



Medical Student Council Meeting
Tuesday, **November 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 Alexis Roth), McKenzie Andrews, Amanda Azmi, Alberto Barrientos, Rachel Baum, Hannah Brown, Hayley Carabello, Kunika Chahal, Liam Deegan (proxy by Alexis Roth), Rahat Elahi (proxy by Hannah Brown), Mohamed Heiba (proxy by Rachel Baum), Carl-Frederick Janvier (proxy by Alberto Barrientos), Anna Lieberman, Michel Liu, Christopher Montalvo, Abiha Naqvi, Ijeoma Okoronkwo, Kyle Reid, Alexis Roth, Lulu Wei (proxy by Alexis Roth)

Guests in Attendance:

Adam Burgman, Schuyler Hooke, Jeffrey Putman, and Freddie Birnbaum

Minutes recorded by Hannah/Alexis.

Hannah Brown presiding over the meeting.

Meeting called to order at 6:21

1.) Approved absences for this meeting: Amanda Jirgal, Lulu Wei, Srishty Amarnani, Liam Deegan, Rahat Elahi, Carl-Frederick Janvier

2.) New Business

- a. From Adam: Requesting \$1,500 for Sex in Medicine Week
 - i. \$500 from UC and \$500 from SCGB
 - ii. There will be 5 events

b. Class Updates

i. 2024

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

a.

2. **New Issues:**

a.

ii. 2025

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

a. Grade delays

- i. people waiting months for grades, would like to know when they are released

1. almost exclusively primary care, some other IM or OBGYN
 - ii. no +1 for the first rotations
 - b. Grading transparency
 - i. every rotation has different grading scales
 - ii. would like transparency regarding what the numbers mean and how they are graded
 - iii. clerkship directors can change the grades without every working with the student
 1. mostly neurology, grades are being deflated
 2. if a grade is changed, would like a reason why
 - iv. would like each clerkship manual to include the grading scales and justification of how it is graded
 - c. Healthbridge remote access at Downstate
 - i. still not working, depends on who you talk to on the phone
 1. some people telling us that students don't ever have access
 - ii. important to know for safety and to do well in clerkships
- 2. New Issues:**
- a. MS4 schedule planning - VSLO and away rotations
 - i. We need some kind of access code to even log on and currently cannot
 1. Codes are normally sent out in December (Sandra Mingo is usually on top of it)
 - ii. Info from other students varies in timeline
 - iii. limited clinical advisory availabilities
 - b. Shuttle issues
 - i. Shuttles don't show up
 - ii. You can call in advance and they said there will be a shuttle, but no shuttle shows up
 - iii. Happens mostly at the 5AM (for Maimonides)
 - iv. It's very inconvenient that students needs to call the night before and 15 mins before
 1. The issue is that people wouldn't show up
 - v. Shuttles have also made unscheduled stops (drivers dropping off, picking up friends) which make students late
 - vi. Idea: could there be a website?
 - vii. Multiple classes have confirmed the specific schedule
 - viii. Pick up time from Maimonides is also not clear
 - ix. Dr. Putman says he will reach out and figure out what is going on
 - c. Entrances to Downstate in the AM (Clarkson has been closed)
 - i. security staff shortage
 - ii. ED has a swiped door that we do not have access to
 - d. Technical issues with shelf exams
 - i. computer shut down during the exam and lost a few minutes
 - ii. neurology shelf in a warm room with construction going

on

1. brought up the issue and was told there was nothing that can be done

iii. 2026

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

- a. From comments/concerns form: "Can we please do something about the heat in the carrels. It is so unfair to have students sit through 4 hr exams and classes in that temperature. It is also unfair to have that concern blown off every time we bring it up."
 - i. Could there be fans?
 - ii. This issue has been going on for years
 - iii. This is something that can be changed! (From Alexis and Dr. Putman)
 - iv. From Dr. Putman:
 1. There are only modes: on and off
 2. Proctors can call facilities and ask them to turn the air on or turn the air off, but they don't always do this
 - v. 718-270-2810 can be called (control room) to ask to turn air on/off
 - vi. can try to email facilities management
 - vii. But the temperature doesn't regulate very well, so some carrels can be different temps
- b. From comments/concerns form: People couldn't find empty rooms anywhere on campus to take meetings, including peer-to-peer interviews for Downstate. Is there something being done about this? Is there anywhere students can take private meetings?
 - i. Students have tried to reserve rooms in the library but were told they can't because they're only for groups of people
 - ii. library is working on electronic reservations for rooms, hopefully will be up soon
 - iii. peer to peer volunteers can contact admissions for interview rooms, there is two rooms that were formerly used for interviews, only for business hours
 - iv. reading room and card rooms can be used whenever if call the information desk, 718-270-2487

2. **New Issues:**

- a. would like TBL to be put online for the day prior to thanksgiving
- b. Step 1 info session that was not recorded, 6pm at night
 - i. was not recorded for COM25 as well
 - ii. an accident, could share previous years

iv. 2027

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

- a. Halal food vendor updates.
 - i. thanksgiving event has halal, others have not
 - ii. Cafe 101 found a halal meat vendor and will just need people to RSVP a meal
 - iii. Ernie will cook as long as utensils are kept separate

