

AGENDA

AS Council Meeting

Tuesday, Nov 29th @ 17:30 in Room 021

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1. Opening of the meeting
2. Motion to start the meeting
   * Motion by Mo, seconded by Michael (5:39 PM)
3. Motion to adopt agenda
   * Motion by Mo, seconded by Michael
4. Approving last meeting’s minutes
   * Motion by Mo, seconded by Michael
5. Question period
   * None
6. Council Updates
   * AS President – Mo Gemae
     + Since the AGM, we’ve had a few developments with the faculty.
     + First event which we contributed to: Wellness Workshop
       1. During last meeting with MD program, provided some insight into the Wellness Workshops and identified some gaps
          1. To address lack of attendance, UGME is considering “rebranding” the workshops away from “Wellness” to “Professional Development”
       2. Similar feedback from Wellness Workshops is being applied to Career and EDII workshops
       3. Post-accreditation (April), Queens will be soliciting feedback from students regarding how to improve curriculum.
     + There is a new space on the fourth floor called “The Nest” (EDIIA Space)
     + We are thinking of changing the TV displays on the first floor from weather displays to a theme of ‘celebrations’ (religious, academic, etc…). Mo will be soliciting feedback from students regarding which celebrations to promote.
       1. This list of celebrations/observations will be shared with UGME to try to ensure that exams/assessments aren’t scheduled at the same time.
     + Undergraduate (non-medicine FHS) students are booking study rooms in the School of Medicine. This is permissible because all QHS students are allowed to book rooms in all QHS buildings. This is something that UGME is unwilling to change.
     + *Speakers List*
       1. *Danny Ke: I asked my Altitude Mentee if she could book a room and she wasn’t able to (she was in the BHSc undergraduate program)*
          1. *Mo: It might just be certain departments (e.g. rehab, nursing, etc…)*
       2. *Kim Mitchell: There were flyers posted on some external doors of SoMB from the Nursing dept. mentioning that they don’t get as many resources as medical students (specifically Wellness Resources). The tone was rather accusatory, and I wanted to get your thoughts on how to move forward with this?*
          1. *Mo: I’m meeting with the nursing president next Monday and will bring this up. I haven’t seen the flyer myself, but I will investigate this issue.*
          2. *Farzan: This might be part of a larger issue because there have been anecdotes about nursing students being hostile to medical students.*
          3. *Kabir: At a previous meeting, Dr. Philpott indicated that she was appalled by the conditions of the nursing students’ situation. They are in the process of building a new QHS building with ample room for nursing students.*
          4. *Kim: I hope that we can stand in solidarity with nursing students given that they will be our future colleagues. I also know from my previous experience working with unions is that if there is ever an argument with two parties wanting more resources, it always ends with the party with more losing those resources.*
          5. *Shangari: This issue was brought up in the Senate meeting too. It is on the agenda for future discussions.*
       3. *Pallavi: With regard to the EDIIA space, how will this space be used and how are we eliciting feedback?*
          1. *Mo: Currently, Sami (Equity Officer) and Emma (Wellness Officer) are working closely to provide feedback.*
       4. *Shangari: Have EDIIA office hours been set up now?*
          1. *Mo: Yes. You can email Dr. Chung if you’d like to set up a meeting.*
   * Vice-President of Finance – Annie Kang
   * Vice-President of External Affairs, Senior Amelia Boughn
     + Met with VP EDI of OMSA who is meeting with representatives from all medical schools. We are currently circulating a survey among our class for an OMSA project.
     + Going to Toronto this weekend for an OMSA board meeting.
     + No questions
   * Vice-President of External Affairs, Junior – Pallavi Dutta
     + Will be conducting the OMSA meeting in-person for the first time since the pandemic. Hoping to learn more about what other schools are doing.
     + No questions
   * Vice-President of Internal Affairs – Farzan Ansari
     + Continuing to pursue the kitchenette class photos initiative. Seeking a source of funding.
     + Working on the new AS lectureship awards. Hoping to set up lectureship award voting via Elentra.
     + Almost done planning mentorship trivia. Aiming to be second week of January. $800 prize for the winning group!
