

SUNY Downstate School of Public Health Meeting Notes

Meeting Date: Friday, May 24th, 2023

Subject: SPH Student Council Meeting

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

Attendance:

- Laurie Williams
- Nargish Bergum
- Janille Williams
- Moyouri Bhattacharjee
- Roudjessie Charles
- Breanna Watson
- Chizoba Nbulue
- Kurt Joseph
- Paula Spann
- Samuel Liff

Meeting Notes:

- Meeting called to order by Janille Williams at 4:45pm

Agenda:

Approving budget for 2024-2025 school year

Currently unsure of the activities fee income as we are waiting to see how many students are enrolled for the school year. (Can increase or decrease based on enrollment rate). FSA did not provide information on the activities fee income for 2024/25. (\$17,511.83 or less will roll over to the upcoming school year as that is the remaining amount from the current 2023/24 school year as of March 2023. Additional expenses including payments to be made to Ernie, recent events expenses and conference support have not been adjusted for.)

- \$5,000 proposed for conference support,
- \$13,720.90 put towards events,
- \$1,000 put towards programs and projects,
- \$500 towards clubs
- \$400 towards meeting expenses.

Motion to pass the 2024-2025 SPH budget by Janille Williams. Motion is seconded by Breanna Watson. We received a unanimous vote by the voting members of the school of Public Health to submit the proposed budget for the upcoming school year.

Student Concerns

- Teaching Assistants and professors are not responsive to students' emails in a timely manner. As per our student handbook, faculty and staff are expected to reply back to students' emails within 48 hours. Based on discussions, we were able to resolve one of the problems at the meeting. The student emailed the TA via Brightspace but checked their regular email for the response. The TA responded via Brightspace directly to the students' concerns on two occasions. Everyone was encouraged to check their original message source for responses.
- Students have also been advised to email or call the IT help desk (718-270-HELP) with Brightspace related concerns and with having technical related problems and concerns.
- Students have also expressed their concerns regarding the Applied Practice Experience and making sure that they are properly prepared to complete their APEx and apply for careers post-graduation. Students are advised to reach out to the APEx coordinator Danvy Troung and join the weekly round-ups to be able to speak to Danvy directly, as well as, be updated on job postings and how to successfully complete the APEx.
- Students who called upon the Downstate leadership for transparency in reporting its financial disclosures, met with Dean Putman and President Riley. They have requested to meet SPH Dean Demissie and will do so in the summer semester.

The School of Public Health 2024-2025 Student Council

SPH Council elections were held in late April/Early May. The results are as follows:

- President: Breanna Watson
- Vice President: Laurie Williams
- Treasurer: Chizoba Ndulue
- Secretary: Zakiya Scott

There will be a transitional meeting with the 2023-2024 executive board and the 2024-2025 executive board to ensure a smooth transition. The current student council expressed their excitement and encouragement for the newly elected executive board.

Since the two representatives (Janille Williams and Moyouri Bhattacharjee) on the Student Technology Fee Committee have graduated, there's an opening for two new representatives.

Chizoba Ndulue (elected Treasurer) and Breanna Watson (elected President) were nominated as the representatives of the Student Technology Fee Committee.

Last remarks of the Past School of Public Health Student Council President

Janille Williams has expressed her gratitude and appreciation to be able to serve in this position for the past three academic years, as well as thanks the 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24 executive boards for working together and having successful academic years. The council congratulated all the 2024 graduates and encouraged them to serve as alumni. The council also highlighted some of their achievements over the 2023/24 academic year.

Motion to adjourn meeting until August 2024 by Janille Williams. Motion seconded by Breanna Watson. All meeting attendees have agreed to adjourn meeting.

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

