



Medical Student Council Meeting
Thursday, January 16th, 2025 at 6:00 PM
Student Center Main Lounge
Minutes

**Minutes recorded by Amanda Azmi.
Michel Liu presiding over the meeting.**

Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:17 pm with quorum being present.

1. Approved absences for this meeting: Hannah Brown, Rachel Baum
2. New Business
 - a. Class Updates
 - i. 2025
 1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**
 - a. In talks about planning senior week
 - b. Transition to residency scheduling needing to be discussed, MS4s are currently awaiting to hear back from faculty
 2. **New Issues:**
 - a.
 - ii. 2026
 1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**
 - a.
 2. **New Issues:**
 - a. When are getting more information on 4th year scheduling?
 - i. Scheduling information is coming out next week per Dr Putman via email; lottery results will also be explained in the email to be sent out
 - iii. 2027
 1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**
 - a.
 2. **New Issues:**
 - a. Further breakdown on grading for CBSE exam -
 - i. Per Dean Lazar the reasoning for a graded CBSE

that could entail a permanent ID on our transcripts is to keep students accountable for their own studying, even though the CBSE exam takes place before dedicated studying begins and an ID will be permanent despite eventually passing Step 1. Students are frustrated that we feel there is not only pressure to pass Unit 6 but also essentially pass a Step 1 exam before complete content review can begin. Dr Lazar states that the ID principle is to motivate students and it will not hurt the transcript in the ways that a failure on Step 1 would hurt our transcripts.

- ii. The office of academic services/support services is already overwhelmed with students who are seeking support, how will the office be prepared for students who ID the NBSE?
 - 1. Per Dr Lazar he is concerned that the staff is overwhelmed and he is going to talk with Dr Langley.

iv. 2028

1. **Ongoing/Repeat Issues:**

a.

2. **New Issues:**

- a. Mid Unit exam is the same day as Lunar New Year and students would like it to be moved
 - i. Per Dr Putman this would be a valid excuse to take an absence but he will escalate this to hopefully get the date changed.

b. Trending Topics

i. **Ongoing Issues**

1.

ii. **New Issues**

- 1. Per Schuyler - There have been changes to clubs and organizations lately especially the BFC – currently in the process of turning the BFC into its own council and will be a committee under Medical Council under it becomes its own council under the FSA, overall is an easier solution to better organize the BFC, medical council needs to vote on it
- 2. Spring Fling - Schuler asking for additional \$7000 total for subsidizing tickets, ticket prices will be : no alcohol tickets or free drink beer/wine per person tickets: \$90 for non-alcohol tickets and \$120 for alcohol; \$60 and \$90 if tickets are subsidized with guest fee of \$150 with no alcohol and \$175 with alcohol.
 - a. Needing to vote for giving an additional \$7,000 from the medical council from programs and projects.
 - b. Thursday, April 3rd is the TBD date

- c. Budget Requests
 - i. Maria Lee - seeking funding for airfare for Helping Hands Grant, which was a collaboration with the Downstate Psychiatry Department, presenting a poster is a grant requirement and therefore I will attend as presenting author. - \$375
 - ii. Ben Mearkle \$267.67 for street medicine conference in Pennsylvania, train tickets/public transit was more expensive so rental was a more feasible option
- d. Secretary election candidates:
 - i. Shadman Kazi
- e. Treasurer election candidates:
 - i. Mohammed Shah

Closed Meeting:

- I. motioned by Shadman
- ii. Seconded by Kyle

Meeting is now closed.