     + *Speakers List*
       1. *Candice: In the SoMB lobby, there is a professionalism award that they’ve assigned to doctors in the past. Is this an award we administer?*
          1. *Farzan: Will look into this tomorrow.*
       2. *Sabra: Just a comment about the photos in the Kitchenette. Simone (Meds 25) mentioned that she’d be happy to take the headshots for the photos. She is willing to do it for free but it is best practice to compensate her.*
          1. *Farzan: We want to ensure that this is as sustainable as possible moving forward for future years, this is why we want to move away from having a student take charge of taking the headshots. Ultimately, we want this to become something that can be administered by the UGME.*
       3. *Mo: This initiative was originally paid for by the Dean’s fund, but this was removed in recent years. We are looking for other sources of funding currently. The main goal of including these photos is to increase a feeling of inclusion and connect with those from other classes (upper years, etc…). In Dr. Piliotis’s words “this should not be an issue re: funding”. In terms of who the photographer is going to be, it may just end up being printing the headshots from Elentra. UGME will cover printing costs.*
   * Vice-President of Academic Affairs – Kabir Walia
     + From the SoM planning meeting two weeks ago (meeting with all QHS faculties/departments).
     + Initial discussions about what the SoM stands for and established plans for the next 5 years (included EDII)
     + Had one-on-one time with representatives from the School of Rehabilitation and other EDIIA figures. Dr. Van Wylick approached me and mentioned that expanding the SP portfolio was on the agenda because there is currently a shortage.
     + On the assessment and learning committee.
       1. Approved a motion to make the grade book for OSCEs more transparent.
          1. Now, students can see a section-by-section breakdown when they receive feedback instead of an overall score.
       2. Re-evaluated assessment plans for clerkship courses
       3. For blood and coagulation course, they have moved the neoplasia section to prior to when it’s being covered in the unit.
     + At an upcoming EDII meeting, there has been numerous developments regarding presentations on curriculum.
     + *Speakers List*
       1. *Sabra: Currently, OSCE rubrics are not viewable in second year for clinical skills. Could we make them viewable prior to the OSCEs in addition to post-assessments?*
       2. *Sabra: On the topic of SPs, it was brought up that it’s difficult to recruit SPs of color due to jurisdictional issues with UofT*
          1. *Kabir: Dr. Van Wylick mentioned this, and he mentioned that SPs have to be older than 14. He wants to try to recruit SPs from the QueensU student population as it is more diverse.*
       3. *Sabra: On a curricular note, we felt that the cardio-resp block could be restructured such that the basics of cardiovascular system could be taught prior to the murmurs lecture.*
          1. *Kabir: If everyone in second year agrees to this change, please fill out the feedback form so this complaint is formalized.*
          2. *Sabra: Is there a way for course reps to elicit feedback instead of going through a feedback form, given that second-years are already done with the block?*
          3. *Kabir: Unsure at the moment. Will follow-up with Dr. Gibson.*
       4. *Kim: Just wanted to clarify the statement re: SPs, was the problem that “the community is not diverse enough”?*
          1. *Sabra: It wasn’t necessarily a comment about the community, I’m just reiterating what I heard from other students.*
          2. *Kabir: To pick up on this, it is on the agenda to diversify SPs going forward. It was brought up that recruiting non-white SPs was a problem historically. However, I’m confident that we can recruit more SPs of color if we look in different places.*
       5. *Mo: In the eyes of the faculty, the BEST way to submit course feedback is through a feedback form. Every comment in a review that has a course rating below a certain threshold is reviewed.* 
          1. *Sabra: The feedback processes for academics are very form-heavy. Could we diversify how we elicit feedback in a way that leads to more action?*
       6. *Pallavi: As another Academic consideration to put on your radar, Kabir, we have had instructors making fat-phobic comments. Letters/messages have been written to provide feedback to faculty.*
     + And for Academic Coordinator – Vacant
   * Treasurer – Ranmeet Dulai
     + No updates at this time
   * Communication Officer – David Vaz
     + Meeting minutes have been uploaded to the website as have AS updates and the AS calendar
     + To AS: if your info or photo are not on the website, let David know directly. If you have anything you want posted on social media also let David know as we need content.
     + AS events calendar – similar to interest groups calendar, so that we have all the events in one place
     + Contact info has been collected, will be distributed shortly
     + A note that the QMED calendar has a privacy and confidentiality issue as anyone within QMED can see each other’s calendar events. This can be fixed at the individual level by going to My Calendar > Settings > Access permissions for events, and changing the default privacy settings from public to private
     + The Sunday Fundays have an 80% read rate so if you want something shared please submit it
     + Met with Elentra representative. There has been a change at the administration there so they are now much more willing to meet with QMED students. We can set up monthly or biweekly meetings with them to improve the platform for us. Let David know if you are interested in participating.
