

## School of Public Health Student Senate Meeting Notes: Monday, February 08, 2021

6:00pm-7:00 PM CT via Zoom

In Attendance: Ian Passe (President), Keelia Silvis (Vice-President), Sophia Ibrahim Ali (Director of Communications), Susana Carlos (Secretary), Sylvia Gutierrez (Yoga Series Coordinator), Christopher Schmitt (Alumni Relations Board Member), Alexandra Kurutz, Cynthia Pando (COGS), Julia Ngep, Emily McGuire, Victoria Anderson, Aanu Ayeni, Rebecca Molinsky (COGS), Foster Jacobs (COGS), Taylor Lees (PSG), Joseph Akambase, TH Tran, Taiwo Aremu, Morian Yarrow. Absent: Sarah Steffen (Treasurer), Alina Okamoto (MHA Executive Board).

### CHECK-IN

- This is a difficult period, and many people are experiencing imposter syndrome
  - BUT! Each of you *belong!*
  - Presentation by Vic Massaglia on Imposter Syndrome:  
<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1tIXBsEDyR6F80AFWPTHICn7Q72LuhRqXvjJ7zJF33Dk/edit?usp=sharing>
- Question: What is some tasty food you had recently?
- It's Black History Month - event planning and collaborations this month (updates)

### OFFICER REPORTS

#### President Updates - Ian Passe:

- Sarah Steffen is our new Director of Finance!
- Help us schedule the upcoming Quarterly Meeting with Dean Finnegan:  
[https://doodle.com/poll/mizh6mxyigsd624z?utm\\_source=poll&utm\\_medium=link](https://doodle.com/poll/mizh6mxyigsd624z?utm_source=poll&utm_medium=link)
- SPHSS/PASA Presidents' Lecture Series II + III
- Open Senate Seats (1 HPM, 2 Schoolwide):  
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-lfrVZIWUr6gmOTn2if1oaHV-XzIQedggVOC-Z4JEJuyMhA/viewform>
- Increasing Senate/Eboard diversity next year
  - Incentives/paying senators for time
  - Directly connecting with students who we think would be good senators, word of mouth, maybe more in-class presentations
    - Has been the most effective method of recruitment
- First-year and non-graduating students are welcome to join the Commencement Planning committee, contact Ian
- GRAD SERU committee is TBD

#### Vice-President Updates - Keelia Silvis:

- Student needs updates--stress, isolation, imposter syndrome
  - The Events Committee is working on this, we'll talk more later!
- Financial burden

- Values of SPHSS are "include, include, include." If students need to take breaks from the program/change their path for financial reasons, we should be compassionate & supportive.
- Advocate for later withdrawal deadline for full reimbursement.
  - Early in the week classes meet very few times before deadline

#### Director of Communications Updates - Sophia Ibrahim Ali:

- Follow the Senate on all social media pages, like/comment/share posts
  - Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/UMNsphss>
  - Twitter: @umnsphsenate
  - Instagram: @umnsphsenate

#### Secretary Updates - Susana Carlos:

- No updates

#### Finance Updates - Sarah Steffen:

- Grants: Professional Development applications are coming in every day since the emails to the school! **Please respond in a timely manner so that we can fund students expediently.**

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### Alumni Update:

- Recap of President's Platform
- Ted Talk-style discussion hosted by alumni in coming weeks

#### Events Committee Updates:

- Sylvia: Yoga Series
- Sarah & Keelia: Biweekly Happy Hours & Midweek Lunch Socials
  - Sign up to host one of the upcoming socials: [SPHSS Socials Sign-Up](#)
- Structural Oppression Seminar (SOS) series
  - These seminars will fulfil student/community desire for learning & engagement opportunities on social determinants of health, as shown in the [Campus Climate Survey](#).
  - Now in partnership with SPH DI (Lauren + Gayle)
  - Current speakers: [SPHSS Structural Oppression Seminar \(SOS\) Series](#)

#### Grants Committee Voting

- Keelia Silvis: Motion to allocate a total of **\$500** for a speaker honorarium to Dr. Marcus Rushing to host a Structural Oppression Seminar on environmental injustice on Friday, 2021-03-05. Lauren Eldridge personally recommended Dr. Rushing.
  - Dr. Rushing has 18 years of clinical experience in pathology, family care, and environmental health, and he currently works at the MDH and the Emerging Infections Program with the CDC to help study the effects of the vaccine on

healthcare workers. On a personal note, I collaborated with Dr. Rushing on lab safety when I worked as a neuroscience lab manager, and I can personally attest to his commitment to structural solutions to health problems.

- 14 Ayes, 0 nays
- Keelia Silvis: Motion to allocate a total of **\$500** for a speaker honorarium to [James Borroughs](#) of Minnesota Children's to host a Structural Oppression Seminar on the intersections of structural racism & classism on children's health on Friday, 2021-04-02. Lauren Eldridge personally recommended Mr. Borroughs.
  - Borroughs has served as senior director, chief equity and inclusion officer since 2019, and in that first-ever role at Children's Minnesota, has made strides towards equity within the organization. He led the development and implementation of a strategic plan to advance diversity, equity and inclusion.
  - 14 ayes, 0 nays

#### COGS:

- Updates

#### Professional Student Government:

- Updates

#### University Senate (Emily McGuire):

- Alcohol Sponsorship policy to the BoR
- Next meeting February 25th
  - Demilitarization of the UMPD, Student protesting, Student Senator equity training, Support and resources for those struggling with eating disorders, Phasing out the utilization of ACT test scores in admissions, Making voting in elections an excused absence for students, Influence of legacy considerations in applications, Refunds on student fees and/or tuition, Support for RSGAs to provide emergency funds for constituents, Twin Cities COVID-19 testing site expansion

#### EDIT/Diversity Network:

- Solicited call across SPH to collaborate on a 21-day racial equity
  - Communication plan ([in progress, draft](#))
  - Role open for a champion or advocate student lead to work on this
- Calendar of events TBD

#### **OTHER UPDATES**

- Health Equity Work Group (Jake Abrahams) - recap of the Health Disparities Roundtable
  - This year's theme related to social and ethical concerns around vaccination of COVID-19
  - [Register](#), April 16th, 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.