

## SUNY Downstate School of Public Health

### Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date:** 3.25.2022

**Subject:** SPH Student Council General Meeting

**Time & Location:** 1pm via Zoom & in-person (hybrid)

**Attendance (voting members):** Dong (Ken) Zhen, Faven Araya, Ikhtiyor (DJ) Djuraev, Janille Williams, Dr. Camacho-Rivera, Kristelle Pierre, Danvy Truong, Hector Gonzelez, Malika Abrams, Christina Kim, Rushon John, Marge Gustave, Taliah Moore, Stephanie Ottey, Victor Reid, Jeff Ukewe, Nastya, Dienta, Chimzy, and Beatrice

### Meeting Notes

- Updates on student concerns shared during last student council meeting were provided:
  - A meeting was held with Dr. Hepner and Dr. Hall to share student concerns and begin identifying solutions
  - A meeting was held with Dr. Dean Demisse, Dr. Tracey Wilson and Dr. Camacho-Rivera to also share student concerns
    - Student Council will be meeting monthly to share updates and create open lines of communication to address student needs
    - No tolerance policy for racism or discriminatory behaviors; the dean will investigate issues with incidence of microaggressions
      - Developing an administrative working group; currently establishing infrastructure, goals and objectives
        - Downstate to establish a centralized reporting system to comfortably report incidents
    - Developing a repository of research opportunities for students
      - Hired new staff who works with Dr. Wilson; working on developing a repository of research opportunities
    - Curriculum development
      - New faculty hired (Dr. Wendy Williams as Director of Curriculum Effectiveness)
        - Will be establishing a workshop to integrate student feedback in real-time
      - Working on the expansion of available SPH courses and programming (e.g. global health, cancer disparities, certificates)
        - For now, students were advised to refer to the course catalog on the website, and not Banner (Banner has a

catalog of all classes ever provided by DS and can be misleading)

- Faculty-student relationships
  - Revising faculty/advisement handbook
  - Improving communication tools
- Upcoming career workshops
  - DrPH Coffee Time planning an DrPH panel for spring semester
- Working on opportunities to strengthen alumni engagement opportunities
- **Career Week**
  - Working on identifying a person to facilitate a resume building workshop
    - April 25-29<sup>th</sup> tentative dates for workshop
    - Suggestions:
      - Have recruiters join event to explore job opportunities
- **National Public Health Week**
  - Upcoming events:
    - Monday, 4/4: Webinar on the role of public health in the emergency preparedness and response
    - Tuesday, 4/5: Climate Inclusive Research: Inter-professional Engagement and Training around Climate and Health Equity
    - Wednesday, 4/6: Webinar: Evolving Health Messaging and Public Mistrust during the COVID-19 Era
    - Thursday, 4/7: Webinar: Brooklyn's Solution to NYC's Maternal Health Crisis (co-sponsored with Brooklyn Borough President Reynoso's office)
    - Friday, 4/8: Celebration of SPH Research and Diversity Poster Session
- **Student Council Upcoming Elections**
  - Elections for open positions will be announced soon (TBD)
- **Alumni Spotlight: Kristelle Pierre**
  - Kristelle shared her professional journey pursuing her MPH, her post-graduation career journey, and recommendation for current students in the program
- **Other business**
  - Follow-up with (not received SC emails) Marge Gustave: [mardieurrickgustave@downstate.edu](mailto:mardieurrickgustave@downstate.edu)
  - Available student resources:
    - Office of Academic Support Services and Advisement: [Services | Academic Support | SUNY Downstate](#)

Meeting Adjourned

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Secretary of the School of Public Health Student Council