     + *Speaker’s List*
       1. *Mo: Thank you to David for everything that you’re doing. Please update your headshots and your roles, as UGME uses the website to identify who to contact. The more information that is available on the website, the better, to reduce gaps in communication with UGME.*
       2. *Imran: Thanks for discussing Elentra. If there are SOPs, they can be added to Sunday Funday too.*
       3. *Kabir: Can we request colour-coding in Elentra so courses can be differentiated? This is in place at other schools.*
   * University Affairs Officer, Senior – Kobi Pollard
     + Week of February 11th – multiple socials are happening this week
     + Will begin planning interprofessional social event with nurses
     + No questions
   * University Affairs Officer, Junior – Shangari Vijenthira
     + Went to senate twice since last meeting. Had a discussion on supports for medicine and nursing students as faculties grow. Response from student affairs was a little lackluster.
     + Senate meetings are moving to Thursdays next year (during first year clinical skills). Can we assign someone to go to Senate meeting in-lieu of my position.
       1. *Kobi: Yes.*
     + Reminders: Medical absences are not required for respiratory illnesses (from Senate)
     + No questions
   * Social Affairs Officer (2) – Jamie Zucker and Mansi Dave
     + Clothing sale closed last Sunday. Noticed that some items weren’t selling as well as others. Open to feedback to improve for next year. Something to note is that the merchandising coordinator may want to further restrict the number of clothing items for sale next year.
     + Clothing distribution is aiming to occur on December 15th.
     + Fittings for the leather jacket sale occurred two weeks prior. We had 21 students show up to the fittings, and the quota was 20. So fortunately, we will be going forward with the sale.
     + Regarding the ski trip: 56 people have been selected with 15 others on waitlist. Unfortunately, there aren’t enough to advocate for a second bus for the trip.
     + For the ski trip, we are unsure about how to go about payment, insurance, and rooms.
     + There is a 100% paid spot available as a part of the package we bought (transportation, accommodation, ski life tickets). How should we go about using this?
     + *Speakers List*
       1. *Imran: Can students still order leather jackets if they weren’t fitted for it?*
          1. *Jamie: Yes, if you reach out to me and provide certain measurements, I can add your information to the final order.*
       2. *Mo: Are leather jackets part of a yearly portfolio? Will this continue for next year?*
          1. *Jamie: This is technically part of the portfolio, but I think it’s up to individual social representatives.*
       3. *Danny: Can we use that free ticket to subsidize a fraction of everyone else’s ticket?*
          1. *Mansi: It would be $7 off per person, so it is definitely an option but it might not make as much of an impact as desired.*
       4. *Farzan: Is there a possible way to make the waitlist based on randomization rather than first-come-first-serve, similar to other interest groups? It might make it more equitable going forward.*
          1. *Mansi: We can make a note of this in the transition reports for the representatives for next year.*
   * Athletics Officer (2) – Ashwin Rao and Nikita Pasricha
     + Charity hockey game: Planning a faculty vs. student game in honor of a third-year medical student. Have booked the Leon’s Center for ice time. After party at Meds House. We are hoping to have the third-year class more involved (first priority to sign up for the roles they’re interested in). Also looping in the first- and second-year athletic representatives.
       1. Hoping to get a sponsorship from a Medical Insurance firm who is interested in providing some funds.
       2. General organizational structure: Finance, fundraising, communication teams
     + Med games: Will be in Quebec City from May 5 – May 7th
       1. Still confirming which sports will be run. More information will be provided in the new year.
       2. Considering doing another t-shirt order for med games. Will run a poll on Discord to establish a t-shirt design.
     + Pre-clerk cup: Three competitions throughout the year. Most interest was for indoor sports (dodgeball, volleyball) and soccer. Trying to book out space at the ARC for dodgeball.
       1. Hoping to run dodgeball next week post-HSF bellringer for first years, but it might be too rushed.
     + No questions
   * Global Health Liaison, Senior – Candice Martin
     + All-committee meeting for Global Health was held last week
       1. QueerMed has a board game social on December 2nd.
       2. QueerMed is meeting with curricular on December 6th.
       3. Indigenous students association hoping to hire for the environmental committee and hosting a land acknowledgment workshop.
     + Trying to schedule an MMI prep session from Black and Indigenous applicants
     + National Day of Action occurred a few weeks ago. Delegates paid a lot out of pocket. Hoping to dig into funding sources to compensate delegates for accommodation/transportation.
     + CQMIG planning a naloxone workshop for the near future.
     + No updates from education committee.
     + Environmental Committee is still being established.
     + HHRC is scheduled for February 4th (on a Saturday), the theme is “Stigmatization on Healthcare”. Still in planning phases currently.
     + EDIIA Nest is trying to schedule events for the next year and is working to allocate funding.
