

SUNY Downstate School of Public Health Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Friday, October 27th, 2023

Subject: SPH Student Council Meeting

Time & Location: 4:30PM – 5:30 PM held via Zoom platform

Attendance:

Janille Williams
Moyouri Bhattacharjee
Brianna Caldwell-Williams
Kadeen Waldron
Breanna Watson
Rosia Pacaud
Elizabeth Ogundare
Michelle Williams

Meeting Notes:

- Meeting called to order by Janille Williams at 4:40 PM
- Second General Council Meeting of the semester.

Agenda:

Report from eBoard meeting with Dean Demissie:

- Pleased with the turnout of the meeting with the Dean in October
- Opened the budget line - Hiring 2 Biostatisticians / Layman's level relatability
- Looking at Statistical computing – Intertwining other statistical packages (SAS/SPSS)
- Looking to create a new course – learn different statistical software – learn some statistical programming
- Suggestion Box – Anonymous Qualtrics link so that students can click a link and give suggestions.
- Computers – Getting two desktop computers for the 5th and 4th floor each.
- Leave the laptops for the classes. Perhaps test out the loaner laptops (not deemed feasible due to students failing to return laptops and other problems with retrieval)
- Working on getting back Student Council office
- Printer – Emergency print options

University Council Updates

- Dr. Mona Pervil and Nurse Sherry at Student Health reported on:
 - What they've been doing to streamline the process for clearance.
 - Limiting forms to 2 pages
 - Issues with remote versus hybrid/in-person clearance
 - Suggested making clearance the same even if modality is different.
 - Wait times for students in student health reduced.

- **TODO:** Set up a meeting with Dr. Camacho-Rivera and Student Health Team
- Friday Floods in NYC – canceling classes didn't happen on time, and students were paying 60-100 dollars to come to campus only to find out it wasn't happening. This did not affect SPH students since there are no SPH classes on Fridays.
 - Make sure that we have a system in place for SPH
- Bookstore sale – revamp in place – Marva is retiring
- University Council is open for all student to attend. SPH students are encouraged to attend.
- **Upcoming:** University Council will have a table with coffee/bagels in an effort to meet students and get their feedback. Remember to fill out the UC suggestion box.

AOB

- Seemingly mandated requirement of having a certain number of classes in person.
 - Students expressed concerns that the Hybrid course modality doesn't seem to be working out
 - How are modality decisions made?
 - WhatsApp form: Survey went out asking students what they preferred. Many students wanted to be back in person.
 - Difficult for some students to meet both aspects (in person, and then online)
 - The current modalities set-up was meant to cater to all students
 - DrPH students required to be in-person.
 - **TODO: Bring to the Dean's attention**
 - Students want professors to be held accountable to the in-person requirement. There are professors who cancel in-person classes less than five minutes before the start of the class.
 - Students should not be penalized if they can't make it to class or to a rescheduled class.
- Tutoring
 - Reach out to Office of Academic affairs to set up/request tutors. Some contacts include: Sze-Ying.Lee@downstate.edu, vanessa.vales-lewis@downstate.edu, Seth.Langley@downstate.edu

Program based learning / Community Outreach

- SPH students wants to be more integrated into the overall downstate system (Example: Work-study, TA's, Shadowing nurses, social workers)
- Perhaps creating a pre-apprenticeship APEX before the APEX
- Improving/Expanding the HPMG/HCAD course offerings
- Career services is needed for SPH students.
- Getting integrated within the community (Example: Finding volunteer/outreach programs ahead of time) Students were encouraged to visit Downstate community impact site for more info on volunteering opportunities:

- <https://www.downstate.edu/about/community-impact/health-wellness/index.html>
- Urging everyone to fill out the student satisfaction survey

Motion to adjourn – adjourned by Janille Williams at 5:49pm

Moyouri Bhattacharjee

Moyouri Bhattacharjee, MPH Candidate, Community Health Sciences

SPH Student Council Treasurer (2023/2024)

School of Public Health

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

