



The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

Student Senate Agenda

Location: Zoom (The virtual space!)

Date: Wednesday, August 26th 2020

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

I. Action Items

- A. Sam and Megan to send one more message to the school
- B. Sam to email MS1s about elections and social events
- C. Catherine to work on her proposal and resubmit for vote at next meeting (9/9)
- D. Student affairs to let MS4s know about room reservations for interviews
- E. Student affairs to reach out to facilities to check into giving students more equipment to clean our study areas

II. Violets

- A. To the Class of 2023, good luck on your first shelf!
- B. To the MS1s for finishing C2P
- C. Catherine for her rockstar proposal drafting
- D. Sam and Megan for being passionate in their role as senate co-presidents

Observation of Attendance and Quorum

- A. Attendance logged digitally [here](#).
- B. This meeting did not meet quorum and thus is not an official senate meeting. No items or decisions were put to a vote.

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (08/12/2020)

- C. Minutes found digitally [here](#).
- D. [Move](#) to approve the minutes: unable to approve

Agenda Items:

III. Student Affairs Update (30 min)

- A. Room reservations form ending Saturday, 9/5, after which point we will follow standard, UT-wide guidelines for room use: 2 people/room wearing masks and appropriately distanced
- B. Senate: What is the standard process for reserving student rooms? Was this switched to Outlook as had been discussed in the past?
 1. Currently using link in Canvas resources page
 2. Needs to be filled out a few weeks in advance
- C. Senate: Future plans to honor room reservations for MS4s doing virtual residency interviews? Interviews will likely have a shorter window for reserving.
 1. Student affairs is working on this, more updates to come
- D. Senate: What are the resources available to students to maintain good COVID hygiene at school facilities?
 1. Hand sanitizer stations already placed
 2. Nightly cleans by facilities staff

3. Senate: can cleaning supplies be available for use by students?
 - a) Tamara to reach out to facilities manager to request this
- E. Branded Scrubs, licensing progress
 1. Awaiting a color choice
- F. SA aware of MS1 communication concerns, in the process of scheduling follow up meetings

IV. Culture of Wellness

- A. Social Events Update (Sam, 2 minutes)
 1. Reposting to the MS1s tomorrow
 2. If unsuccessful, will pull and try to redesign to meet needs

V. Student Representation

- A. Senate elections for MS1s Update (Sam, 5 minutes)
 1. Based on feedback from MS1s, ideal elections for their representatives
 - a) Timing- after the MNS exam (end of september)
 - b) Campaigning- no campaigning, but an email was sent telling them when the elections will be and to start looking for their desired representatives
 2. Elections task force will also plan UMEC elections shortly afterwards
- B. [Day off Proposal](#) (Catherine, 10 minutes)
 1. Catherine, Evelyn, & Sam: One day per clerkship for MS2 students to have the flexibility to take an independent study day/reflection day/wellness day
 - a) Class of 2022 student body feedback and recognition of the high burden of shelf exams on top of clerkship responsibilities/ assignments, especially early in the year
 2. Senate feedback:
 - a) How would this be defined in relation to excused and unexcused absences?
 - b) Appreciate the professionalism that went into presenting this idea
 - c) Could a study day be incorporated into the clerkship schedules instead of asking students to take on the burden of requesting a day off?
 - (1) Concern that students might not take an optional day even if it might benefit them because of evaluations and comparisons to other students
 - d) Alternative idea: can students be excused during the OSCE day?
 - e) It's not all about academics, this is also about mental health and a culture of wellness. Which is not always predictable. Especially when it comes to the more emotional aspects of patient care
 - f) How can we support students in gaining the skills to approach clerkship directors to advocate for themselves if they feel they need time to process?
- C. [Proposals](#) (Sam, 2 minutes)
 1. In my experience, this is the most effective and efficient way to get the things you want done

VI. Academic/Professional/Personal Development

- A. Peer Coaching Update (Megan, 5 minutes)
 1. Megan and Charlotte looking to pass the torch!
 - a) Will send a student body email looking for leadership on this initiative
 - b) Senate: do the peer coaching leaders have to be senate members?
 - (1) Definitely not! We're seeking someone who is passionate about peer coaching.

VII. Communication

- A. Slack Revisited (Class of 2022, 15 minutes)

1. Discussion from the Class of 2022
 - a) Student poll: MS3s prefer groupme to slack. Specific barriers cited where the messaging limits on the free version of slack.
 - (1) Purchasing slack highly unlikely due to the expense
 - b) The senate will take the feedback of the student body and come up with a cohesive strategy with the information we have.
 2. Best Practices ([link to previous document](#))
 - a) Use of the general page: best practices and how to communicate/enforce
 - (1) Is the general channel suffering from overposting?
 - (a) Varying opinions from student body on this
 - (i) Notification fatigue vs customizable nature of slack
 - (b) Communications Task Force has created guidelines for this but is there truly a need to govern or just let it be
 - (i) Senate members do not have the bandwidth to monitor this
 - (2) Communications task force to send monthly reminders on how to choose the best place for posts
- B. Senate Turnover (Sam and Megan, 5 minutes)
 1. Discussion among senate and feedback for incoming presidents

VIII. Student Body Feedback

- A. No new feedback prior to this meeting