   * Global Health Liaison, Junior – Jose Navarro
     + CFMS training for global health. Biggest takeaway is restarting international exchanges.
     + Called the SCOPE and SCORE (clinical exchanges)
       1. Work with LOE (Local Officer of Exchange)
     + *Speakers List*
       1. *Mo: Can you ensure that those on the MMI review panel are not participating in the Global Health MMI event.*
   * Student Initiatives and Research Officer – Danny Ke
     + Interest groups are going well, and calendar is being utilized.
     + One challenge is promoting the calendar to QMed students.
     + Not all interest groups have presented events. Given that mid-year reports are coming up, its necessary that IGs have one or two hours of programming in 2022-early 2023.
     + Hoping to promote the use of the mic further. I know that it might be an additional challenge, but we are trying to make it as accessible as possible.
     + SIGCO – David Vaz
       1. No updates
     + *Speakers List*
       1. *Mo: Last year, people sent Emma a request to add events to the calendar and she sent a Zoom link in return. That added an incentive to use the calendar.*
          1. *Danny: Currently, the incentive is that groups who book time slots on the calendar get a priority for that time slot.*
          2. *Mo: Another way to enforce events to be on the calendar is to require it for D&A approval.*
       2. *Candice: Can we put a link for how and when to use the calendar on Sunday Funday?*
          1. *Imran: Similar to the GCal section previously mentioned, we could include a quick screenshot or link in the Sunday Funday.*
   * Wellness Officer – Emma Dennison
     + Met with all the Wellness Reps at the CFMS round table to discuss the Wellness Curriculum
       1. Large longitudinal study on Wellness Curriculum in Canada. The author discussed findings and will be putting out a report soon. Will be brought up to the UGME advisory board. One consideration is branding events as ‘wellness’-related.
     + Crossover between AS and council: unsure who is running what event.
       1. We need to clarify where the funding comes from for Wellness events.
     + Wellness Month
       1. Bell Let’s Talk day is the end of Jan. Due to this, I am hoping to move Wellness Month to February.
     + Discussed free coffee in the kitchenette -> Funded by Wellness during Wellness Month (Feb)
     + Advocating for more ‘serious’ updates related to wellness (e.g. EDIIA inclusion)
     + Applying for a $500 grant from CMFS re: Wellness. Discussed mental health first aid training with Dr. Fitzpatrick. Some of the $500 grant can be used to subsidize training costs for this mental health first aid training.
     + Second-years have been feeling unwell post-cardio/resp. Have been seeking help from Anna (Embedded Counsellor) and other resources but it isn’t incredibly accessible. Hoping to ascertain the needs of medical students to establish whether or not another counsellor is needed.
       1. Within SGPS, you can also use your insurance to see a virtual counsellor (up to $500).
     + *Speakers’ List:*
       1. *Mo: I know UGME is also looking into a clinical skills-style workshop on suicidal ideation in students.*
          1. *Emma: That’s definitely a step in the right direction. I’d still like to continue to advocate for a separate training for students/friends in need.*
       2. *Amelia: Would it be helpful to find out how many counsellors other medical schools have at the OMSA meeting this weekend?*
          1. *Emma: Yes, that’d be super helpful.*
       3. *Danny: Just to clarify, are you asking for another Embedded Counsellor?*
          1. *Emma: Yes.*
   * Equity Officer, Senior – Samriddhi Mishra
     + “hey imran - so my only major update for today is just that i have reached out to helen and by extension the rest of the D&A to get the ball rolling on setting up a anti-opp workshop/training early next term!”
   * Equity Officer, Junior – Vacant
   * Student Representative to the Admissions Committee Sr. – Owen Kolasky
     + Ran mock MMI, and the admissions committee appreciated everyone’s input.
     + File review is poised to begin at the start of December.
     + Received a response from the admissions committee with regards to the change in GPA requirements.
     + Looking to recruit for the MMI review (2025s). The application is open until the end of the week.
     + Managing conflicts of interest: Admissions committee has a firm stance on not allowing students who have friends/family members applying this cycle to participate in the admissions review process.
     + Sending out a call to recruit medical students with diverse backgrounds to comprise an AS subcommittee on admissions.
       1. End state: Subcommittee will be sitting with the two admissions representatives to gather student perspectives on the application process. Will not be involved in looking at confidential information.
