Student Council Minutes
Meeting Date: Thursday, January 26, 2012
Location: Top Docs Cafe

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 23, 2012
Location: AC 276

I. Call to Order and Attendees:
(A) The meeting was called to order at 7:10pm.
(B) Attendees:
   STUCO E-board: Luigi Cendana, Michael Favara, Joseph Asaro, Dmitry Esterov, Komal Patel, Nosheen Jawaid, Matthew Vargas
   Class of 2012: Abi Whetstone, Ingrid Edshteyn, Dean Chamberlain, Aileen Chen
   Class of 2013: Wade Ng, Neiman Ramjattan
   Class of 2014: Sonya Vankawala, Jacob Melnick, Ashley Wallis, Mitul Patel, Bill Gartlan, Justin Berkowitz
   Class of 2015: Kanad Mukherjee, Eric Goldwaser, Amy Triche, Parin Shah, David Rahimian, Robin Craig
   Guests: Dr. Lambert, Dr. Cavalieri, Dr. Griesback

   (C) Excused: Frank Lien, Mike Caposole, Rima Rana
   (D) Unexcused: Matt Ingrassia, Pavli Demian, Alexandra Schieber, Ali Nasir, Zachary Hernandez

II. Approval of Minutes
   (A) The November 2011 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Special Business
   Dr. Cavalieri:
   o **UMDNJ Advisory Report:** We, on this campus, are very pleased with the report. There are about four different dimensions to this – the report reaffirms the preliminary report that called for RWJMS, School of Public Health, and the Cancer Institute to be moved into Rutgers.
     o Secondly, it called for University Hospital to be retained as a state asset, but to be managed by a private system. This is known as a public-private system. This can help prevent some of the tremendous losses this hospital has been experiencing.
     o Thirdly, the committee recommended moving Rutgers-Camden into Rowan University. This newly created entity would consist of Rowan, Rutgers-
Camden (which includes Rutgers Law School), and Cooper Medical School. There was discussion about whether we would be included in this.

Fourth: to reconstitute what’s left of UMDNJ to consist of the five Newark based school (NJDS, NJMS, School of Nursing, School of Health Related Professions, and GSBS), along with us and the University Behavioral Health in Piscataway and Newark to be formed as the New Jersey Health Science University (NJHSU).

- Three of those eight entities (Public Health, University Behavioral Health, and SOM) would be part of this entity, but would be given more autonomy.
- The report talked about having a difficult time about where to put our school. Dr. Cavalieri was receiving calls up to two weeks before the decision about where we were going to go. The report did mention that SOM would thrive wherever we went. Additionally, the report mentioned that we are doing well where we are now. The autonomy will allow us to have more flexibility and allow us to get things accomplished.
- The report also acknowledged that SOM is doing a great job with interdisciplinary education.
- In deciding this, we as a university stated that we prefer to remain a public institution, and that if we were to go somewhere, we would want to go to Rutgers. The committee largely listened to the comments by us.

- **This is not a done deal by any means.** This is just a recommendation by the governor. There is a lot of pushback by the Board of Trustees of Rutgers. This matter also needs to go to the legislature. Some of this will happen, all of it will happen…or none of it will happen.

- There is some concern about the name change, and Dr. Cavalieri acknowledges this. On a conference call this morning, there was talk of this happening within five years. When a university changes names, there are a number of years where students will have a choice of what name appears on their diploma.
  - Whatever happens, the very fine work that goes on here in creating fine physicians is affirmed and can only speak well for us moving forward. We feel good about this decision.

- **Will this affect GME?** We don’t necessarily see this negatively impacting it.
- **Will this affect research funding?** This change does take away a valuable asset from UMDNJ. However, there are some legitimate arguments for this – there is a geographic reason for RWJ to become part of Rutgers. Another reason is a historic one. Back in the day there was a Rutgers Medical School that was part of the university. It was a two-year medical school where you went to Rutgers for 2 years and went to another school for the clinical sciences. Somewhere along the way this school became absorbed into UMDNJ. Additionally, many believe that a state research university should have a medical school – and Rutgers is our state university.
If we move RWJ into Rutgers and look at the combined NIH dollars, the school becomes propelled to the top. We do not necessarily agree with these arguments.

What if we all become a part of Rutgers? This is still a possible solution. The breadth and scope of this project is unprecedented and will take a while for changes to occur.

- Just for reference, ten years ago the Vagellos Commission recommended splitting up UMDNJ with a price tag of $1 billion. The governor of the time did not move forward with this because of the massive undertaking and lack of resources. The current lack of resources may be another barrier to this.

Graduate Medical Education: Our school is doing a lot! This is very important, especially when we go to AACOM and Dean’s meetings. Dr. Griesback, Dr. Cavalieri, and Dr. Lambert were at the OME meeting recently, and topping the agenda on both the MD/DO side was GME slots.

