



# The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

## Student Senate Agenda

Location: Zoom (The virtual space!)

Date: Wednesday, September 9th 2020

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

### I. Action Items

- A. Communications Task Force to meet with Student Affairs to provide student perspectives as the school selects the best fit communications platform: specific student concerns include the ability to reserve rooms, universal calendaring, archiving for student orgs, privacy, and communication breakdown
- B. Reminder: students can [report](#) mistreatment here. Link for this form is also available on the [Student Life](#) page under the “Feedback” section. UT policies for follow up of reporter mistreatment are outlined [here](#).
- C. Megan to curate list of “on-call” MS4s who have volunteered to be available for short-term academic coaching of clerkship students
- D. Elections task force to send the MS1 elections timeline to Class of 2024 (**see below**)
  1. MS1 Medical Student Senate Elections will begin on September 25<sup>th</sup> and end on September 28<sup>th</sup>. We expect to announce the MS1 Delegates by Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>
  2. UMEC Applications will open by October 2<sup>nd</sup> and close October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Senate will perform nominations based on the applications at the October 7th meeting. UMEC positions will be filled by October 15<sup>th</sup>.
- E. Ciaura to send Leadership curriculum changes submitted to anonymous feedback form to UMEC

### II. Violets

- A. **Violets to the Gold Humanism inductees: Alyssa, Sam, Megan, Zack, Karen, Katie, Ruth, and Michael**
- B. **Violets to our MS2 and MS3 students still being impacted by COVID. We see you out there!**
- C. **Violets to MS1s! 1.5 courses down and you’re killing it! Thanks for being thoughtful and flexible with COVID-19.**

### Observation of Attendance and Quorum

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

### Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (08/26/2020)

- B. Minutes found digitally [here](#).
- C. Unable to approve minutes as last session did not meet quorum requirements

### Agenda Items:

#### III. Culture of Wellness

- A. MS2 check-in (class reps, 5 minutes)
  1. Honeymoon period of clerkships wearing off after the first exam. Students buckling in for the long haul.
  2. Senate: How can we support you?
    - a) Peer coaching still has capacity. Sign up here!

- b) MS2s: peer coaching is too much of a time commitment for us, plus scheduling is difficult during clerkships.. What if there was an “on-call” coach available for contacting designated upperclass students for specialty or clerkship specific questions as they arise?
  - c) Senate: this is something we’re hoping to work towards in the future
3. Could hand-offs between clerkships be part of intersession?
- a) This happened independently amongst MS2s, was not scheduled into intersession
  - b) MS2 to MS2 handoffs are most effective because they have the most recent info on the experience

#### IV. Student Affairs Update (20 min)

- A. At town hall, some MS1s asking for Senate, UMEC/GSA elections timeline
  - 1. In non-covid times, MS1’s would have elected their senate members after C2P and then appointed UMEC members based on a brief survey conducted by the Senate. Current plan is to elect after MNS, followed by UMEC appointments.
    - a) Although there are not MS1 Senate members currently, we want MS1s to know that our intention is to represent their voice
    - b) Please feel comfortable to contact any of the Senate members or fill out the anonymous feedback form
- B. Academic coaching
  - 1. Sign up [here!](#)
- C. Facilities during COVID-19 (skip)
  - 1. Room reservation process (as of 09/05/20)
    - a) <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/0a604477792e47c992b59d2c7b9fff58>
    - b) Don’t forget to submit at least 21 days in advance
  - 2. Facilities
    - a) “stationed hand sanitizer and paper wipes throughout the building is the extent of sanitation other than when the cleaning crew cleans the rooms”

#### V. Communication (20 min)

- A. Student body communication platforms
  - 1. Student survey results: 74 votes, some students voting for multiple options; majority want to keep student orgs on slack + make other student channels private
    - a) Senate: for initial needs assessment may be better to poll the student body on what kind of features would be important in a communication platform
  - 2. Student affairs needs::
    - a) **Funding oversight:** SA needs to be able to time stamp spending on student activities
    - b) **Student engagement:** SA would like to know how active orgs are, when they are meeting, topics discussed, etc.
    - c) **Career Mentoring:** SA would like to support student specialty interest groups in establishing longitudinal mentoring relationships.
    - d) Effective communication is a priority and pre-requisite to tackling other student needs, including wellness, career advising, and more.
  - 3. **Senate response:**
    - a) Some student orgs plan offline and then use slack only for announcing events, but due to high traffic and messaging limitations even this function is compromised as announcements are now disappearing within 2-3 weeks of posting
    - b) There is a concern for longevity of student orgs on slack due to disappearing messages in free version

