer
- d. Student Lounge access for students at Downstate
  - i. Only some students can't get into the lounge (ID won't go into the lounge)
  - ii. Dean Lazar will review the process for getting IDs activated for the lounge
- e. Healthbridge Access has been an issue
  - i. It really depends on who you get on the phone
    - 1. Some people just hang up...
  - ii. Dr. Elka Jacobson-Dickman has been talking to people to try to get the access for students, but it hasn't been happening
    - 1. She spoke to the head of IT, who agreed that students should have access, but it hasn't been happening across the board
    - 2. It's been a big issue for students at rotations without many computers

## 2. New issues:

- a. Site placement for Primary Care
  - i. Primary Care 1 has been the issue
  - ii. There's also been issues in other clerkships about beginning of the clerkship (example, where you show up)

- iii. Their goal is to give 2 weeks' notice about beginning of clerkships, but it hasn't been happening
- b. Financial Aid for people pushing Step 1
  - i. Some people have been told to ask their parents for money, which is really not possible for a lot of people
  - ii. If people aren't enrolled, they can't get federal financial aid
    - 1. So they might have to register for a credit (could be a possible solution, but they will have to look into if this is possible legally)
      - a. This means they'd have to take out money to be eligible (pay for one credit); similar to what people have done for research years
    - 2. Option proposed: push back step 1 until after MS3 so they take it back-to-back with step 2 (SUNY Upstate allows this)
      - a. This was allowed in the past, and those students all got into residency!
      - b. Dr. Putman says that there are students who do not progress past Step 1, so the fear is that they're putting another year of loans on these people to push it
  - iii. This is a relatively new problem since people used to not push back Step 1 until after the Spring semester ends, but that's happening now

iii. 2026

**1. Ongoing issues; requesting updates from Dean Lazar and Dr. Putman:**

- a. Can the number of absences be proportional to unit length
  - i. There is some willingness to change the number for unit 5 to 3
- b. The attendance form has not been changed officially to state that doctor's appointments don't count towards the absences
- c. Email [comattendance@downstate.edu](mailto:comattendance@downstate.edu) about issues related to attendance
- d. By next meeting there should be a decision and the deans will share that

**2. New issues:**

- a. Is there any way to have place(s) for private meetings/calls on campus? If there are already, can these be advertised, students are unaware
  - i. It's on their radar, and they're looking into making these
  - ii. Next meeting :)
- b. On a similar note, would it be possible to post the schedule for carrel activities outside of the carrels, so we know when they're free during the day (as is done in the lecture halls and on the 8th floor)?
  - i. On the bulletin board?
  - ii. Dr. Putman will look into this

- c. Dr. Putman spoke with Dr. Granat about moving the summatives overview earlier
  - i. If it's the same thing every year, could there be a recording online?
  - ii. Dr. Granat thinks that putting it somewhere at the beginning of the unit would be a good idea
  - iii. Dr. Putman will remind her
- d. From comments/concerns form:
  - i. Will we have a session/panel dedicated purely to STEP 1 some time soon (i.e. logistics, how to study, when to study, dedicated period, historical performance, when do we take it, etc)?
    - 1. They can put a panel together after the first week of October
    - 2. We'll hear from them at next meeting about this panel from the office of academic support
    - 3. We can send out an email NOW to students who are going to need accommodations to start organizing everything
  - ii. In the future, can there be more proactive communication about what needs to be done for health clearance? No one ever got an email from student health about renewing clearance for bedside, and there was little to no communication with them when we were trying to be cleared. How can we fix this?
    - 1. Dr. Pervil worked with them to ask Medicat to give them a quote to hire a person from Medicat to go in and take the information on our immunizations, and type them in, so Medicat can tell us when clearance expires
      - a. It has to get approved by the state, so there's no timeline yet
    - 2. The best way to communicate with student health is to email student health within Medicat
      - a. Apparently they are responding to that pretty quickly
      - b. Hopefully they can get [studenthealth@downstate.edu](mailto:studenthealth@downstate.edu) can have that as their away message
    - 3. If you know you're going to have your clearance expired, but you don't know exactly when, you could just schedule an appointment
    - 4. Suggestion from Joya: add something in the Student Handbook about what health clearance really means
    - 5. Another issue: Student Health isn't open when people in the clinical rotations have free time
      - a. Dr. Putman said they're working on hiring a new person, and they can then work on adding evening hours

- iii. Can the student activity fee be used for food during school hours (9-5pm) rather than after school - for example, morning coffee, Kahoot prizes, study break snacks, etc?
  - 1. There has to be an event (this can just be a coffee event)
  - 2. Everyone the event is targeting has to be available at that time
    - a. You could do two of the same event

iv. 2027

**1. New issues:**

- a. Audio issues with the microphone in Lecture Hall 2 on the Panopto recording
  - i. Dr. Putman will try to figure this out
- b. Not understanding how they're graded
  - i. People don't know there is a recording from Dr. Granat or how to access it
    - 1. Dr. Putman will make sure everyone has access to this
- c. Some PBLs (ex: I2) haven't had a solid PBL instructor for clinical skills
  - i. They've just had subs every week
  - ii. They've emailed Dr. Quinn

e. Budget Requests

i. Radiology Club

1. Interest Meeting: **\$150**

- a. Pizza (6-8 boxes): \$150
  - i. Will be next Wednesday

2. Virtual speaker to discuss research opportunities: **\$250**

- a. Food for students in PHAB while watching speaker: \$250
  - i. Their advisor has close connections with her
  - ii. No planned date yet (currently communicating)
    - 1. Will wait until after Unit 5 summatives (majority of organization has MS2s)
- iii. Notes: New clubs will get \$250 to start as a baseline budget, but they need to come and present their new club, and so we can vote to move the funds from our account into their new club account
  - 1. If they surpass that budget, they can come to us and request more funds

ii. Christian Fellowship at Downstate

1. Guest speaker fee: **\$45**

- a. Christian Physician Speaker Series speaker David Kim: \$45
  - i. This is a gift

iii. American Medical Women's Association

1. AMWA Memberships for Executive Board: **\$375**

- a. Membership for Vice President: \$75
- b. Membership for Treasurer: \$75
- c. Membership for Secretary: \$75