- The government controls the growth of GME – it all comes from CMS dollars from the federal government. This pays for residency slots. In our case, the dollars flow from the hospital to the medical school – and we pay the residents.
  - In the Balanced Budget Act of 1996, they froze the number of slots the government would fund. Many hospitals fund from above the number the government would allow, if they have outside sources.
  - It’s expensive to train residents. The growth of GME has not kept up with the growth of medical schools. It’s crucial that we keep up with this.
  - If your school is a teaching hospital, you are receiving funding and was based on the number of spots from 1996 (Kennedy has ~140 spots). However, if your school has never had GME, you’re allowed to get funding – these hospitals are called virgin hospitals and are eligible for GME growth.

- So what are we doing? We are working with hospitals to grow GME. We have had great success at South Jersey Healthcare in Vineland. They have had tremendous growth at this hospital. By the time they are done with increasing slots, they will have as many as Kennedy. Starting on July 1st, SJMC will have IM and Surgery residency. There are talks to start a PM&R residency.
  - There have been talks that Underwood Hospital in Woodbury will be joining South Jersey Healthcare. This, along with the Elmer Hospital and Vineland are our affiliates. South Jersey Healthcare has a thriving OB program, along with inpatient pediatrics. It is an important site for continued GME growth.

- What else? We are expanding our partnerships with Virtua. We have worked on an Emergency Medicine residency. There are talks with OB/GYN, Surgery, and Family Medicine.
- We are also talking to Ocean Medical Center and Southern Ocean Medical Center. Neither of those hospitals have GME and are looking to start. We are
also talking to Atlantic City Medical Center, who has almost agreed to expand
their surgical residency by 4 slots.

- Up in North Jersey, we do have a relationship with Atlantic Health. This
group of hospitals is looking to further their primary care relationship with us.
- UMDNJ-SOM is taking a very concerted effort to grow GME and to have
enough GME spots for our graduates.
- **New Osteopathic Medical School in NJ?** Someone put an application into COCA to
create the Monmouth College of Osteopathic Medicine. A man named Vito
Cardinale has a lot of money and wants to create an Osteopathic Medical School,
with the ultimate goal to create a school that will have research funding for Multiple
Sclerosis.
  - There are a number of applications for medical schools, but a lot of them do
not come to fruition.
- **ACGME Issue:** This is of serious concern to our profession. The ACGME
residencies and fellowships are proposing to not accept anyone into their program
*unless* they have done an ACGME prerequisite training. For example, if you want to
do PM&R in an ACGME program, you have to do a 1-year ACGME-accredited
internship in order to get into that.
  - Until now, if you did an AOA internship, you could get into this residency.
    With the change, you would have to do an ACGME internship.
  - Additionally, say you wanted to be a cardiologist. Traditionally, you could do
an AOA IM residency and the ACGME fellowship. This new proposal will
require all those to do an ACGME **residency** beforehand.
  - This is receiving a lot of fire from our organization! The ACGME claims that
this is not a DO prejudice claim. There is a situation where there are IMGs
that do their residencies outside of the country and then apply for fellowships
in the US.
    - Thus far, the ACGME has not backed down on this position, but there
is significant serious dialogue regarding this.
  - 25% of all PM&R residents across the country are DOs! The PM&R people
are on our side with this.
  - We’re currently in a period where the public can respond to this. People can
either oppose or support this, and in the spring the ACGME will make a final
report. We are very concerned about this.
    - ACGME wants to know why we don’t allow MD’s into our programs!
      - The historical argument is that MD’s don’t take OMM.
- **UMDNJ Surgery Program:** We have had some leadership changes in this program,
and there has been some concern. Dr. Gandasas has stepped down as chair, but he is
still the program director of the residency. Dr. Fakulujo will be joining Dr. Cohen’s
group sometime before the end of February. We are in the process of making the
decision about where to go from here. We do anticipate recruiting another chair. In
the meantime, Kennedy has hired two vascular surgeons that will be developing a
vascular surgery clinical program right in our building.
  - Dr. Fakulujo, although leaving the full-time faculty, will be staying on as a
volunteer faculty with Dr. Cohen.
Our surgery program is very important to us. Our surgery residents have scored #1 in the country on their boards, and we have no intentions of diminishing that program in any way. We are currently looking to expand the program. Things like this happen in every medical school—it’s Dr. Cavalieri’s job to make sure that things are still functioning and that we are getting the appropriate people there. We already have in mind who will be the clerkship director, as well as the program director should Dr. Gandasas leave.

Electives during Fourth Year. There are five electives, but there is a maximum of only three in one discipline. We take a lot of pride in osteopathic medicine that we train physicians in a variety of disciplines. We train physicians that are well rounded. This was something that was voted upon by the Curriculum Committee.

In the past, there were actually fewer general electives for students to take advantage of. The curriculum is very dynamic and is made to create the most well rounded physicians.

