

## SUNY Downstate School of Public Health Meeting Notes

**Meeting Date:** Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2024

**Subject:** SPH Student Council Meeting

**Time & Location:** 4:30PM – 6 PM held via Zoom platform

### **Attendance:**

Janille Williams

Moyouri Bhattacharjee

Samuel Liff

Kurt Joseph

Kadeen Waldron

Roudjessie Charles

Michelle Williams

Lena-Marire

Kwabena Nuama

Maysa Osman

Breanna Watson

### **Meeting Notes:**

- Meeting called to order by Janille Williams at 4:37pm

### **Agenda:**

#### **End of the Year Social**

The School of Public Health Student Council will be hosting an end of the year social to mark the end of the academic school year and to celebrate the 2024 graduates! The event will be a cocktail themed social event.

**Date:** May 24<sup>th</sup>

### **Budget:**

- Food: \$2,000
- Drinks: \$200
- Prizes: \$550
- Purchase for the awards (3): \$600
- Gift certificate purchase for honorable mentions and paper holders: \$50

Motioning to pass budget of \$3,400 for the event for the School of Public Health by Janille Williams. Motion seconded by Moyouri Bhattacharjee. All meeting attendees agreed to have the school of Public Health student council host the graduation party with no opposing votes.

## **Faculty/Professional Staff Awards**

Four awards will be presented to the professional staff and faculty of the School of Public Health to acknowledge their dedication to our institution and to thank them for their hard work. Students will vote to select the winners. Awards will be presented at the SPH Award Ceremony on May 13, 2024.

- **Student Champion Award Recipient:** The Student Champion Award recognizes the outstanding dedication and commitment of professional staff members who go above and beyond to assist and empower students in their academic and personal growth journeys. This award celebrates an individual (member of the professional staff) who demonstrates exceptional support, guidance, and advocacy, making a significant difference in the lives of students and contributing to the overall success of the educational community.
- **Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching Recipient:** The Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching honors educators who exemplify outstanding dedication and innovation in their teaching practice. Recognizing exceptional pedagogical skills, mentorship, and a commitment to student success, this award celebrates educators who inspire, engage, and empower their students to reach their fullest potential.
- **Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring Recipient:** The Faculty Award for Excellence in Mentoring celebrates educators who exemplify exceptional commitment and guidance in fostering the professional and personal development of their students. Recognizing exemplary mentorship, support, and advocacy, this award honors faculty members who go above and beyond to empower and inspire the next generation of scholars and leaders.
- **Student Council Award for Excellence in Leadership:** The Student Council Award for Excellence in Leadership recognizes a faculty member who demonstrates exceptional leadership qualities through their guidance of the SPH student council eBoard. Their unwavering commitment to fostering growth, innovation, and collaboration within the academic community sets a remarkable standard for leadership excellence.

Janille Williams made a motion to allocate \$650 to purchase 4 awards and certificates with holders. These purchases will be done by Adam Burgman via Student Center Amazon account. The awards will be presented to SPH Faculty and Professional Staff. Motion was seconded by Moyouri Bhattacharjee. All meeting attendants agreed to spend \$650 to purchase awards and certificate paper with holders with no opposed votes.

## **Professional Development**

On behalf of the SPH Council, Dr. Camacho-Rivera will purchase NYC Public Health Association memberships for the School of Public Health senior/graduating class. Dr. Camacho-Rivera will be reimbursed for her purchases.

### **Budget:**

- Cost of memberships: \$3,000

Motion to pass budget of \$3,000 towards Dr. Camacho-Rivera's purchase of NYC Public Health Association memberships by Janille Williams. Motion seconded by Lena-Marie. All meeting

attendees have agreed to have the School of Public Health student council provide funding to purchase NYC PHA membership for graduating students.

### **Planetary Health Club**

The Planetary Health is a new student-run and faculty supported club from the School of Public Health. The executive board members of the club have requested funding for events and programs hosted by the club.

#### **Budget:**

- Allotted funding for Planetary Health Club events: \$300

Motioning to pass budget of \$300 to support the new School of Public Health club contingent upon receipt of the attendance sheet and the receipts of the event and the event budget by Janille Williams. Motion seconded by Michelle Williams. All meeting attendees have agreed to have the School of Public Health provide \$300 in funding for events hosted by the Planetary Health Club.

#### **AOB:**

#### **Bookstore closure:**

The bookstore is closed. Students have expressed frustration with not being able to purchase school paraphernalia and items for graduation related memories and photos. Students have requested that their concerns are brought back to Administration and to the University Council.

#### **University investments disclosure:**

Students are requesting divestments and transparency regarding endowments and SUNY Downstate related investments. We understand that additional faculty and staff will have to be brought in to further discuss feasibility as we would want this addressed urgently at the students request. We understand that other student councils and other SUNYs have been able to provide documentation and answer student related questions regarding the matter of university endowments and we would like the same regard and support provided to the School of Public Health and SUNY Downstate as a whole. Below is a link for folks to fill out a form regarding the concern of the University disclosing their investments. Additional options included writing a letter to the president of SUNY Downstate or bringing forth the request to Dean Demissie and to the Administration.

Provided Link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5TlcrSpStGQ9P5fjXdNfgOgHsO6a\\_Y\\_seruM\\_0MYCKDNjNA/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf5TlcrSpStGQ9P5fjXdNfgOgHsO6a_Y_seruM_0MYCKDNjNA/viewform)

#### **SUNY Downstate Medical Center and Downstate Closing Concerns:**

As a result of recent news brought upon the Downstate community regarding the closing of the University hospital, there has been much concern from the community regarding action plans and what the future holds for the SUNY Downstate community. The coalition has been pushing for a state-of-the-art hospital to come about in order for Downstate to continue to be a pillar of

change and healthcare provider and advocate for the community. Students have asked for this topic to be a reoccurring topic on the School of Public Health Student Council's agenda for next year and to ask for petitions to be created on change.org anonymously as students are concerned with being associated with a petition at this time.

### **Suggestion Box and Discrimination Submissions:**

Students have been asked to use the suggestion box for submission of suggestions for programs and events and additional questions for the School of Public Health Student Council. Students have also been asked to submit complaints of discrimination to the Faculty and Administrators of Dean Demissie's office as well as the Title IX presentation.

<https://www.downstate.edu/education-training/student-services/student-organizations/documents/leadership-training/student-leadership-presentation-title-ix.pdf>

Motion to Adjourn by Kadeen Waldron, seconded by Breanna Watson.

Meeting adjourned by Janille Williams at 5:59pm.

## **Brianna Caldwell-Williams**

[Brianna Caldwell-Williams, MPH Candidate, Epidemiology](#)

SPH Student Council Secretary (2022/2023; 2023/2024)

School of Public Health

SUNY Downstate Health Sciences University