     + Panel interview volunteers will be sought in the new year
     + Junior – Kimberly Mitchell
       1. No updates
     + *Speakers List:*
       1. *Mo: Admissions subcommittee is a new initiative to ensure that every possible perspective is represented on the admissions committee at every level. Please suggest feedback as we have the power to enact change on this level.*
       2. *Imran: Do we have a timeline for the review applications?*
          1. *Owen: Likely will be pushed to January to not interfere with holiday break plans.*
          2. *Mo: As a reminder, all years can you participate in this subcommittee.*
   * First Year President – Michael Cole
     + Our class is particularly passionate about not showing class averages in Elentra. The faculty mentioned that all four classes must be on board with this idea.
   * Second Year President – Sabra Salim
     + Class Council has been going great
     + Jan and Ashwin (Curricular Team) deserve a shoutout
     + Cam Wong (Clinical Skills Representative) has generated an OSCE-prep website
     + Social Representatives organized a karaoke event
       1. A note for future events: we can try to avoid an abundance of alcohol- or bar- centric events.
     + Secret Santa event
     + Screening Room event taking place December 6th
     + Clerkship selection is coming up next year. Brought up a more informal event within that week about clerkship streams with Molly and Bryan (Third Year Presidents).
     + Logan (Second year VP) is looking into merchandise for the class (non-Patagonia as that was done last year)
     + Coffee is now a permanent fixture in the kitchenette (voted on by both first- and second-year councils)
     + Mixer event for first and third years is also scheduled.
     + Mo and I will be speaking with Dr. Piliotis regarding the timing of the white-coat ceremony
     + *Speakers List:*
       1. *Mo: Just an FYI, there is coffee, a fridge, and microwaves in the EDIIA Nest.*
       2. *Jose: Would QueerMed be able to secure a space in the EDIAA Nest too?*
          1. *Mo/Sabra: Yes for sure! Contact me if you need help getting a fob.*
       3. *Mo: Are there any athletic updates for second years?*
          1. *Sabra: We’re going to have an event in the new year. It’s a skating event either this term or earlier next year. Ice skating this year and roller skating in January. Also collaborating with Devy to host a dance class. Working with Ashwin and Nikita for the hockey.*
   * Third Year Co-Presidents – Molly Cowls and Bryan Wong
     + Hey Immy! I don't think me or Molly will make it to today's meeting. Only update from us is that we are currently discussing changes to our clerkship schedule due to the earlier CaRMS deadline for our year. There are two new options that the school has presented to us and is gathering our class's feedback on. A decision will be made Dec 8 and communicated to us during a town hall on Dec 9
   * Fourth Year Co-Presidents – Tony Li and Jess Caterini
     + Hey Imran - just in another meeting, not much to update from our class beyond carms, electives, interview prep, and the MCC
   * Past President – Bryan Wong
   * Speaker of Council/Chief Electoral Officer – Imran Syed
     + The motion for tech reps passed for the third- and fourth-year class.
     + Will reach out to Kabir regarding the voting of Academic Coordinator
     + Solicited feedback on the AS Admissions Subcommittee Applications
       1. Will send this form in the AS Group Chat. Feedback should be sent to Owen.
7. Agenda Items
   * Discussion of average grades on Elentra, Michael Cole
   * *Speakers List*
     + *Mo: Just to share Dr. Gibson’s thoughts. She understands the concern but there are a few rebuttals. Overall, the purpose of assessments are to help us become better doctors. They have already removed other statistics aside from mean and SD. The goal of the mean is to provide you with perspective on how you are doing in relation to the class. Some people benefit from the class average being there too to help track progress. One suggestion was that obtaining an average could be more active, but it was shut down.*
     + *Danny: I am in favor of the class average being shown to accommodate for different testing difficulties.*
     + *David: Is this an issue with technology or a UGME faculty issue?*
       1. *Mo: It’s an issue with UGME faculty.*
     + *Sabra: It’s difficult to achieve consensus with the entire student body.*
     + *Michael:*
       1. *To Sabra: It’s not necessarily all-or-none in that it requires a unanimous vote, but a majority vote should work fine.*
       2. *To Mo and Danny: I do see how class averages do have merit, but I also am aware of the mental health impacts of being “below a class average”*
          1. *Mo: From a logistical point of view, even if we obtain consensus from all four classes, it goes up to a vote in the curricular committee which is made up of faculty. This might make it more difficult to push this motion through.*
          2. *Sabra: To build on this, I’m not sure if many students in our class specifically would push this forward. I think it’s part of a bigger issue regarding impostor syndrome, etc…* *Another potential solution could be to have a discussion with Kabir.*
          3. *Mo: We could collaborate with Elentra to make it more difficult to find class average information (i.e. making it less easily accessible).*
8. Next meeting
9. Varia
   * None
10. Motion to end meeting
    * Motion by Sabra, seconded by Danny (8:20 PM)