- iv. also a scaled fish option for halal option

2. New Issues:

- a. ID/appeal process and lack of administrative response
 - i. administration shunting problems to other people for weeks, very stressful to have to track people down
 - ii. Email that described with info about who to contact, but then those people would say they were not the people to be contacted or would not respond
 - iii. took four days to get the email about the ID and the appeal process
 - iv. no essay feedback still, would like feedback on the more subjective portions especially
 - 1. request for feedback is initially denied
 - 2. information for feedback is inconsistent
- b. Subsidized Metrocards?
 - i. prices are going up and can be costly
 - ii. would like a way to get help with affordability
 - iii. brought up to SUNY in the past, will be brought up in UC
- c. Trending Topics
 - i. Ongoing Issues
 - 1. Everyone check their MC emails!
 - ii. New Issues
 - 1. Start thinking about the Student/Faculty Showcase
 - a. Thursday, January 18th
 - b. Dinner in the gym afterwards
 - c. Videos need to get to IT the day before
 - d. Faculty are willing to participate and have fun!
- d. Budget Requests
 - i. Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses at Downstate (SDCID)
 - 1. New Club/Interest Meeting
 - a. **Request: \$200** (food)
 - ii. Independent Student Project - Michel Liu
 - 1. Registration Fee: \$250
 - 2. Hotel in San Diego: \$167 (\$167/night for one night)
 - 3. Flight (JFK/San Diego): \$378
 - 4. **Request: \$795**
 - 5. Alumni Association said they don't have any more money to give
 - a. This is just through the end of the calendar year

Closed Meeting:

- i. Motioned by Joya
- ii. Seconded by Abiha
- iii. **Meeting is now closed.**

New Business

- 1.) Approval of October Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve October minutes made by Hayley
 - b. Seconded by Mandy
 - i. Vote:
 1. For - 21
 2. Against - 0
 3. Abstain - 1

Motion passes to approve October minutes

- 1) Budget Requests:
 - a) Students with Disabilities and Chronic Illnesses at Downstate (SDCID) - **attachment #1**
 - i) Options: to fund in full
 - ii) Motion to fund in full made by Joya, second by Alexis
 - iii) Vote: to fund in full
 - (1) For - 19
 - (2) Against - 0
 - (3) Abstain - 3

Motion passes to transfer \$200 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to *New club please create account*

- b) Independent Student Project: Michel Liu- **attachment #2**
 - i) Options: Fund in Full
 - ii) Motion to Fund in Full made by Joya, second by Anna
 - iii) Vote:
 - 1) For - 20
 - 2) Against - 0
 - 3) Abstain - 2

Motion passes to approve a reimbursement payment \$795 from Conference Funding (40-70416-012-30001) to Michel Liu for trip to the conference in California

- 2) Election for Greater Medical Council
 - a) Nominees: Eric Acosta

Eric Acosta elected as Medical Student Council Treasurer

Motion to end meeting by Joya
Seconded by Alexis

Meeting Closed at 7:45

Minutes were scribed by Alexis Roth and Hannah Brown

Approved by Hannah Brown - Medical Council Secretary





INDEPENDENT STUDENT INTERIM
BUDGET REQUEST FORM

This form is to be used by students who would like funding for an event or project but have no club affiliations. **Before considering acting independently of a club, please make every effort to work in conjunction with an already existing organization/club that shares similar interests.** Funding for any projects/events will be provided at the discretion of Med Council and shall be based on the following criteria:

- Available Med Council Funds
- Merits of the student(s) which may include but are not limited to:
 - Frequency and quality of the work and activities performed
 - Size and diversity of the event's attendees
 - Past budget requests and money usage

Any event/project must have a lead coordinator who will ultimately be responsible in making sure that all forms are properly filled out, all receipts are attached and whom Med Council can correspond with. Med Council reserves the right to not reimburse any amount of money that was not used for its intended purpose as detailed in this form and approved at a Med Council meeting.

Student(s) are reminded to keep all receipts pertaining to the event/project for proper and full reimbursement. Please consult with Kristen Diorio and/or the Med Council treasurer at mcbtreasurer@gmail.com to ensure all required forms are appropriately filled out as well as with any other questions.

Event/Project Title: Poster Presentation at American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting

Date(s) of event/project: December 8th-11th

Brief description of event/project: Presenting beta-thalassemia research at a national conference in San Diego: "Adults with Transfusion-Dependent Thalassemia have Variable Clinical Profiles Depending on Where They Receive Care"

Lead coordinator/planner: Dr. Farzana Sayani email: farzana.sayani@pennmedicine.upenn.edu

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

How many people do you expect to attend? Myself

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: Summer research project

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

If answered YES to the previous question, please list the clubs/organizations and how they plan to contribute (if they are contributing money, indicate how much):

Itemized Budget:

<u>Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)</u>	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
Registration Fee (medical student)	\$250	\$250
San Diego hotel	\$167/night	\$167
Flight JFK - San Diego	\$378	\$378

Total: \$795

minus other funding:

Asking amount: \$795

Funding Request:

Amount from Med Council: **\$795**

University Council: N/A

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

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

I applied for Alumni Association funding on October 26th. They responded: "Our funding for this year's Student Travel Grant program has been allocated for the year" and suggested Medical Council funding. I have never previously received Alumni Association or Medical Council funds for research.