

**Nursing Student Council (NSC) Meeting Minutes**  
**March 18th, 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

Non-Council Members:

- FNP Student: Carol Wei

With quorum present, Victoria Ayvazian called the meeting to order at 1:20 PM.

The following were discussed:

1. **Carole Wei FNP Student**. Graduate students could benefit from Professional Development opportunities. Perhaps NSC could arrange for this. Options for workshops include:
  - a. The opportunity to hear from NPs who have recently entered the field, similar to the ABSN Panel that was recently held by Council. Attendees may include students from both FNP 1st and 2nd years, or separate panels can be held for the two years.
  - b. Resume writing workshop.  
Perhaps the need for a leadership course for the FNP program can be brought to the Curriculum Committee as well.
2. **ABSN Alumni Panel Debrief**. NSC hosted a virtual panel of ABSN '20 students to speak to ABSN '21 students about their experiences earlier this week. ABSN Alumni Panel was a wonderful success. Students who attended benefited greatly from hearing about former ABSN students' experiences with the NCLEX, job search, and new graduate/ fellowship positions. We would like to send an electronic thank-you note to the panelists.
3. **Grad/Undergrad Virtual Panel**. 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. Council members have not yet received a response from Faculty as to whether graduate students could receive indirect clinical hours for participating in this Professional Development event. Once this is determined and communicated, planning for this event will resume.
4. **Teacher's Assistant (TA) Program Update**. At the FPSACN March meeting, Rebecca proposed initiating a TA program as an opportunity to increase Faculty-student interactions.  
SUNY Downstate's definition of a Teacher's Assistant does not include undergraduate students. Unfortunately, this means that a TA initiative could not increase faculty-student interactions across all program levels. Some other initiatives that could fill this need include:
  - a. Special Interest Groups

b. Research Assistant opportunities. Students could assist Faculty members by helping to prepare manuscripts or posters.

c. Creation of a blackboard "job board."

5. **Graduation and Pinning.** NSC is currently in discussion with Faculty and Administration regarding these events.
6. **Activity Fee Refund.** After the Graduation and Pinning ceremonies are finalized, NSC will consider refunding some of the \$40 Nursing allocation of the Activity Fee to CON students, based on any financial needs of pinning.
7. **Mentor/Mentee Program.** NSC is looking to expand the Mentor/Mentee program to include other CON programs. Jennifer will reach out to first-year FNP students to gauge their interest in mentoring next year's entering students.
8. **NSC Fall Transition and Constitution Changes.** NSC is exploring changing or adding some Student Representative positions. We may include more than one representative for programs with multiple years, and/or add Representative positions for the Masters in Nursing Education and Nurse-Midwifery programs. These shifts will require constitutional changes, and will continue to be discussed.

10. **Individual Cohort Concerns and Updates**

**Jen Goldstein - FNP**

Covid accommodations and clinical hours continue to be challenges for FNP students. It is important to note that there is a new administration appointment at the CON: Joanne Ritter-Teitel, Ph.D., RN, NEA-BC, is another point of contact for clinical assignments.

**ABSN:**

**Dan Acasuso**

The Course Faculty who originally did not provide office hours has corrected this error.

**Leandra Laundry**

Who took part in the decision to move OB/GYN and Pediatrics clinical to a virtual platform? What went into that decision? Dr. Hickey responded that it was a joint decision between Hospital Leadership and College of Nursing Leadership. The basis for the decision is the low census at UHB and the lack of adequate hands-on opportunities that resulted.

**Tzipora Berman**

Would it be possible to explore a one-time clinical opportunity for OB/GYN and Pediatrics at another hospital with which the CON has a relationship? Although the Maternal and Child Health census is low at UHB, there are other hospitals where it is higher. Dr. Hickey responds that she will suggest this to the relevant parties.

11. **Next Meeting.** The next meeting will likely be held on a Wednesday evening in April.


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

**MOTION:** To adjourn at 3:20 PM.

**Seconded by:** Jennifer Goldstein.

**Vote:** Unanimously Approved.

**Respectfully submitted by:**



**Tzipora Berman, NSC Secretary**