- 1) Budget Requests
 - a) Maria Lee - Attachment #1
 - i) Options : option to fund \$375 in full
 - ii) Motion to fund in full made by Rachel, seconded by Hend
 - iii) Vote :
 - 1. Vote to fund \$375 in full
 - a. For - 20
 - b. Against - 0
 - c. Abstain - 0

MOTION PASSES to transfer \$375 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Maria Lee for conference funding

- 1) Budget Request
 - a) Ben Mearkle - Attachment #2
 - i) Option to fund the difference of trip after seeking alumni association help
 - ii) Motion to fund the difference of trip after seeking alumni association help
 - iii) Vote:
 - (1) Vote to fund the difference of trip after seeking alumni association help
 - d. For - 20
 - e. Against - 0

f. Abstain - 0

MOTION PASSES to fund difference of street medicine trip after seeking alumni association help

1) Vote for secretary

iii. Shadman Kazi running, unopposed

1. Motion to vote for Shadman for Secretary

a. For - 20

b. Against - 0

c. Abstain - 0

MOTION PASSES to elect Shadman Kazi as secretary, congrats!

1) Vote for treasurer

iv. Mohammed Shah running, unopposed

1. Motion to vote for Mohammed Shah

a. For - 20

b. Against - 0

c. Abstain - 0

MOTION PASSES to elect Mohammed Shah as treasurer, congrats!

1) Spring Fling additional allocation of funds

i) Motion to fund an additional \$7,000 for Spring Fling

(1) For - 20

(2) Against - 0

(3) Abstain - 0

Motion passes to transfer \$7000 from Projects and Programs (40-70174-012-30001) to Spring Fling (40-70226-012-30001)

1) BFC council status

i) Options: Option to change the BFC status from being club to being a division of the Medical Council

(1) Motion to change the BFC status from being club to being a division of the Medical Council

(a) For - 20

(b) Against - 0

(c) Abstain - 0

Motion passes to change the BFC status from being club to being a division of the Medical Council

Motion to end the meeting by Mandy
Seconded by Ijeoma

Meeting ended at 7:44 pm.

Minutes were scribed by Amanda Azmi

Approved by Amanda Azmi - Medical Council Secretary

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Azmi', is positioned below the text. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letter 'A' being large and prominent.

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: APA Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, CA/Post-Pandemic Telehealth Psychotherapy and Expanded Psychiatric Care for Unhoused and Underserved Populations in Brooklyn

Date(s) of event/project: 5/16-5/20

Brief description of event/project: Through the Helping Hands Grant sponsored by the APA Foundation, the BFC initiated a telehealth psychotherapy program supported by Downstate psychiatry resident physicians and 4th-year medical students under the supervision of an attending psychiatrist. This program addresses significant mental health disparities among underserved populations in Flatbush, Brooklyn, particularly unhoused individuals facing barriers to care. The initiative focuses on resuming and expanding psychiatric services through telehealth, community outreach, and in-person support. These efforts aim to mitigate the ongoing opioid crisis and improve access to mental health resources.

Lead coordinator/planner: Maria Lee

email: maria.lee@downstate.edu

List other student(s) working on the event/project: Asma Sadia, Isabelle Kaplan, and Rebecca Varghese

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:

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

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): BFC for Poster Printing Costs (\$100)

Itemized Budget:

<u>Items (e.g. food, supplies, etc.)</u>	Cost per item	Total Cost (for each line)
Air Travel (JFK to LAX)	\$375.00 (\$748.09/2)	\$375.00
Poster Printing - covered by BFC	\$100 (estimate)	\$100 (estimate)

Total: \$475.00

minus other funding: -\$100.00

Asking amount: \$375.00

Funding Request:

Amount from Med Council: \$375.00

University Council: 0

Amount from other resources (i.e. grants, department donations, etc.): \$100

Please include any additional information that you believe Med Council should be aware of. As part of the award requirements, BFC is obligated to attend and present the grant poster. The sponsor will arrange and cover lodging and registration fees. Since Spring 2023, I have been involved in the grant's development and management as the CFO of BFC and the grant author. As I am the only student on this project confirmed available to attend by the December 2nd deadline set by the sponsor, I was designated as presenting author. The date of the poster presentation has not been finalized but for booking travel purposes, sponsor provided approximate timeframes of May 17th, 18th or 19th. Given my personal financial situation, timely confirmation of reimbursement approval is essential. Thank you for your taking the time and understanding. The grant project is also currently supported by the Chair of the Downstate Psychiatry Department and President of the APA, Dr. Ramaswamy Viswanathan and Dr. Jeffrey Feola as the Faculty Mentor.

