

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 Finnegan 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