



The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

Student Senate Agenda

Location: Zoom (The virtual space!)

Date: Wednesday, April 8th 2020

Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Observation of Attendance and Quorum

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

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (3/25/2020)

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

Agenda Items:

I. Culture of Wellness

- A. Update about Student Wellness Committee (Girija, 15 minutes)
 - 1. Girija, Ariane, and Megan met w/ Jenny Viteo on Monday to make Weekly Wednesday Wellness
 - a) Plan going forward: send out every week on Wednesday
 - b) Concepts include recipes, wellness tips, community board, etc.
 - c) Feedback: well received; we've tried to make these weekly newsletters in the past and we've had some formatting issues; but this one was more readable, particularly on a phone
 - d) Upcoming possibilities:
 - (1) What about a group stream? TV, movie? What platform should we use?
 - (a) Netflix party? (limiting factor - you have to have a Netflix account)
 - (b) House party? Could we ask for a way to institutionalize this movie?
 - (c) Austin Public Library option?
 - (i) We'd have to gather and hit play at the same time, but it would be free and quick
 - e) Trello board
 - (1) Things I need right now - "write a comment" functionality - way to express needs and meet them
 - (a) People want an anonymous option - which would make this different from Slack - need for the feeling that I'm not alone
 - (2) Click [here](#) to set up!
 - f) Next steps?
 - (1) If you have wellness ideas, send them to Jenny or Megan/Girija/Ariane
 - (2) Wellness Team meets every Thursday at 11:30am - let one of those members know if you want something to be discussed at meeting

II. Student Representation

A. Representing concerns- MS2 Senators

1. MS2 Dell-egates met and discussed how town hall went
2. Summary of Town Hall:
 - a) Option 1:
 - (1) Finish block 5 w/ didactics and then taking virtual NBME
 - (2) Block 6 → dedicated, then take Step 1
 - b) Option 2
 - (1) Fill in block 6 w/ electives, then figure out how to take Step 1 later
 - c) Still waiting on slides to be distributed
 - d) Sending out a survey tomorrow to hear what people are planning right now
 - e) Admin recognizes that it's not one-size-fits-all, which is very true
 - (1) It's really hard to account for all the variability, and it's becoming convoluted process
 - (2) A lot of info has been provided, but there are still gaps in knowledge/understanding
 - (a) For example, options for fitting things in December
 - (3) Need to compile one central doc w/ key info on requirements and scheduling and have it fact-checked by MedEd
 - (a) Currently, all info is incomplete and in different places
 - (b) Document to include: calendars for all third year options, MS2 calendar for 2020-2021, graduation requirements/rules
 - (4) Is there an option for MS2s to define their own schedule and make a proposal?
 - (a) Likely there will be clusters that form based on what people think will work best for them (same dual degree, pending clerkships)
 - (b) Set a deadline for when people need to submit their individualized proposals
3. Feedback:
 - a) Should the Senate get involved, or would that muddy the water?
 - b) What about using the peer coaches to act as a sounding board (and help take some of the load off of Jenny/Steve/Tamara when it comes to answering questions) (as an example, one peer coaching dyad has met a couple times for 1 hour each to discuss/process all the changes)
 - c) Need for an official signature - beyond the peer coach - ensure that proposals are fully approved; coaching dyad can help ease anxiety but probably can't replace official approval from the school
 - d) Go to Jenny - ask for fact sheet and get key steps on how to create a schedule that meets all requirements
 - (1) Big question: uncertainty about what degree of customization the school will allow - maybe we need to check w/ admin/MedEd first
 - (a) We need to recognize that there has to be flexibility for certain students
 - (b) Probably a large chunk will go ahead w/ the current "option 1" - so this customized option may not be as big a lift as it seems
 - (c) That said, we are 2.5 weeks out from potential start of dedicated
 - (d) There's no guarantee that Prometric will be operating at the end of June.

