

November 2015 Dean's Luncheon



Dean's Updates

1. Dr. Woleben (Associate Dean of Student Affairs)
 - Opening moment of silence in honor of Grant Woodfin and his family, The Memorial Service to Celebrate Caleb's Life will be held on Saturday November 14th, Cards delivered by 4:30 PM to the curriculum office will be delivered daily to the family, Student Services and Counseling are available, Please read the email from Class of 2017 President, Yeri Park, on how you may support the Woodfin family
 - MSG is organizing the LCME site visit student panels
2. Admissions Office Representative
 - Approximately 9,500 applications this year with 600 interviews done or scheduled
 - Planned acceptance of 50% in-state and 50% out-of-state
 - M4s are helping with tours due to the busy M2 schedule
 - New tour guides start in January
 - M3s, watch for an email regarding how to join the Admissions Committee as an M4
3. Lelia Brinegar (Assistant Dean for Curriculum)
 - No updates
4. Pemra Cetin (Assistant Dean for Student Affairs)
 - The Pay As You Earn Program has been revised so that 5 million more graduates may enter into PAYE, but you cannot have a loan balance before 2007 and you must have direct deposit (this particularly affects non-traditional M3 and M4 students)
 - PAYE Questions, follow up with Ms. Cetin
 - Federal Family Education Program eliminated
 - Follow up with VCU regarding Exit Counseling session (or meet 1 on 1 with VCU Finance) before re-organizing loans
 - If you have questions, please contact us!

Class of 2016

1. Updates:
 - Hippodrome for Match Day (new venue), No other graduation updates because they are a surprise ☺
 - M4s are interviewing and staying busy
2. Student Concerns: None

Class of 2017

1. Updates:
 - Refer to the email sent by class president, Yeri Park, for how you may support the Woodfin family
2. Student Concerns:
 - a. **Concern: Students were not aware that they needed to sign up for STEP2 in October and therefore did not budget for the exam in their fall loans**
 - STEP2 budgeting will be added in the yearly financial presentations by Pemra Cetin in the future
 - Everything in the new curriculum is shifting, next week M3s will have a special session about planning for M4 and signing up for STEP2
 - If you sign up for STEP2 in January, it will be okay
 - b. **Concern: Can we clarify if students need any health insurance or if students absolutely need to fulfill the SOM health insurance guidelines (ex. Why am I paying for insurance to fly my body back from abroad... I am not going anywhere.)**
 - The insurance guidelines have been updated and there are now 5-6 standards that students must meet
 - Please check out the Aetna website for the newest requirements
 - c. **Concern: Transparency as to the circumstances that lead to Dr. Wood's resignation**
 - Ms. Brinegar met with Dr. Struass and he wanted to reiterate that Dr. Wood's resignation was a personnel decision with no extenuating circumstances

Class of 2018

1. Updates:
 - Glad to be done Cardiology, Renal, and Pulmonology
 - Excited for Medicine Ball this weekend!
 - Went to dinner with the M1 officers and are getting to know them better
 - Would like to help in any way possible with support for Grant's Family
2. Student Concerns:
 - a. **Concern: The objectives often don't follow the material that is taught, and some students feel that too much extraneous information is added making it more stressful to prepare and study, and takes away from studying what we need for boards.**
 - Dr. DiGiovanni suggests that specific details be given to the c-reps so that we can discuss this at course reviews
 - We are teaching students to be doctors, not just to take STEP1, but please give specific complaints to the c-reps and via course reviews
 - b. **Concern: The number of students from outside programs using the building has skyrocketed, making it impossible to find study space on certain days. We understand that it is a public building so people can't be kicked out, but is there anything that can be done to preserve study space?**

- Dr. Woleben has reached out to his counterparts at the other professional schools regarding this issue
- MMEC is a public building during the day, BUT on weekdays between the hours of 6 PM to 7 AM and weekends (Friday at 5 PM thru Monday at 7 AM) please call security/police if a student is in the building that does not have swipe access
- If you do not call security, but get the student's name, please send it to Dr. Woleben, Dr. Woleben will submit the name of any student from other schools in MMEC at non-public hours so that their perspective dean's will follow-up with them
- On weekends, you must physically pull doors shut (please do this)

Class of 2019

1. Updates:

- Did well on the 1st I&I exam
- Recently completed a successful sweater drive for the homeless with all sweaters given out in approximately 10 min on the Monroe Campus
- Had a mixer with M2s, P1s, OT1s, PT1s

2. Student Concerns:

a. Concern: There have been certain concerns brought up regarding PCM. The students believe that there should be more transparency regarding the grading rubric and a consensus on the grading of encounter notes. Also, many believe that it is not conducive to go through all the specific examinations before learning basic anatomy. Students feel that they just go through the motions to be able to obtain a grade. There have also been multiple encounters with some extremely difficult SPs who have made the students uncomfortable and hesitant to participate in the simulations.

- PCM leaders are doing the best that they can to make grading consistent
- This is the first year that leaders are have a detailed rubric for grading
- Students do not have access to this rubric, but should receive feedback from leaders so they know what to include in their following notes
- A SP was released within the last 2 weeks, please provide specific feedback regarding SPs so that they may be addressed
- If you do not feel comfortable giving the feedback to the SP via the feedback form, please email Dr. DiGiovanni with your concerns and the SP's name

b. Concern: Students would like an opportunity to view incorrect answers on quizzes. They would also welcome the presence of faculty from each block at the respective exam reviews and short explanations for incorrect answers. They do not feel that they are learning from their mistakes with the protocol we have now.

- It is not possible to go over quiz answers because it is not a part of the software but it is possible to go over the answers separately during class, this is at the professors discretion
- We cannot make faculty come to the exam reviews but they are always invited

- Short blurbs explaining the exam questions is not possible due to the software
- c. **Concern: In regards to resources, there have been many more students from outside the SOM utilizing the study spaces in MMEC (particularly IPE students). Students have found it harder to find the study spaces that they need. Students are resigned to the fact that they get kicked out of the studios on Thursdays, but they feel it unfair to have other study areas taken away. They would appreciate this being addressed soon, as many more students from both classes would be studying on campus for finals in the upcoming days.**
- See Class of 2018 concerns

Medical Student Government

1. Updates:
 - Updating the MSG constitution
 - Medicine Ball this Friday
2. Student Concerns:
 - a. **Concern: How can class officers create class bank accounts via VCU? Classes have tried but it has been difficult to schedule with the VCU Finance department.**
 - The Dean's Office is in communication with Tracy Bowers, It has been more challenging than she thought it would be to create VCU accounts for classes and student interest groups
 - We want to make sure that these accounts are set up so that the money can be spent in ways that students want to spend money (ex. Current VCU policies do not allow charitable donations to local organizations)
 - b. **Concern: Moving curriculum council meetings to a later time so that students may attend**
 - It is not possible to change the time of the meetings due to a strict time schedule based on faculty
 - Curriculum reps should be attending the curriculum meetings and representing the concerns of each class
 - Curriculum reps are excused to attend all the curriculum council meetings
 - c. **Concern: Is the SOM working with VCU regarding the proposed Student Activities Fee change?**
 - The undergraduate SGA recently spent all their funds by the fall which brought up the need to expand student fees
 - A task force formed regarding student fees to look at the student fee structures, what is being spent, and if there should be an increased in student activities fees
 - Additional student fees (ex. Student Health Fee) will be reviewed as well
 - All student organizations are suggested to register with the University but in addition to the Student Activities Fee the SOM has an additional fund

- Received a 'National Spotlight' for the second year in a row
- New leaders have been selected