

## SUNY Downstate School of Public Health Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date:** Friday October 28, 2022

**Subject:** SPH Student Council Meeting

**Time & Location:** 3:30-4:15 PM held via Zoom platform

### Attendance

- Voting- Members in Attendance
- Janille Williams (President)
- Hector Gonzalez (Treasurer)
- Michelle Williams
- Kadeen Waldron
- Elizabeth Ogundare
- Rosia Pacaud
- Nivia Gomez

### Meeting Notes:

- **Meeting called to order by Janille Williams at 3:35 PM**
- **Welcome**
  - New voting and non-voting members were introduced
- **Previous Minutes approved**
- **Constitution was reviewed**
  - Roles of voting and non-voting members were reviewed.
- **Feedback from eBoard's Meeting with Dean Demissie**
  - *Dean Demissie informed members of the following:*
    - Advisors' engagement: Dean Demissie and his team checked end-of-semester student evaluations to address students' concerns. One of the concerns addressed was students meeting with their academic advisors. SC members reported that the complaints on lack of advisor engagement have decreased.
    - Microaggressions: To address microaggressions, a survey was prepared and launched to understand the school's climate on discrimination.
    - Alumni engagement: An alumni advisory board was formed, and they were scheduled to meet with Dean Demissie.
    - Courses on the website not offered: This concern was addressed through the introduction of new certificate programs, and the additions of new courses as electives. The Global Health track has introduced several courses. The school has plans to introduce an MHA and MSc program. Additionally, new faculty from Harvard, Canada, and other places are being added to the program. They will offer courses in their field of expertise. The school plans on offering more hands-on training for students from faculty through more research opportunities. The SPH is in the process of revising its curriculum.

- Grades: Steps are actively being taken to address the problem of late feedback on grades. SC informed the Dean that although improvement has been seen, there is still lots of room for improvement.
  - Space for SPH students: DrPH students and TAs are requesting a space to meet on the fifth floor. MPH students complained that the SPH study area was taken over by med students who are inconsiderate and disruptive at times. Dean Demissie stated that they're looking to designate an area on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor for SPH students, but the students must use the space. SC members indicated that they would follow up with the student body to ensure they make use of the space once assigned.
  - Lactation Room: A lactation room was added to the 4<sup>th</sup> floor.
  - Mentorship program: Dean Demissie highly encouraged the development of a mentorship program. He also indicated that the school has funding to support scholarships and mentoring programs from a recent grant (PROGRESS).
  - Stress and Mindfulness Event: Dr. Camacho-Rivera indicated that Dr. Deutscher will be leading a stress and mindfulness workshop for SPH students on November 15, 2022.
  - New committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion: Hector (MPH) and Janille (DrPH) are the student representatives on the DEI committee. The SPH is committed to leading the way in health equity, diversity and research.
  - SC members informed Dean Demissie of plans for upcoming events. The Dean emphasized his support and provided encouragement to the team.
  - The Town Hall Meeting will be scheduled.
- **Events for Fall 2022**
    - Halloween Games Night Prep/Debrief
    - 11/28 5:30pm Ernie is catering.
    - Games: Gift card prizes will be purchased by President (Janille Williams) and reimbursement will be issued.
    - Motion to pass budget of \$1500 for Games Night by Janille Williams, Seconded by Hector Gonzalez and Kadeen Waldron
  - **AOB**
  - **Conference support for SPH students**
    - Monetary support requested by Janille Williams for APHA conference to be held in Boston November 6-9. Motion for \$350 to cover Conference registration fee and \$85 to cover student membership fee. Seconded by Hector Gonzalez. Janille will be reimbursed for fees mentioned above that were paid out of pocket.
    - Members were encouraged to apply for conference support since there is a \$500 budget line for conferences in the SPH SC budget.
  - **Meeting adjourned at 4:15pm**

*Janille Williams*

**Janille Williams**

**President of the School of Public Health Student Council**

