School of Public Health Student Senate Meeting Notes: June 24th, 2020
7 PM-8 PM via Zoom

In Attendance:
Ian Passe (President), Keelia Silvis (Vice President), Sophia Ibrahim Ali (Director of Communications), Susana Carlos (Secretary), Alina Okamoto, Cynthia Pando, Rebecca Molinsky, Eileen Bourland, Aanu Ayeni

- Check-ins

OFFICER REPORTS
President Updates - Ian Passe:
- PSG/COGS task force - Created a finalized proposal with recommendations on public safety
- University Senate met this week
  - Eileen Bourland will be the next representative once the next session starts
- The EPC (Educational Policy Committee) is seeking a student representative

Vice-President Updates - Keelia Silvis:
- PHAP met with Dean Finnegar and a lot of energy to be involved in anti-racism + change
  - Malik Williams will be the PHAP liaison working with Senate
- Student activism spreadsheet & subcommittee
  - Could be better communicated to administration to get students connected
  - Discussion - should this be a new Senate committee?
    - Motion from Alina Okamoto to approve a subcommittee for activism led by Malik Williams
    - Motion passed

Director of Communications Updates - Sophia Ibrahim Ali:
- No new updates from DEI strategic planning committee, next meeting July 6th
  - May be meeting more often once we regroup
- Communications & social media updates:
  - Sharing articles, processing spaces, etc. for students
  - Have a LinkedIn page, follow and like this page! → we want as many people from SPH to like this!
  - Instagram & Twitter: @umnsphsenate

Treasurer Updates - Devon Sauerer:
- Not present
Secretary Updates - Susana Carlos
- Diversity Network
  - Having trouble with email address, need faculty contact
  - Jennifer Porter?
- EDIT
  - Event planning committee
  - Good collaboration with DN
- Student Organization Survey
  - Sent to Jennifer Porter, who liked it
  - Waiting for more information about what we want to do with student groups
  - Discussing the kinds of things that new student groups need (transitions, etc)
  - Survey is ready pending constitution

COMMITTEE REPORTS
Orientation Updates - Alina Okamoto:
- First meeting went well and recognized need to get students connected
  - Online orientation will likely take place on Canvas
  - Reach out to other schools to see what is occurring across the U

Education - Connection with Dean Wattenberg:
What does Senate want to support student education in?
- Students expressed interest in the role of social media in Public Health, as a tool for communication and its role in misinformation
- More education on racism and the historical lack of access to institutions by BIPOC that contributes to Public Health issues today
- More programming for discussions on health equity, privilege, and related topics
- Some classes were too general in knowledge gained and the core courses were described as needing improvement
- Faculty could get these conversations going with specific scenarios for class discussions. Often, activities involve hypothetical places and communities that prevent conversation to include a DEI lens
- Access and faculty support for disability accommodations
- More tools for faculty to engage students deeper in curriculum
- PhD students will benefit from improvement to SPH courses and Master-level classes
  - Similarly, PhD students want a competency in equity and structural racism integrated into curriculum

Senate & Dean Collaboration:
- Townhall is scheduled for July 17th?
• Meeting w Dean Wattenberg priorities:
  ○ Adding BIPOC scholarship to class bibliographies
  ○ Possibly use HPM ideas
  ○ Concerns about misrepresenting students concerns, needs
• Want to work w Education Policy Committee
  ○ Also this committee needs a website

COVID-19 Adjustments
• SPH Classes are moving online
• SPHere will be open, comp lab will be spaced
  ○ Kitchen opened? Cleaning
• WE NEED MORE CERTAINTY.
  ○ Rebecca: Scrambling bc Rich Epi class, stress, weird sketchy removal of class
  ○ Eileen: Deadline by end of July for certainty, planning
    ◼ Both incoming and returning students need to know for financial, health insurance, mental health reasons
  ○ Rebecca: Issues w in-person class, move to WBOB options, uncertainty--lack of communication
• Classes that are in-person will end by Thanksgiving
  ○ Attempts for social-distancing in-person, esp for undergrad
  ○ Mike Osterholm: “No one is making these decisions based on finances” (Ian, also Keelia are not convinced)
• To-Do: Ian will reach out to Dept Coordinators, Directors re communication on COVID-19 curriculum changes; they need to be better

Other Business:
• Epi is writing a letter to the Dean, plan is to have letter finalized within next week

Motion to adjourn meeting by Alina Okamoto, seconded by Sophia Ibrahim Ali
Motion passed at 8:25 PM