Please note: Air Travel booking was made for 2 travelers who intend to attend same conference trip, in order to use points and minimize costs, but I am requesting the amount paid for only a single traveler.

BUDGET REQUEST FORM TRAVEL AND LODGING

Funding for any trips or conferences will be provided at the discretion of Med Council and shall be based on the following criteria:

- Available Med Council Funds
- Merits of the club that may include but are not limited to:
 - Frequency and quality of the work and activities of the club
 - Size and diversity of the club's membership
 - Past club budget requests and money usage

Approval for funding will be given as an amount per person and reimbursements will be processed as such. Individuals who spend more than what they were initially approved for are welcome to request additional funding at the following Med Council Meeting, however, additional funding is not guaranteed. **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.** Clubs are required to:

- Attach a copy of this form to the payment request form along with all relevant receipts in order for reimbursements to be processed
- Email Med Council a brief summary of what participating individuals have learned or how individuals have benefited from attending the trip/conference within seven (7) days of returning from the trip/conference

Failure to fulfill any of the requirements may delay or prevent the processing of payment request forms. For any further questions, contact the Med Council Treasurer at mcbtreasurer@gmail.com

Club/Organization: **Downstate Street Medicine Outreach Association**

Brief Description of Trip (include Title of conference, destination, etc.):

Date(s) of conference or trip: Sunday December 8th 2024. 9am -5pm "Northeast Regional Street Medicine Symposium 2024". Jordan Medical Education Center Perelman Center for Advanced Medicine 5th Floor South Pavilion 3400 Civic Center Blvd Philadelphia, PA

Briefly describe the purpose of attending the event. Be specific. How will attending the event benefit you and/or your organization? Attending this symposium allowed us to network with neighboring street medicine organizations, providing insights to guide our next steps. We gained hands-on skills in wound care and crisis management, and two of our E-board members presented our new street medicine elective course.

How many people, if any, will be presenting at the conference?

Two, Ugwumsinachi Nwaubani MS3 and Andrew Sullivan MS2

How do you plan on bringing what you have learned back to the SUNY Downstate community?

We now have a better idea on how we can expand our street medicine organization and better care for the NYC homeless patient population.

The trip was advertised to the: (select all that apply)

☐ General student body ☒ Club members only ☐ E-board members only

How was the trip advertised?

☒ Email ☒ Announcement at Meeting Other: Our club groupme

How many people are you requesting funding for?

Eleven

How many people are committed to attending/travel if funding is not provided?

Eleven

Itemized Budget:

	Per Person	X Number of persons traveling	Total Cost (for each line)
Registration	\$0	11	\$0
Mode of transportation Rental car x1, personal vehicle x1	\$12.36	11	\$135.92
Travel cost Tolls x2 cars, parking x1 car, gas x2 cars	\$11.98	11	\$131.75
Meals	\$0	11	\$0
Location of Lodging	\$0	11	\$0
Lodging	\$0	11	\$0
Other	-	-	-

TOTAL: \$267.67

Funding Request:

Amount from Med Council: \$267.67

University Council:

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

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

The food and registration costs were free for members of our club. We were able to commute to Philadelphia for this symposium with one rental car and one members personal vehicle. Thus, the costs of attendance were for the one rental car, gas for the two vehicles, and tolls for both vehicles. This was significantly cheaper than taking the amtrak train which would have cost over 3x.

Please list the names of the students attending this trip/conference:

Benjamin Mearkle, Ugwumsinachi Nwaubani, Andrew Sullivan, Dana Seag,
Fedaa Hammood, Gen Bryant, Jesse Ortiz, Komal Wasim, Natalie Rader,
Sabah Islam, Rachel Ball-Jones.