- c) Could SA reach out directly to student org leaders to gather the data they need for appropriate oversight and documentation?
- d) Student orgs not currently registered with UT and neither is senate, so how does the money actually flow from UT to student orgs? And how is that documented? Could the paper trail used for budget requests and submissions suffice?
  - (1) SA: We are registered, so we will look into why we are not listed. May have to do with the required trainings that org leaders must complete to register
- e) We have tried to create shared calendar for student events, it was not successful
- f) When it comes to specialty specific interest groups, could we better align the specialty interest group supervisors and specialty advisors list promoted by SA?

#### 4. Practical next steps

- a) SA and communications TF to meet to further discuss using the feedback from student body and medical student senate
  - (1) Looking for Comms TF to report out at next Senate meeting (09/23)

## VI. Student Representation (20 min)

### A. [Day off Proposal](#) Updates (Catherine, 10 minutes)

- 1. Sam: "I motion to vote to approve the day off proposal to send to MedEd"
- 2. Kayli: Seconded
- 3. Approved with unanimous vote.

### B. Task Force (TF) Assignments (15 minutes)

- 1. Every Senate member will join 2-3 TFs, with representation from all four classes
- 2. MS1 spots are to be held for new members joining us in October!
  - a) Dell Med Coffee Break (Chair: Taylor, MS4)
    - (1) Retired for now due to COVID-19, will reassess when appropriate
  - b) Elections (Chair: Dekoija and Charlotte, MS4)
    - (1) Alex and Natalie (MS2), Evelyn (MS3)
  - c) Bylaws & Constitution (Chair: Megan, MS4)
    - (1) Girjia (MS2), Catherine (MS3), Will (MS4)
  - d) Communication (Chair: Catherine, MS3)
    - (1) Natalie (MS2), Madison and Maliha (MS3), Taylor and Charlotte (MS4)
  - e) Society of College Councils (**Chair: MS1**)
  - f) Lana (MS2), Kayli and Ciaura (MS3), Sam and Dekoija (MS4)
  - g) Dell Med Know It (Chair: Will, MS4)
    - (1) Maliha & Evelyn (MS3) have joined
  - h) Social Events (Chair: Sam, MS4)
    - (1) Girjia and Lana (MS2), Madison (MS3), Megan (MS4)
  - i) Innovation
    - (1) Dissolved Innovation TF and moved task force tracking responsibilities to the constitution and bylaws TF

## VII. Academic/Professional/Personal Development (5 min)

### A. MS4 interview logistics (15 min-Dekoija)

- 1. Addressed in MS4 Town Hall - please see recording or talk to your MS4 senator.

## VIII. Student Body Feedback (15min)

### A. Interruptions during NBME exam

- 1. MS2s were allowed to reserve rooms in HLB for the purpose of taking their NBME shelf exam. Some students experienced interruptions during the exam by another user of HLB.

- a) Could this be prevented in the future by having a universal calendar that incorporates room reservations?
- b) Natalie will follow up on these concerns as part of the communications task force in the upcoming meeting with SA

**B. Student ideas**

1. "if student affairs has event funding that they're not using bc of covid, can that money be rerouted to the students for costs like parking permits, living expenses, etc."
  - a) As much as we wish this could happen, the university-wide COVID-19 financial stressors make it unlikely.
2. Consider it: leadership compressed into Spring of year one, remove the personality tests, 2 hours only. Fall gets a new, non-optional elective on medicine re: race, gender, sexuality, environment, homelessness, disabilities, insurance options for those w/out private insurance, etc. with expert lecturers for 1hr and small facilitated discussion groups (30min? 1 hr?) where people can ask their dumb questions or disagree without judgement
  - a) We love hearing your ideas! As this was anonymous feedback, we are happy to forward these thoughts to the Health Equity Education Committee and student org leaders in MESH to help draft a proposal for curricular changes
  - b) Based on past student experiences, the more student voices united on this the better
  - c) We recommend submitting the final proposal to UMEC

**IX. Senate Transition** (will do on Slack over the next few weeks)

- A. Meeting times/days?
  1. Poll in slack
- B. Introducing your new senators (Slack)
- C. Returning senators reflection (Slack)