- d. Membership for Chief Communications Officer: \$75
- e. Membership for Chief of Community Service: \$75
  - i. You cannot be AMWA on ERAS unless you're a national member
    - 1. You'd have to renew your membership yearly if you want to put it on ERAS and you don't have the lifetime membership
  - ii. So, they want the E-board members to have incentive to continue, and to have it be recognized at Downstate
  - iii. These are all life memberships
  - iv. There is a yearly membership for \$25
  - v. This is a lot of money to be spent just on individuals...if it's not a requirement from the national organization for the club to be on the campus, we need to take that into consideration
- 2. Meetings: **\$100**
  - a. Food order for general interest meeting: \$100
    - i. This is still being planned
    - ii. Not enough money

**Closed Meeting:**

- i. Motioned by Anna
- ii. Seconded by Hannah
- iii. **Meeting is now closed.**

**New Business**

1.) Approval of August Minutes

- a. Motion to approve August minutes made by Joya
- b. Seconded by Anna
  - i. Vote:
    - 1. For - 16
    - 2. Against - 0
    - 3. Abstain - 6

**Motion passes to approve August minutes**

2) Budget Requests:

- a) Radiology Club - **attachment #1**
  - i) Options: Fund \$250 as a new club
  - ii) Motion to fund \$250 made by Anna, second by Rachel
  - iii) Vote:
    - (1) For - 21
    - (2) Against - 0
    - (3) Abstain - 1

**Motion passes to transfer \$ from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to \*Please reactivate account for The Radiology Club\***

- b) Christian Fellowship at Downstate - **attachment #2**
  - i) Options: Fund \$45 to purchase gift for speaker
  - ii) Motion to Fund \$45 made by Rachel, second by Joya
  - iii) Vote:
    - 1) For - 21
    - 2) Against - 0
    - 3) Abstain - 1

**Motion passes to transfer \$ from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Christian Fellowship at Downstate (40-70248-012-30001)**

- c) American Medical Women's Association - **attachment #3**
  - i) Options: Fund \$25 per board member IF they submit to us in writing/the link the document that says 6 people need to have memberships in order for them to be recognized as a club (does it need to be the E-Board?) **AND** \$250 for their meeting as a new club
  - ii) Motion to Fund \$25 given the stipulation above, **AND** fund \$250 as a new club made by Joya, second by Anna
  - iii) Vote:
    - 1) For - 20
    - 2) Against - 2
    - 3) Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to transfer \$250 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to \*Please reactivate account for the American Medical Women's Association\***

**Proof of necessity of membership for E-board members was given, so motion passes to transfer an additional \$125 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to \*Please reactivate account for the American Medical Women's Association\* .**

- d) Vote to move \$10,000 into the conference funding account
  - i) For - 22
  - ii) Against - 2
  - iii) Abstain - 0

**Motion passes to transfer \$10,000 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to \*Please create a conference funding account.\***

Motion to end meeting by Hannah  
Seconded by Joya  
Meeting Closed at 8:37pm

**Minutes were scribed by Hannah Brown**

**Approved by Hannah Brown - Medical Student Council Secretary**





**Interim Budget Request Form**

Date: 09/12/2023

Please check one box:

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

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** The Radiology Club

PRESIDENT: Mousa Payinkay      VICE PRESIDENT: Monique Leinen

TELEPHONE: 6466449746      TREASURER: Armaan Shah

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
Interest Meeting to help show students who we are as a brand new club	Pizza for first interest group meeting 6 to 8 boxes		\$150	
Virtual Speaker Dr. Michele Johnson coming to discuss research opportunities for M1s	Food for students as we will be meeting in PHAB and want to provide food for students		\$250	

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: 09/14/2023

Please check one box:

University Council Funding ONLY

Med Council Funding ONLY

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

ORGANIZATION NAME: Christian Fellowship at Downstate

PRESIDENT: Amanda Hariprasad

VICE PRESIDENT: Joshua Singavarapu

TELEPHONE: 917-745-6050

TREASURER: Brianna Somora

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
<p>Christian Physician Speaker Series on Thursday, Sept. 14th, 2023 Dr. Kim is coming in to speak for us at an event.</p>	<p>Speaker fee</p>		<p>\$45</p>	



**Interim Budget Request Form**

Date: 9/11/2023

Please check one box:

University Council Funding ONLY

Med Council Funding ONLY

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**ORGANIZATION NAME:** American Medical Women's Association

PRESIDENT: Gina Gioia

VICE PRESIDENT: Lea Sarmiento

BOX #: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

TREASURER: Nadia Celestin

PROJECT	ITEMIZED EXPENSES	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM UNIV COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM MED COUNCIL	AMOUNT REQUESTED FROM OTHER SOURCE (please specify)
AMWA Memberships for executive board	\$75.00-membership for vice president \$75.00-membership for treasurer \$75.00-membership for secretary \$75.00-membership for chief communications officer \$75.00-membership for chief of community service		\$375.00	
Meetings	\$100.00-food order for general interest meeting		\$100.00	