



The University of Texas at Austin
Dell Medical School

Student Senate Agenda

Location: HLB Conference Room 2.106
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2020
Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Observation of Attendance and Quorum

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

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (02/03/20)

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

Agenda Items:

I. Student Affairs Update (30 minutes)

- A. Any updates on Tamara?
 - 1. Tamara is on a leave right now.
- B. Building our own student records system, having difficulty interacting with UT's system
 - 1. Doesn't yet have dual degree grades in them, but it will.
- C. Communication lines w/ Dell Med → difficulties
 - 1. Feels aloof/random/distant/solely on calendar
 - 2. Problems w/ academic communication bleed over into feelings about SA/school in general
 - 3. There is no generalized, great communication about class/school requirements. Feels scattered. This is/seems to be no one's real or 'main' job
 - a) General calendars are sometimes wrong. Yikes.
 - b) Also requires lots of digging, perfect attendance to email and calendaring (which isn't realistic even if we're trying hard).
 - 4. Step 1 buzz. Anxiety... Steve has already talked to MS1s.
 - 5. Funding for orgs/events has been difficult. Orgs are now going around SA funding. Mechanism that's in place doesn't work.
 - a) Has made it difficult for student affairs to keep track of organization activities
 - 6. Concerns about MS2 performance have made defensiveness the tone of conversation. Intersession was blindsiding and stressful, unrealistic. Would have been better w/ warning for preparation (mentally).
 - a) This is a part of a larger shift in culture where classes are 'competing' against each other. It feels in some ways like the Match is a big 'reveal'...
 - b) How can we, as a school, cultivate a mentality that we can all do well and each class can succeed?
 - 7. It seems apparent that student affairs is understaffed, and thus, getting things done has been harder each year.
 - a) MS1 perception is that SA is busy doing admissions and at capacity.

8. The Senate's jobs are unclear... MS1 Delegates feel lacking in info about: funding, joining research, starting orgs, etc.
 9. Parking problems: Stressful // Affecting school culture // can't count on anything
- D. What can student affairs do to help culture and the student body?
1. Parking advocacy → we are concerned about safety, culture, etc. What can be done now? What would we recommend to incoming students going forward?
 2. Increase staff for SA.
 3. Wellness → especially for MS2 class. Lack of resources, time, and balance. Clerkships are shifting midyear, clerkship directors and administration are seeming attentive. Let's keep moving toward wellness and balance.
 - a) Ariane's idea: opt-out for an assigned primary care appt for each new student, perhaps even a counseling appt. This would be combined with a 'wellness' afternoon given once a month? Once a semester? To each student for these appointments.
 4. Shifting the societies toward the proposals now on the table - would increase community on multiple levels.
 5. Policy about absences that maintain privacy and define 'reasonable request' guidelines. Should/could be student affairs picking up the phone to advocate either way? Maybe?
 6. Canvas courses are named in an organized format from year to year that is easy to read, organized, etc etc etc. Wow. Not named by the course directors but by the school?!??
- E. Steve to consider and return with ideas, priority focuses, and next steps to the above concerns.

II. Culture of Wellness

- A. Talking to Steve promoted wellness!
- B. Crash course on 'how to plan for 2nd year' → how was it? Competitive? Performance heavy? What did it encourage? (question from Sam/Will who organized said event)
 1. Mixed feelings. Some found it helpful, some found it unrepresentative. If you're an MS1, let us know what you think so we can improve.
- C. What will we do to promote 'parking wellness' for the entering class (2024)?

II. Student Representation

- A. Parking in HCG when 108 is closed?- Natalie, 5 minutes
 - Is this true? There is a lot of uncertainty
 - We would like to know the clear cut answer for parking options
 - a) Answers to come, we will update the student body when we have them
- B. We need to, as a Senate, address the larger issue of parking to ensure that our classes and future classes have some security in parking moving forward
 - Safety is a big concern for us.

III. Academic/Professional/Personal Development

- A. First year concerns about second year studying- Natalie, 5 minutes
 - We're all scared. What could the Senate do to support us?
 - Maybe a panel supported by the Senate to hear about the 2nd year in general? With a broad variety of perspectives.
 - a) Upperclassmen contact needs to be increased // many options are possible // Recurring panel?
 - b) Dell Med Know It is going to take this on, will provide updates at next meeting.
- B. Update on Peer Coaching- Brooke, 5 minutes
 - 19 MS2s matched with peer coaches
 - 13 MS1s will be matched with peer coaches by the end of the week
 - 20 MS3/4 peer coaches went through training w/ Patty Prado
 - The whole beta test is going swimmingly... to be evaluated at the end of the semester for revision, improvement, etc and plans for '20-'21.

IV. Communication

A. Student Body Feedback

- “Some of the MS2s have questions about the peer coaching - mainly that the description was vague and we aren’t sure really what we are supposed to get out of it. Are we supposed to be going to these people for advice about stuff related to med school, work, personal, etc? And how will we be paired up, is it by interest or random? And with an MS3 or MS4? Not sure if you guys can provide more info because it seems to be keeping people from signing up.”
 - a) This was asked before Charlotte went to the MS2 PC didactics and answered all the questions.
- “Just want to pass along some kudos to the delegates - I see y'all working hard and getting things done. Thanks for always being a listening ear and working together to make our school better.”
 - a) Thanks!

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

- A. No Task Force Reporting at this session

VI. Violets:

- A. Steve, for taking the time to hear our concerns
- B. Will, Bonnie and Alex for taking on a new idea for recurring upperclassmen panels for the MS1s

VII. **Action Items**

- A. Dell Med Know It task force will come up with a proposal for monthly advising sessions for upperclassmen to talk to MS1s moving forward
- B. DMS Senate will provide parking updates as we get them, we recognize the importance of this concern.