

Nursing Student Council (NSC) Meeting Minutes
February 25th, 2021, 1:00 PM
Zoom Conference Meeting

Present were:

- NSC Faculty Advisor: Mary Hickey
- President: Victoria Ayvazian
- Vice President: Rebecca Kaye
- Treasurer: Leandra Laundry
- Secretary: Tzipora Berman
- FNP Rep: Jennifer Goldstein
- ABSN Rep: Daniel Acasuso

With quorum present, Victoria Ayvazian the meeting to order at 1:10 PM.
The following were discussed:

1. **SAF Refund.** Nursing students pay a \$70 Student Activity fee with their tuition each semester. \$10 of this goes to University Council. Because of limitations on activities due to social distancing, University Council is refunding \$8 to each student. \$40 goes to Nursing Student Council. NSC has the option to refund some of the \$40. If this is not done, then the money will roll over to next year's budget. This decision is on hold until further information is available regarding graduation and pinning ceremonies and the fund allocation required.
2. **Teacher's Assistant (TA) Program Update.** The Faculty Curriculum Committee's February meeting was canceled due to President's day. Instead, the TA/RA proposal can be brought to the Faculty Senate (FPSACN), which will meet next week. Dr. Hickey requested from Dr. Nathan, the Senate chair, that the TA program be added to the meeting agenda for the FPSACN March 1, 2021 meeting. Rebecca and Victoria will attend the FPSACN meeting and present the proposal. The FPSACN Student Representatives may attend as well. The TA/RA program proposal has already been shared with Dean Escallier. Additionally, Dr. Hickey will address the idea to Marcel Kennedy to explore the possibility of including TA positions as a work-study option.
3. **May Graduation.** It is unclear as of yet whether May Graduation will be held in-person or virtually. Carnegie Hall, where graduation was historically held, is currently closed. If Downstate chooses to prepare for an in-person ceremony, SUNY requires that Downstate prepare a virtual event as a backup. A group of students plans to email Dr. Jim Malatras, Chancellor of the State University of New York, urging he and his team to strongly consider in-person graduation.
4. **ABSN Pinning Ceremony.** A pinning ceremony is a symbolic welcoming of nurses into the nursing profession. ABSN Pinning is traditionally held during the Summer 2 semester. Many ABSN students long for in-person pinning, to culminate the end of a learning program that has been conducted primarily online. Nursing Student Council will make every effort to produce a ceremony that will be meaningful to ABSN students. NSC will raise the discussion with Faculty and Administration.
5. **ABSN Alumni Panel.** NSC has previously discussed hosting a virtual panel of ABSN '20 students to speak to ABSN '21 students about their experiences with NCLEX examinations and job search. A few ABSN '20 alumni have shown interest in participating. NSC members will continue to network amongst former students to find potential panelists. The following motion was made by Victoria Ayvazian:
MOTION: To hold the ABSN Alumni Panel on March 15, 2021, beginning around 6:00 or 7:00 PM.

Seconded by: Tzipora Berman.

Vote: Unanimously Approved.

6. **Graduate and Undergraduate Event.** NSC would like to host a virtual event during which Undergraduate students will gain from Graduate students through hearing about their various post-bachelors degree experiences, including their work experiences on various units, and their graduate school journeys. Graduate students will participate in this professional development opportunity, and possibly gain indirect clinical hours. The structure of the event is as follows: Following an introduction, students will immediately have the opportunity to join various Breakout Rooms, each one for a different specialty. The event will be held for a length of time, so students may visit more than one Breakout Room.
Jennifer will reach out to the appropriate Faculty members to clarify whether Graduate students can acquire indirect clinical hours for this event. Once this is clarified, Victoria will send out a survey to aggregate Graduate students' availability and specialty areas. As soon as a date and time are chosen, students will be informed so that they can save the date.
7. **Finals Week.** With the cancellation of Spring Break, Course Faculty have struggled to reschedule Final exams due to students' varying schedules. Students should be aware that Spring Semester Finals for all cohorts will be held the week of May 3, 2021, and may be held any day that week.
8. **Next Student Forum Date.** Student Forum has been an incredible success in the past. The next Student Forum will be held at the very end of the Spring semester.
9. **Summer Workshop Ideas.** Both Undergraduate and Graduate students have expressed interest in workshops on resume building. Perhaps there is some infrastructure for this already from previous years. This will be explored. ABSN students who have expressed interest in NCLEX review should be aware that it is included in the ABSN Summer semester coursework.
10. **Mentor/Mentee Program.** This program has been a success for the ABSN program. NSC is looking to expand the Mentor/Mentee program to include other CON programs. Victoria will send out a list for current students to sign up to volunteer as mentors for the cohorts starting in September 2021.
11. **NSC Events/Activities and Fund Allocation.** See events discussed above. Fund allocation is pending until plans for graduation and pinning become more clear.
10. **Individual Cohort Concerns and Updates**

Jen Goldstein - FNP

- Regarding Pool Testing Program: There is a communication gap with students whose clinicals are at sites other than Downstate, and who do not regularly visit the Downstate campus. Do these students need to get a weekly swab if their preceptors and clinical sites do not require it? Dr. Hickey will reach out to Dr. Putman to get clarity.

Dan Acasuso - ABSN

- Students would like clarification on start dates for Summer lectures and clinical.
- Some Course Faculty have been unwilling to review concepts where students showed a knowledge gap on exams. Students have been hurt by this as they want to correct any misinformation that they have. All Course Faculty should make themselves available to students to review knowledge gaps after exams.
- Some Course Faculty did not provide office hours on their syllabi. This should be corrected.
- Exam time windows: This has been an ongoing discussion between faculty and students since CON has switched to remote learning for social distancing. Some

students have come to expect professors to give extensive time windows for exams. Concerns about academic integrity have been raised.

Exam time windows should be outlined on the syllabus from the beginning of the semester. Any student who needs an exception is strongly encouraged to email the Course Faculty and ask personally for a different exam time.

11. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting will be held on a Thursday in March, possibly March 18th.

12. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, the following motion was made by Victoria Ayvazian:

MOTION: To adjourn at 3:10 PM.

Seconded by: Tzipora Berman.

Vote: Unanimously Approved.

Respectfully submitted by:



Tzipora Berman, NSC Secretary