

**MSG Meeting
April 7, 2019**

Introductions

New Business

Kendall Plageman

- **[VCU Student Emergency Fund](#)**
 - The VCU Student Emergency Fund is designed to provide students with one-time financial assistance for unexpected emergency expenses that interfere with their progress toward a degree. Please note that the maximum amount that can be approved is \$500.
 - Long-term needs can be addressed by meeting with the Dean of Students office or Financial Aid to determine available options. Please note funds may count as income, may be subject to federal and/or state taxes and may affect your financial aid package.
- **[Student Life and Learning Fund](#)** provides grants and loans to students impacted by COVID-19. Students can request an application by visiting the website for Strategic Enrollment Management: <https://sem.vcu.edu/covid-19/>.
- **[Basic/financial needs resource sheet](#)**
- **[Ram Pantry](#)** is closed for operations right now but site is updated with local resources operating during COVID-19.
- **[Off Campus Support](#)** – the Dean of Students advisor, Lisa Mathews-Ailsworth can assist students with housing related concerns (landlord disputes, eviction concerns, etc.), individual budgets, etc. You can schedule an appointment at <https://vcuoffcampus.youcanbook.me/>
- Commencement/Balfour – regalia shipping reduced from 12.95 to 4.95. Shipping will be delayed (possibly after May 8th).
- MCV Campus Welcome Fair – 8/14, Larrick, 11-1
- MCV Campus Block Party – 9/3, outside Larrick, 5-7
- Counseling updates – accepting new clients next week. They will continue to work with students on appropriate and affordable community referrals if they cannot meet their therapy needs.

Dr. Woleben

- Pre-clinical curriculum updates
 - Online lectures via Zoom sessions have been successful
 - GI exam went well last week, average score higher than previous years
 - only one student with issues accessing the exam, but they were resolved
 - Planning to continue remote learning until the end of semester for M1s

- No anticipated change in start date for M2 year: July 20th is the return date, will update if there is any changes
- Summer research experiences
 - University is still only allowing virtual/remote experiences
 - Will check in with Dr. Donnenberg about any more information re: fellowship opportunities
- Clinical curriculum updates
 - For rising M3s - the start date of M3 year will be based on when the COVID-19 peak in VA would be (while the peak was initially projected in May, at this time it seems to be earlier, towards end of April)
 - We are discussing between mid-June versus July
 - Starting next week rising M3s and M4s will participate in crash COVID course
 - Completed at home at your own pace, for transcript credit
 - Will be composed of online modules, some live Zoom sessions (which will be recorded) as well as couple reflection assignments
 - Series of 2-week non-clinical electives will be available to sign up
 - Topics include ethics, dermatology, child abuse/neglect, advanced anatomy, physiology of COVID-19, geriatrics, basic ICU skills
 - Most will be done at own pace, ~20 hours/week commitment
 - We hope to make these electives available for future classes as well
 - Telehealth and other opportunities being looked into to provide some parts of clerkship/patient care
- The school is looking at Step 2 testing dates modifications and helping students with rescheduling; we will be very flexible about test dates when students return
- Capstone for graduating M4s to start next week
 - Dr. Ryan will send out more clarifying information
 - Some will be recorded but many sessions require interaction and will likely require attendance with QR code
 - Time zones will be put into consideration for students who are out of state
- Virtual graduation ceremony at 3PM on May 8th; Dr. Kirch will participate via live-stream or a recorded message
- Logistics of individual hooding ceremony being held when students are allowed to return to campus are being discussed, as well as a possibility of a ceremony at 5-year reunion
- Tuition and fee refund -
 - University has sent out refund announcements regarding housing, dining, and parking.
 - SOM is working on providing alternative methods of educational opportunities and at this time not looking into closing the school or providing a tuition refund
 - The tuition of medical school is determined based on the yearly average of cost of all 4 years of schooling, and takes dedicated periods and interview season already into consideration.

