



The University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical School

Student Senate Agenda

Location: Zoom (The virtual space!)

Date: Wednesday, March 3rd, 2021

Time: 7:00pm - 8:30pm

I. Action Items

- A. Recruit student perspectives for surgery clerkship improvement
- B. Help student affairs develop protocol for personnel accounting in emergencies
- C. Next Fireside Chat to discuss away rotations in the COVID era to be planned for week after Spring Break

II. Violets

- A. All DMS students for coming together and supporting each other during the recent winter storm

Observation of Attendance and Quorum

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

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting (02/03/21)

- B. Minutes found digitally [here on the DMKI site](#).
 - Motion to approve- Scott
 - Seconded by Girjia
 - Approved by majority vote

Agenda Items:

III. Student Affairs Updates (20 min)

- A. From Kamran (IT) & Steve - We are looking for feedback on how students used tools like Canvas during MS1 year
 - 1. What worked and what could be improved?
 - a) MS3 perspective: With multiple longitudinal courses the canvas calendar is the only way to plan. When it isn't used consistently by course directors it leads to conflicting deadlines and events.
 - b) Other thoughts or suggestions on this topic?--> Email Kamran at zjai@austin.utexas.edu
- B. [UT Recommended Protective Face Mask Guidance](#)
 - 1. These are the recommendations we will continue to follow until further notice
- C. [Dell Med Attendance Policy](#)

1. Student's not expected to attend during emergency staffing status (see: weather or unsafe conditions)
2. Do not be afraid to inform your team if you don't feel safe traveling for clinical obligations

D. Vaccine administration volunteer signup has moved

1. If you want to volunteer to help with the vaccine program at Gregory Gym, sign up at these links. Just add "Dell Med Student" after your name, even if the form says "nursing only."
 - a) [Screeners, Arrival, Navigation & Documentation](#)
 - b) [Vaccinators, Observation, & Mobility Assistance](#)
 - c) [Vaccine Mixers](#)

E. Shelf studying while on clerkships

1. Appropriate when clinical tasks are pending or completed
2. Students are still obligated to complete clinical tasks if requested by the clinical team
3. Students should not be shamed if they are utilizing downtime to study, this may be considered as a form of mistreatment

IV. Student Representation (10 min)

A. Graduation letter (Sam, 10 minutes)

1. Steve recommends contacting Dr. Moreno and Dr. Nelson for further clarification

B. Surgery Clerkship Reactor Group

1. Dr. Kim Brown (surgery clerkship director) is looking to recruit students to provide feedback on changes to surgery clerkship. Meeting would occur by the end of April and the total time commitment is 1-2 hours. [Contact us here to get involved](#)

V. Communication (10 min)

A. Move to Microsoft Teams coming this semester

1. Phase 1= Specialty Interest Groups (03/01-03/14)
2. Phase 2= Other Interest Groups (03/22-04/04)
 - a) Phase 2.5= Any stragglers lol (04/05-04/09)
3. Phase 3= Class of 2025 onboarding (June 2021)
4. Questions/Feedback for the Comms task force and Student Affairs
 - a) Who is responding to student questions in Teams?
 - (1) It depends. Some of the questions that may come up regard logistics that are still being worked out, so the answer may come from Senate members, non-Senate members, or Steve
 - b) Should an "Ask Student Affairs" channel be created?
 - (1) This is a good idea. Will pass to Steve. If created, look for an announcement in the General channel
 - c) Are private channels allowed?
 - (1) Some interest groups have already created private channels for their leadership, this should be okay

- (2) Class specific channels will be made, if requested, by Student Affairs. It is labeled "Private- Class of ____"
 - (a) Taylor Hutton (Student Affairs) would have to be one of the channel owners, she will keep matters discussed in the channel private
- (3) Unsolicited advice from Ciaura and Kayli→ We hear the concerns that some have expressed regarding privacy, and don't want to minimize this. But please, use the channels on Teams to communicate with each other about the student orgs. Other convos not about orgs may be best had on other platforms that you all have used up until this point (FB, GroupMe, text group chats, Slack special interest channels, etc).
 - (a) Faculty requests to be apart of Teams is pending, and will be approved in the next few weeks
 - (b) Everyone is technically a member of every channel in the DMS Student Affairs and Student Orgs Team, so your comments are able to be seen by everyone. This will most likely remain for the entirety of Teams.
- d) #Upperclassmen channel from Slack is in Teams and titled Upper Level Advice. Class of 2025 will be directed here to ask questions to current students.
- e) Can the orgs get an action item list of the requirements? Can we get some sort of onboarding session to be walked through how to do things, like an orientation?
 - (1) Of course. Look for an announcement about an optional (but recommended) orientation brought to you by the Communications TF (after Spring Break). They have already committed to a Readme document that will list steps to the required things from Student Affairs
 - (a) Please let us know what type of things you want to get help on!
 - (b) If you have Teams experience and are willing to help or host the orientation, please contact Steve or Senate!
 - (2) Do we all need to have certain documents up?
 - (a) Not at the moment, but it may be helpful to use the files option in your channel to load in things you may have had in a google drive. This will help consolidate where things are, and also make it easily accessible to all DMS students (thinking forward to the incoming class of 2025 and if they want to browse different orgs before the Org Fair)