4. Next steps?
 - a) An MS2 Delegate needs to be intentional about creating a team with all the right players - Jenny and Stacey; Brooke, Megan, & Charlotte (representing the peer coaches) - try to avoid too many cooks in the kitchen
 - b) Key points that Sam & Megan will keep in mind during ongoing discussions with admin and med-ed
 - (1) Maintain a spirit of “Let’s compromise and find a solution that works for everyone”
 - (2) We’d like to avoid options that require extra years of school

III. Academic/Professional/Personal Development

A. Tutoring (Sam, 10 minutes)

1. Update - Sam has been discussing this issue w/ Imelda and Steve - specifically, how to build a more structured tutoring program
 - a) How it currently goes down: MS1 reaches out to Steve or Stephanie Corliss, who then connect us with an upperclassmen, with variable follow-up
2. Framework - what does an ideal framework look like? How might we make this program empowering?
 - a) MS3 year is a good time to join a tutoring program
 - (1) MS3 could receive leadership hours for helping w/ tutoring
 - (2) Could be one-on-one or group
 - b) Imelda as guardian of tutors -
 - c) We need a framework shift:
 - (1) the system of sending emails to group of people at the time of need doesn’t necessarily empower students to teach or learn
 - (2) We need to identify people who are really good at teaching more so than those who are content experts, so we should be cautious here.
 - (3) Willingness and availability is what is most important here
 - d) Options:
 - (1) Framework of using the “academic coaches” in a similar way to the leadership coaches → could match people up based on learning styles
 - (2) Charlotte, Dekoia, Marielle, Sam, Will
3. Advertising
 - a) Promote it as “academic coaches” is really important here
 - b) Advertise during orientation next year
4. Next steps: new team (Charlotte, Dekoia, Marielle, Sam, Will) to work on proposal and follow up at next MSS meeting

IV. Communication

A. How to do rotations? (Alex, 10 minutes)

1. Problem:
 - a) Lots of MS1s have questions now that we know they will be continuing onto clinicals as normal
 - b) We don’t know what we don’t know and now we’re not getting the anticipated clinical skills - we need any help we can get
2. The ask: How can upperclassmen present information to help the MS1s prepare for the year ahead?
3. Feedback:
 - a) Consider providing reassurance that it’s going to be okay, but try to avoid sounding paternalistic

- b) Provide information initially that is broad, save specifics for when it will be more relevant
- 4. Next steps:
 - a) Upperclassmen will work on presenting information to the MS1s on larger topics, then provide more specific clerkship information after the MOD test.
 - b) There will be upperclassmen meetings over zoom during the time between MOD and the start of the MS2 year to serve as office hours to curious MS1s
- B. [Institutional memory update: task force handbooks](#) (Virginia, 10 minutes)
 - 1. Context: we need to make sure we're recognizing the year-to-year lapses in conversation to ensure institutional memory after the inaugural class graduates
 - a) The middle ground of ad hoc committees who rise to the occasion and the standing task forces that work on operational matters
 - b) Standing committees need operational handbooks to communicate purpose, structure, and responsibilities and allow for institutional memory and external communication
 - 2. Proposal:
 - a) Update standing task force handbooks and update the operations document twice a year (May / January)
 - b) Check out Virginia's slides for word document template:
 - (1) Intro, purpose, structure, responsibilities, operations
 - (2) Task tracker component
 - 3. Feedback:
 - a) This is a good thing to do on a reasonable timeline (end of May)
 - 4. Next Steps:
 - a) Sam to remind those who are on standing task forces and who needs to create this document
 - b) Virginia and team to get with Noah about coordinating with OKRs

V. Violets

- A. To Megan, Girija, and Ariane for working hard on wellness!
- B. Violets to Girija for creating and collecting a survey on how the MS1 online learning experience is going - thanks, Girija!!!
- C. Kudos to MS4s for staying advocates for those coming after them!
- D. Kudos to rants

VI. Action Items

- A. Sam, Dekoiya, Charlotte, and Marielle are going to work on a proposal for tutoring
- B. Sam is going to send a task force reminder
- C. Sam and Megan are going to work on how to communicate the concerns of the MS2s effectively
- D. Bonnie will email Stacey and Jenny to get dates and customization sheets together.