MSG Updates

a. Class Updates

i. Class of 2023

1. Just took our GI part 2 exam; now in endo
2. Trying to keep class spirits raised through social media and other supportive measures
3. Donated anatomy lab supplies to VCU hospital

ii. Class of 2022

1. Not starting clinical duties until further notice
2. 3 new electives (one on COVID-19 physiology, epi, etc.) starting April 13
3. Continuing discussions with Dr. Woleben of impact of this on our class
4. Created survey to see what people have been up to and try to shine a more positive light on what has come out of this educational delay
5. Class election to take place in mid-May, but current officers to hold position until we return to clinical settings

iii. Class of 2021 - Finishing up shelf exams this week

iv. Class of 2020

1. Figuring out ways to use class funds
 - a. Thought of class gifts and scholarships but Dr. Woleben says they have to be verified by financial office to see if it's possible
 - b. Looking into donation logistics or even funding future grad ceremony
2. Over the next 2 weeks we are M3 (+everyone) info session for specialties
 - a. Zoom meetings listed on Excel sheets shared via email
 - i. More may be added, so please continue to check
 - b. Geared towards M3s but open to everyone
 - c. Meetings starting this week and more next week
 - d. This week:
 - i. Couples match session this Thursday
 - ii. IM and Neuro sessions are this Friday

v. INOVA - no updates

b. President (Alvin)

i. Outline of what has happened so far, and what is next

1. Volunteering - MRC, Mike M's donation drive (FeedMore), Mask-making, Collection/donation of supplies, RAL/SPCA
 - a. More details to be sent out via Scoop this week
2. Social events - Instagram, Social events, etc
 - a. Hashtag for students, more info on Scoop
3. Wellness - weekly emails from Dr. Deiorio, Peer Advocates

c. Secretary (Katherine)

i. Election postponed to May

1. Application due Friday, May 1

- ii. All officers, please create a sign out doc for your successors and send to me before mid-May
 - 1. Helpful tip is to organize the responsibilities by month
- d. Treasurer (Dani)
 - i. [BUDGET CLICK HERE](#)
 - ii. Send me your receipts when you turn in reimbursement paperwork
 - iii. MSG Officers - please contact me to confirm your remaining purchases for the year
- e. VP Social (Akshay)
 - i. Alternative to Zoom such as Discord, Houseparty to be introduced to students via Scoop
- f. VP Student Life (Divya)
 - i. New scoop edition for COVID-19 to be sent out starting this week
 - ii. Call for volunteering, social, and SIG blurbs
- g. VP Societies (Emma)
 - i. No updates
- h. VP Community Service (Chuck)
 - i. MRC Volunteering - still waiting for assignments from them
 - ii. Sending out information about the Feedmore fundraiser
 - iii. Also spreading link to HandsOnRVA
<https://www.handsonrva.org/critical-volunteers>
 - iv. SPCA and RAL looking for fosters
- i. VP Publications (Yena)
 - i. Updated Covid-19 page of website for volunteer opportunities
 - ii. New MSG Instagram @vcusom_msg
 - 1. highlighting stories/activities by our community during these times
 - 2. #mcvquarantinestories hashtag for students to update their life
- j. VP Curriculum (Komal)
 - i. Refer to Woleben's emails for updates
 - ii. Last Curriculum Council Summary: shelf exam discussion
 - iii. Step 1
 - 1. Avg for Class of 2022 so far: 232 (230 last year)
 - 2. 14 people have not taken, Prometric reopening date TBD
 - iv. GI exam - moved back 2 days due to adjustment to online learning. Score was a couple points higher than last year!
 - v. Currently plans are to start on time in July for both M1 and M2.
 - vi. PALs
 - 1. Pre-Clinical (Endocrine)
 - a. Have 2 dedicated rising M4 (2021) as TAs
 - b. Have 5 dedicated rising M3s (2022) + 1 rising graduate (2020) as tutors
 - c. Use them for one-on-one tutoring!**
 - 2. Clinical

- a. Session Wed 4/8: for rising M3s on clerkship resources for anyone wanting to get a head start
 - b. In general, goal is to expand PALs to be used for clerkships & shelf exams
 - 3. Overall goal: trying to reduce tutor to students ratio
 - 4. Update Corinne and Komal if your class would like a particular session on anything
- k. MSG SGA Representative (Everett)
 - i. SGA election has been pushed to the fall for those interested in running for a position
 - ii. May 1 - deadline for SGA funding to submit the application
 - 1. Will send out SGA funding crash course as another email
- l. Wellness Committee (Wei-Li and Kalissa)
 - i. No update