- (b) The requirement for certain documents in Teams may change in the future
 - (3) Do we need to add faculty now or later?
 - (a) Add interested faculty and faculty advisors now, it will go to a pending review space, where Student Affairs will grant permissions (will be done in the next few weeks)
- f) When will Slack workspaces be deleted?
 - (1) Senate does not want to be solely responsible for this decision
 - (2) Things to consider:
 - (a) The Team created by Student Affairs addresses **student orgs**, not all the private, special interest, or class specific channels that are on Slack
 - (i) Do we need to ensure that Teams can provide an adequate replacement before deleting?
 - (b) Phased transition to Teams gives people more time to switch and don't want to delete and people haven't transitioned yet
 - (c) Potential breakdown in communications!
 - Cross-posting that is currently allowed now may be more risk than reward
 - (i) If Slack doesn't get shut down how can we ensure that there is enough buy-in?
 - (3) If Slack is to be deleted, it will not be until at least after Phase 1 and 2 are completed
- g) Will my messages ever be deleted?
 - (1) Your messages shouldn't be deleted unless you delete them. Senate members will not be deleting anyone's messages.
- h) Is there a concern for space at all?
 - (1) It doesn't appear that there will be any data limit concerns
- i) Will we have to switch platforms again next year?
 - (1) We don't believe so, but can't guarantee that. DMS will most likely continue to follow big UT's decision regarding communication platforms. Please remain flexible.

VI. Academic/Professional/Personal Development

- A. No new business

VII. Culture of Wellness

- A. No new business

VIII. Student Body Feedback

- A. I was wondering if the topic of tuition reimbursement ever came up this year. My understanding is our tuition was calculated based on our class being in HLB and

using certain resources, and now with COVID forcing classes to be virtual for the rest of the year it would make sense that we would have unspent funds that could either be reimbursed to students or used to alleviate tuition costs next year. I was hoping this could at least be discussed or considered.

1. Response from student affairs: DMS has very little control over tuition. That is set by the University but only with the approval of UT system. There have been some Universities that have decreased tuition, but honestly there are more that have increased tuition this year. If students wanted to request some COVID related tuition reduction it would have to be approved in the UT provost's office and from the President and the UT Board of regents.
 2. There was an adjustment in tuition price at UT for summer school (2020) for undergrads due to Covid-19, but prices returned to normal for the fall 2020 semester
- B. Calendaring with courses and student affairs needs a revamp and the Teams transition is a great opportunity to require change
1. Forwarded these comment about the course calendars to IT who was already asking for student feedback on canvas functionality
 2. Calendar on Canvas is not always accurate (i.e. clerkship shelf exam was on the wrong day initially)
 - a) Canvas calendar= all student course assignments
 - b) Teams calendar= all student org activities

IX. Senate Business (5 minutes)

- A. [Meeting minutes bylaw proposal](#)
1. Review from now until next meeting
 2. Vote at 03/24 meeting
- B. Moving Senate operations to Teams

X. Task Force Breakout Sessions (30 minutes)

- A. Session 1
1. Social Events
 2. Elections
 - a) UMEC Elections and re-elections to be held starting soon! Look out for a ballot if you're in the class of 2023 or 2024
 - (1) Dr. Nelson has given approval for UMEC elections to be moved to a class-wide vote (as opposed to Senate-vote only), but this will require a change to current bylaws to apply to this election cycle
 - (a) Ciaura to draft bylaw, present at 03/24/21 meeting
 - (b) Senate vote to follow at 04/07 meeting
 3. Communications
 4. DMKI

XI. Next Meeting

- A. 03/24/21 (via Teams)
- B. [Student Senate Feedback Form](#)