**October Medical Student Government Meeting**

**Minutes**

**Meeting:**

1. Welcome: Miki Nishitani
2. Speakers: Dr. Woleben, Dr. DiGiovanni, Dr. Ryan, Dr. Biskobing

Topic: Dr. Woods Resignation

Introduction: Dr. Woods resignation was a personal decision due to multiple events, none of which have anything to do with the M1/M2 town hall meeting. Dr. Wood made the decision that he could no longer be in his position, but he is planning to teach in the Mind, Brain, and Behavior (MBB) course. However, he will not be course director for the behavioral section. Dr. Silverman is currently helping to find a course director for MBB. Dr. Wood is okay and will continue to be a faculty member and serve at the school of medicine

Dr. DiGiovanni has been helping with Dr. Wood’s role for some time and with his departure will serve as the interim Senior Associate Dean until after the LCME site visit. At that point, VCU will go through the normal process when someone retires or resigns and do a search for a replacement. Due to the LCME site visit in February, the feeling is that keeping the leadership that has been in place makes the most sense.

Dr. Biskobing is the Assistant Dean of Advancement of Curriculum. She will be taking on more responsibilities and doing what Dr. DiGiovanni had been doing so that Dr. DiGiovanni may focus on Dr. Wood’s role.

Questions:

1. **In his email, Dr. Wood implied that the administration was not acting in the student’s best interest; do we know what he was referencing?**

The administration is not aware of what Dr. Wood was referring to when he mentioned the student’s best interests not being served. The reasons for Dr. Wood’s resignation were personal; they had nothing to do with education or the School of Medicine.

Dr. Wood was upset that the studios were being used for an inter-professional group on Thursday because we initially said no and that group went over our heads. That said, we need to work with the other Dean’s and inter-professional education is necessary for accreditation. This is an academic institution and you must work with other schools. Dr. Wood wanted to protect study space and study time for students in the studios.

1. **Have we asked Dr. Wood what he was referencing?**

No.

1. **How will Dr. Wood’s resignation affect the LCME visit?**

We are in very good shape for the LCME site visit. Dr. DiGiovanni is doing the executive summary now and we expect to be accredited. We probably will be cited for something but that’s the job of the site visitors. Kathy Kreutzer has done 2 accreditations with the SOM and even though she is retiring is helping out with the site visit as well.

1. **What was Dr. Wood’s role in the LCME preparation?**

Dr. Wood was the lead faculty member for the LCME preparation. That said, many administrators and faculty have worked with Dr. Wood or have worked with LCME site visits. In addition, a coordinator is coming on to help us prepare for the actual site visit.

The report was generated by a variety of individuals and Dr. Wood oversaw that process.

1. **What steps have been put in place to prevent that style of resignation occurring again?**

It’s freedom of speech, you can’t prevent someone from saying what they want to say. It was unprofessional and we stopped email access.

1. **There is a general feeling among the student body that the email was ‘kinda weird.’**

I am not sure how to address this. It was an unfortunate thing that happened and it took us by surprise, but we are doing our best to reassure students. This has been upsetting for students, faculty, and staff.

1. **Dr. Strauss was supposed to be here tonight, is there a time that Dr. Strauss may speak to us about this situation?**

Dr. Strauss will be at the M3/M4 town hall meeting on the 13th. M1s/M2s cannot come to the M3/M4 town hall because there is not enough space

1. **Some students are interested in contacting Dr. Wood to show their appreciation for the work they did with him, how may we contact him?**

Dr. Wood may still be contacted via his VCU email address.

1. **What is being done to prevent inappropriate use of the listserv?**

The Deans are now all on the listserv, but please send any inappropriate emails (from anyone!) to Dr. Woleben or Dr. DiGiovanni.

1. **I just want to confirm that no one knew that Dr. Wood was resigning.**

None of the administration was aware that Dr. Wood was going to resign and was under the impression he would stay through the site visit

1. **Is there any chance that Dr. Wood will be returning to his role?**

Dr. Wood will not be coming back to serve in his original role, but he will have a role in the school of medicine.

