



# The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

## Student Senate Agenda

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Location: Zoom (The virtual space!)

Date: Wednesday, March 25th 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 (02/19/20)

- B. Minutes found digitally [here](#).
- C. Move to approve the minutes: Dekoiya
- D. Seconded: Charlotte
- E. Approved by majority

### Agenda Items:

#### I. Student Affairs Update (30 minutes)

- A. Created new Listserve to ensure Comprehensive Communication with Student Body
- B. Student Affairs Slack Workspace to Launch Tomorrow
  - 1. One slack channel in the Student Affairs Workspace for each class with the hope of communicating questions / answers in this time.
  - 2. Join to get questions answered in real time from the administration
- C. Clinical Rotations on hold until April 14th
  - 1. Working through creative ideas to address this gap → stay tuned
  - 2. 4th years:
    - a) Early discussions at a national level to graduate their seniors early to begin internship early (with salary and benefits?).
      - (1) This possibility is being assessed by the administration right now with more details to come for MS4s
      - (2) Much to come as we make sure we are in line with UT, Texas Medical Board, and LCME etc.
    - b) UT sent out a memo to all UT schools that graduation ceremonies are not allowed.
      - (1) There is a DMS committee working on contingencies and other options.
      - (2) One idea would be to find a way to get pictures with all the regalia.
      - (3) Brooke and Jolo continue to talk to 4th years and find out what they are excited about and try to make it happen.
  - 3. 3rd years:
    - a) ongoing and online - great work.
    - b) Working out the clinical exploration elective to find ways to “complete” this elective; stay tuned.
    - c) Concern about away rotations:

- (1) For DMS students who want to go away, DMS will support you in all ways we would normally. That being said, away rotations may have their own rules in light of the pandemic that will need to be worked through.
  - (2) Every residency PD recognizes that away electives will be incredibly difficult and is making adjustments accordingly.
4. 2nd years, working on options:
    - a) If you are an MS2 and not in clinics, step1 prep would be an awesome thing to spend time on right now.
    - b) Want to make options available to allow medical students to choose what works best for their personal life and schedules. More information is coming, so stay tuned.
    - c) DMS will not make a mandate to go back to the clinic in the midst of COVID-19 for students who have concerns. But it is still on the table to make going back to clinic a possibility (opt-in) while this pandemic is still playing out.
  5. 1st years:
    - a) ZOOM meetings for PILLARS and LGI are going well and faculty is proud of you guys.
    - b) Feedback: collected from MS1s who are assigned to conduct MOD feedback sessions
- D. Longitudinal Courses
1. Advocacy for communication about clarity on DOCS, IPE, and leadership.
    - a) MS4: Specifically, the MS4 last assignment about conversations with healthcare leaders will be difficult right now because of priorities.
    - b) MS1: confusion regarding CV and personal statement deadlines for leadership.
      - (1) This is to put something on paper, but not to have a cleaned or final version.
      - (2) Do not stress about this too much - it's just something to have on file as you think about it.
      - (3) We care about your mental health and don't don't want this to be a barrier or stressor
  2. More clarity to come from Dell Med Leadership team as they are meeting this week.
- E. COVID Clinical Update
1. Some preliminary information suggests that we have "flattened" the curve
  2. This may mean that Austin may not "peak" until June.
  3. We are really proud of the team that is spearheading this for Austin. This team is also really proud of the DMS students.

## II. Culture of Wellness

### A. Follow-Up on Fireside Chats

1. Next fireside chat:
  - a) "How to study MOD material to set yourself up for success in clinical medicine"
  - b) It seems this is worth pursuing on a virtual platform
2. A separate topic we need to discuss: wellness
  - a) A student body: "This is weird, right?" on a somewhat normal basis
  - b) To show that we are here for each other and address anxieties and create social connection virtually
    - (1) School-wide Zooms: task force to come up with some creative solutions.
    - (2) Focus on doing this within DOCS groups → encourage check-ins in this format. To be a focus of the send-out email.

## II. Student Representation

### A. Parking (time permitting)

- Did not discuss, but we are keeping this problem in mind for our return to campus

## B. Sending out Regular Clinical Updates (regarding changing clinical duties):

- Living document that students can submit questions to in a format that allows students to see what is being asked and what has been asked
- A living FAQ document that allows for real-time questions and answers
  - a) View only for the entire student body and edit only by a few students / administration to address them
- Additional options: weekly or daily emails
  - a) Can we see their minutes or information twice a week? This can't replace the living document, but the check-ins would be helpful
- The Slack channel is another avenue of "just-in-time" questions
- Plan: 3 part approach to address different levels of problems
  - a) Specific, rapid answer needed: post in Student Affairs Slack
  - b) Answer needed: consult the live updating Q/A form
  - c) Just want to stay informed: weekly updates from DMS admin

## III. Academic/Professional/Personal Development

### A. Team drive & institutional memory report (Brooke, 10 min)

- Team Drive:
  - a) Marielle and Brooke have done an incredible job of moving this over to a team drive.
  - b) Once it is done, will invite everyone to the Drive (the next few days)
- Institutional Memory Templates:
  - a) Elections task force handbook has been created and is being used to create the DMCB handbook.
  - b) Templates to be sent out by either Dekoija or Virginia.

### B. Tutoring, revisited (Sam, 10 min)

- Feelings of MS1s:
  - a) Hard to stay motivated while studying at home during a global pandemic
  - b) Online class isn't the worst and it's happening, but it is hard to be alone.
- Thinking creatively on how to be together
  - a) Meeting up outside is still okay with keeping appropriate social distance
  - b) Possibility for Zoom "study groups" so that people don't feel as isolated
- Moving forward with tutoring
  - a) Imelda will still be the tutoring link
  - b) Need to figure out how to best generate a repository of tutors

## IV. Communication

### A. Cultural Sensitivity and COVID-19

- Concerns: students have heard other students using inappropriate jokes or comments (direct and indirect).
- Important to address this for the sake of culture and the sake of being a clinician that is culturally sensitive and empathetic.
- Separate email from minutes from the presidents:
  - a) How to report this unacceptable behavior
  - b) Reminder of the standards we have at DMS

## V. Violets

### A. VIOLETS TO LANA BECAUSE IT'S HER BIRTHDAY

### B. Dell Med Faculty and Staff for doing so well and working so hard

### C. Violets to Taylor for making sure the camera is always on her and the baby

### D. Violets to Will's major dad energy via video call

### E. Violets to Sam and Megan for taking all the meetings and writing all the emails on our behalf

**VI. Action Items**

- A. Sam and Megan to draft email to student body addressing concerns over culturally insensitive remarks