



# The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

## Student Senate Agenda

Location: HLB Conference Room 2.106

Date: Monday, January 20th 2020

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

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### Observation of Attendance and Quorum

A. Attendance logged digitally [here](#).

### Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (12.03.19)

- B. Minutes found digitally [here](#).
- C. Move to approve the minutes: Helen
- D. Seconded: Natalie
- E. Unanimously approved

### Agenda Items:

#### I. Culture of Wellness

- A. “Rethinking” Societies - Sam and Megan (20 minutes)
  - 1. We can’t get rid of societies - we asked!
  - 2. Split into two groups (pro-reform and pro-preservation of societies) and brainstorm:
    - a) Alex (Pro-Reform): Create community and get to know people from different years from societies are good, but let’s put DOCS groups in pairs and do something like a “buddy” DOCS group, and instead of events every month for DOCS, do a pairing and go and do something fun to promote collegiality between classes (*with money from Senate*).
    - b) Charlotte (Pro-Reform): Instead of using funds for a big celebration event, do multiple smaller bonding events throughout the year. If doing large academic competition, do social, athletic, service event, etc. “competitions” and use that as promotional events.
    - c) Dekoya (Pro-Preservation): Food, Service, and Orientation - doing a service event as a society, incorporate a tradition by society in which upperclassmen make food for underclassmen in their society before their first exam. Creating some kind of buy-in to society with some kind of team-building or orientation event (outside of Austin/wilderness) that is started early and creates unity.
  - 3. Next steps: Megan and Sam to condense ideas and bring to Student Affairs

#### II. Student Representation

- A. Feed Forward Letters - Noah (15 minutes)
  - Feed Forward Letters: letter to send to our program director about our weaknesses / what we want to improve upon
  - Send after match to accepted program
  - If it is going to change, it’s going to need a concerted effort from MS4s
    - a) student senate to step in if needed.

- Programs say (per Noah): We've never seen anything like this before and we don't want it.
    - a) Noah: It can only hurt us - why would we bring our flaws to this place that just hired us? Isn't it supposed to be a fresh slate.
    - b) Not really explained why or if it is validated.
  - Next steps: Jonathan to speak with MS4 General UMEC reps (Jessica Wenzel and Katy Jackson) about collecting data on MS4 opinion on this issue → to bring to Senate next meeting
- B. Student Body Feedback - Megan (10 minutes)
- MS3: "*Over the past few months, I have felt a distinct lack of communication from Dell Med about what is required for me to do and what is not. I get random Canvas assignments with no communication as to what I need to do, how I need to do it, or when it needs to be done (except the arbitrary due date). Communication was sorely lacking for the leadership hours - I still am unsure of how I am being graded, as is Dr. B. Miller. I know this is not a problem with senate, per se, but I would appreciate it if this were discussed. I'm certainly not the only one who has felt isolated!*"
  - a) It is concerning that the institution cannot communicate properly what needs to happen and what the due dates are
    - b) It shouldn't be a surprise that MS3s are going to be far away and far apart and we need to figure this out
    - c) There is no collective of due dates and calendars
    - d) Everything is coming from an administrative assistant and not the actual faculty of the course and it feels very distant and the lack of ownership is apparent
    - e) No meaningful deadlines and they are flexible about some and not others
    - f) Leadership: everyone is on a different schedule and all the deadlines are the same
    - g) Beth and Sue: they acknowledged organizational issues in a focus group → seems like they will be the place to go for a sustainable solution
    - h) Next steps: Megan and Sam to speak with relevant UMEC reps
      - (1) Curricular Integration UMEC Committee
        - (a) MS3s - Alyssa Johnson Ellerbrock, Kayla Nussbaum
        - (b) MS4s - Jacque Callahan, Emily Niewiarowski
  - MS3: '*It would be awesome if senate could organize headshots for MS3s (and maybe MS2s as well just to knock it out). Even if students had to pay part of it, we would probably get a much cheaper deal doing it all together.*'
  - a) Who took headshots for McCombs orientation? Dekoija to check up on this

### III. Academic/Professional/Personal Development

- A. Interprofessional Committee - Sam (10 minutes)
- Meeting with Adam Burkhard with students from other colleges to create an interprofessional committee to organize optional events between the health professions e.g. journal club, social stuff etc.
    - a) How should we elect an interprofessional chair for Dell Med?
      - (1) Straight up election? Campaigning?
      - (2) Noah: Do it like GSA. They are already there present, and part of their role should already include things like this.
      - (3) Many In Unison: Why not use the GSA person?
      - (4) Sam: \*Or\* we can make a new role? Opinions.
      - (5) Next steps: Sam will check in with current GSA reps about whether this is a role that they would be willing to take on or whether we should create a separate position.
        - (i) Current GSA Reps:
        - (ii) MS1 - Christian Shannon
        - (iii) MS2 - Dayal Rajagopalan
        - (iv) MS3 - Laura Bashour

**IV. Communication**

- A. Marielle: What happened there was an MS2 intersession - had their scores put up for each clerkship by shelf, and were compared across classes. Didn't make them feel good in the way it was done, kind of condescending, made them defensive.
  - The tone was dismissive, told them they "have an external locus of control".
  - Didn't appreciate being compared when the curriculum has been changed and thus results aren't equitable.
  - Feedback should have been used to contextualize the results
- B. Megan: How can we help you?  
MS2s- brainstorm ideas of how upperclassmen can support our class. Come back to Senate with some concrete thoughts we can act upon to help % 2022.

**V. Student Affairs Update**

- A.

**VI. Task Force Objectives and Key Results Reporting**

- A. Round 1: 10 minutes
  - Communication:
  - Senate of College Councils:
    - a) No updates from Oliver, Jonathan.
      - (1) Create internal accounting form to bring to Senate
      - (2) Summer budget for shirts (budget will be due in Spring)
  - Constitution and Bylaws:
    - a) Best practices on creating institutional memory
- B. Round 2: 10 minutes
  - Coffee Break:
    - a) Accounting
  - DMKI:
  - Elections:
  - Innovation:
    - a) Incubator

**VII. Violets:**

- A. Ariane and Woody for Headshots!
- B. Alex for having a bomb alternative to societies!

**VIII. Action Items**

- A. Megan and Sam to speak with relevant UMEC reps about curricular integration and course communication
- B. Dekooya to follow up on how headshots work at McCombs (I'd suggest just asking Student Affairs if we can get headshots during our MS3-MS4 Transition week in May, there are plenty of photographers available through UT or Ernesto can do it like he did for our badges? Just a thought! -Tay)
- C. Jonathan and Noah - Collecting data on Feed it Forward with Katy and Jessica (MS4 General UMEC reps)