Closing: We appreciate that the students have reached out and your concern for Dr. Wood. We have a family here at VCU and you all are the biggest part of that family and we want to make sure we are taking care of you. If something happens, we are here for you and hope the best for Dr. Wood in the future. One person does not make or break the medical school, and we are going to be fine. The administration has an open door policy, any time you have questions or concerns, we are here.

More questions? Please see the email sent out by Dr. DiGiovanni titled ‘Updates’ on 10/08/2015 or contact an administrator.

1. Class Officer Update (see below)
2. MSG Officer Update (see below)
   * Budget requests: Class of 2018, American Association of Women Surgeons

**Class Updates:**

**Class of 2016 MCV** (President: Peter Ghamarian) – No updates

**Class of 2016 INOVA –** We are doing our away rotations. ERAS is out and we are waiting for interviews. 4th year is where it is at! INOVA students are receiving a lot of emails about INOVA from M1s, feel free to contact Sunny with questions (elagandhalak@vcu.edu).

**Class of 2017 MCV** (President: Yeri Park) – We are currently organizing a photo fundraiser (selling white coat photo and green scrub photo) and planning an MCV Apparel fundraiser that should open at Christmas. Be on the lookout for an email regarding a Halloween social!

**Class of 2017 INOVA –** We just had our M3/M4 group retreat (ropes course, zip-line). It was a great team building with us and the deans. We are collecting from our fundraising efforts and hosting a Halloween party/potluck coming up. We are starting a Radiology lecture series.

**Class of 2018** (President: Trammel Cox) – Short and sweet: Pulmonary is done and was not a disaster like Cardio, Renal is in full force.

**Class of 2019** (President: Julie Park) – We finished our physio block and it was pretty good. We are now in Pharm and it’s pretty exciting. We are organizing a class sweatshirt drive for the homeless.

**INOVA Information Meeting for M1s and M2s:**

* + Monday, October, 26th, 12:00-12:50 in MMRB 1009/1011 - Dr. Cheifetz
  + Thursday, November 19th, 12:00-1:00, location TBD - Dr. Samantha Buery Joyner
  + December date TBD - Dr. Alicia Freedy
  + January date TBD - Dr. Greg Trimble
  + February date TBD - Dr. Emily Marko

**Medical Student Government Updates:**

**President – Miki**

* LCME site visit committee is being created. Watch your email in the next couple of days for self or peer nominations for people who will be giving tours and meeting with the LCME accreditation committee. We want a diverse group of people and students will be asked to give their opinion about the school.

**Secretary - Katie**

* Next meeting – 11/12/2015, MMEC 3-101, 6:30 PM

**Treasurer - Caitlin**

* Budget Requests:

1. Class of 2018 – Pizza party to host Patch Adams, open to all students (retroactive)

Vote: 21/0/0 (pass, against, abstain)

**Approved**

1. American Association of Women Surgeons – Mentorship program, open to all students, Plan to follow-up for sponsors for monthly dinners

Vote: 19/0/2 (pass, against, abstain)

**Approved**

**VP of Social Affairs - Suraj**

* October Liver Rounds after DOCS at Hardywood (10/24/2015), 4-8 PM
* Med Ball, November 13th at the Science Museum, 8-11 PM

**VP of Community Service – Blair**

* DOCS 10/24/2015, 9-12 PM
* Post DOCS Liver Rounds at Hardywood, 4-8 PM – TONS of food and drinks!

**VP of Societies - Lisa**

* Plague is going well - 115 signed up with $250 raised. 1/3 of people have been infected but you may buy back in by the end of the week. Thank you to Suraj and TJ for your help!
* Society Halloween Party , 10/30/2015, 1-3 PM
* Be on the lookout for a ‘Meet Your Society Master’ event
* Society leader application deadline is Friday

**VP of Student Life – Grace**

* New 7th floor microwave with an extra 2 year warrantee – Treat it well!
* New signs added for the microwaves and refrigerators – Please keep these areas clean!
* New policy for refrigerators – No unsealed containers
* 8th floor flickering lights – We followed up with the building engineer, unfortunately it’s the way the building is wired and cannot be fixed. We have requested that no exams be on this floor. Dr. DiGiovanni is aware
* We have requested for the AC to be turned down in the theater and studios, but during breaks the building is returned to ‘default’, Grace will follow up with the facilities manager to make sure the temperature is correct.
* The toilets are not flushing well and stall locks are breaking, Grace will follow up with the facilities manager, and if this is an issue, please contact the MSG because we are keeping a list!

**VP of Curriculum - Kara**

* No new updates
* Curriculum council meetings are open to everyone, if you want to come, please first come to the pre-clinical (M1/M2) or clinical (M3/M4) subcommittee (see below)

Clinical subcommittee (MMEC 3-101):

November 12th – 3:30-5 PM

December 10th – 3:30-5 PM

Pre-Clinical subcommittee (MMEC 3-101):

November 5th – 2-3:30 PM

December 3rd - 2-3:30 PM

Curriculum Council (MMEC 3-101):

November 19th – 2-4 PM

December 17th – 2-4 PM

**VP of Publications – Rajbir**

* Increased communication between IT and students: Currently following up regarding students attending IT-curriculum meetings so that students may address student needs
* Do we think our methods for gathering student feedback is as it should be? Should we reassess? If we are going to submit the comments to the administration, we should make sure the complaints are clear and organized.
* Check out the MSG website: http://www.vcumsg.org/

**SGA MSG Rep – Sina**

* SGA General Body Meeting – October 14th, Larrick Ballroom B 6-8 PM
* New SGA Logo competition – Deadline 10/16/2015, Email Keith Zirkle (zirklekw@mymail.vcu.edu) if interested!
* Committee members still needed , check the MSG website for a list of opportunities, Email Keith Zirkle ([zirklekw@mymail.vcu.edu](mailto:zirklekw@mymail.vcu.edu))
* EHL Mentoring Program – Deadline 10/13/2015, Email Sarah Norwalk ([nowalks@vcu.edu](mailto:nowalks@vcu.edu)) if interested!

**Voting Members Attendance:**

X – Attended

DNA – Did not attend

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| **Attendance** | **Voting Members** | **Name** | **Proxy** |
| X | MSG President | Miki Nishitani |  |
| X | Secretary | Katie Pumphrey |  |
| X | Treasurer | Caitlin Francoisse |  |
| X | VP of Social Affairs | Suraj Mishra |  |
| X | VP of Student Life | Grace Pyon |  |
| X | VP of Curriculum | Kara Keefe |  |
| X | MSG SGA Rep | Sina Mostaghimi |  |
| X | VP of Community Service | Blair Saunders |  |
| X | VP of Publications | Rajbir Chaggar |  |
| X | VP of Societies | Lisa Olmsed |  |
| DNA | M4 Class President | Peter Ghamarian |  |
| DNA | M4 Vice President | Kassi Avent |  |
| DNA | M4 Vice President | Katie Peng |  |
| DNA | M4 Secretary | Emily Barrows |  |
| DNA | M4 Treasurer | Navin Vigneshwar |  |
| X | M4 INOVA Vice President | Sunny Elagandhala |  |
| DNA | M4 INOVA Sec/Treasurer | Audrey Bowes |  |
| DNA | M3 Class President | Yeri Park |  |
| X | M3 Vice President | Perrin Downing |  |
| DNA | M3 Vice President | Karen Brown |  |
| X | M3 Secretary | Fairouz Chibane |  |
| DNA | M3 Treasurer | Sarah Berg |  |
| X | M3 INOVA Vice President | Neil Patel |  |
| DNA | M3 INOVA Sec/Treasurer | Sri Karuturi |  |
| X | M2 Class President | Trammel Cox |  |
| X | M2 Vice President | Suraj Mishra |  |
| X | M2 Vice President | Ron Rosenberg |  |
| DNA | M2 Secretary | Aruna Anbazhagan |  |
| X | M2 Treasurer | Tim Nobbee |  |
| X | M1 Class President | Julie Park |  |
| X | M1 Vice President | TJ Phillips |  |
| X | M1 Vice President | Omar Protzuk |  |
| X | M1 Secretary | Jonathan Korpon |  |
| X | M1 Treasurer | Russel Dinh |  |