Is Ocean Medical going to be a full track? Not quite yet.

Dr. Griesback:

Admissions: Thank you to all who are on the admissions committee. We have had 4163 applicants to date, compared to 3755 1 year ago. This is an 11% increase in applications. We have had more interview sessions and we appreciate student help.

We have enrolled 132 as of last week’s meeting (79 male, 53 female). **We are increasing our class size to 162 students starting this August.** COCA told us that we could have 150 +/- 8% (or 12 students). We are taking advantage of this. Average GPA: 3.68. Average MCAT: 9.50. 18% South Jersey, 48% minority, 10% under-represented minority.

The benefit of this will bring in more tuition dollars— to increase faculty, as well as many other things that we need.

VSAS: this is an electronic application service for fourth year electives that works through ACGME. The e-mail that went out explains that process and will be implemented soon. Not all programs use VSAS.

Accreditation: every 5-6 years we need to be re-accredited by COCA. The next site visit is the Fall of 2013. The process is divided into 8 standards: admissions, etc. Some of you have already been asked to serve on committees to help look at these standards. Each standard needs to be defined; data needs to be answered as to how successfully we’re looking at these standards.

Dr. Lambert:

Last day for registration for DO Day on the Hill is tomorrow!

IV. Executive Committee Reports:

(A) President:

Survey regarding STUCO’s performance over the last 4 months was sent out in early January and we have those results for you.

Students like receiving e-mail no matter how many we send. E-mail is their vehicle of choice in receiving information

Students are unaware that there is a student council website. We will work on
our promotion of this website as it contains many readily available information that students may need.

- Regards to funding: The majority is satisfied with the application process for funding requests. Major criticism of the funding request is its “lack of transparency” according to some students. Please be advised that the reason why this is not published to students is it is not part of the constitution and is in its trial stages...still. However, though it is in its trial period, we have outlined a FAQ Funding Request that is found both on our website and is on our bulletin board in the hallway. That FAQ serves as skeleton in our decision-making. Rest assured that we treat all clubs the same, it is not dependent on number of individuals in that particular club.
  - Forgiveness policy for turning in forms late. This I will be stern on and say that these will not be allowed. Funding forms, first of all, do not have to be submitted on the deadline, it can be submitted weeks in advance. We are more than willing to fund requests as long as they come in a timely manner. This is so that our secretary and treasurer can have adequate time in preparing the documents that are sent out to the Council. We expect you to adhere to our deadlines.
  - The process was explained to all Presidents of clubs in the beginning of the year by our first vice president, Matthew Vargas. It is up to your leadership to disseminate the information to the rest of the E-board and its members. However, we do stress that all of STUCO welcomes questions regarding all issues, including funding.
  - Funds out quicker? That is not part of our offices.

- Projects this semester:
  - Thank you for all your recommendations. We will discuss what we can put together for your needs.
  - We are also working on community service events that are hosted by STUCO.
  - You guys want to know more about political topics and issues and get some changes. This was very apparent in your quick responses to by email a couple of months ago regarding ACGME.
Go here http://cosgp.aacom.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=category&id=29&Itemid=62 for the latest news with comprehensive overviews of issues that you would be most concerned about. There is an update every two months. There should be an upcoming one in early February.

Be proactive! Tell us what you are interested in. We tell you what we think interests you more but there may be more relevant topics that are not covered.

Speaking of leadership, our Liaisons to NJAOPS have been going to their meetings. I have asked them to provide updates when they see fit.

Apply for AOA leadership positions in fields of Research, osteopathic medical education, international opportunities, etc. All students are encouraged to apply here: http://www.osteopathic.org/inside-aoa/Education/students/Documents/2012-bcc-application-info-students-postdocs%20BCCs.pdf

Elections will be held sometime in late February and early March. Please start thinking about your future leadership positions and if you think a student would be well suited for a particular position please let them know. Descriptions of the position are found in the Student Handbook. I advise you to speak with the student who currently holds that position to gather a more comprehensive view of their responsibilities and the time they allotted to complete them.

Nosheen and I came back from Henderson, Nevada. We were there for a COSGP conference visiting TUNCOM. We were inspired with some of the projects that the other schools are undertaking and we are talking amongst ourselves to hopefully start a few projects in the upcoming months.

Important Dates:

- DO Day on the Hill – March 8th Washington DC. Registration ends tomorrow
- AACOM Conference / COSGP Conference will be held from Friday March 30th to April 1st – all are welcome to attend. It will be held in Washington, DC
- The AOA’s response to the ACGME is posted on the bulletin board!

(B) **First Vice President:**

- Med Ball planning is done! March 3rd at the Mansion in Voorhees. We were able to reduce ticket prices to $45: this includes cocktail hour, photo booth, and a surprise dance by professionals. There will be beverages served that are included in the price! Check your mailboxes soon.

(C) **Second Vice President:**

- Save the date: April 3 is the NJOEF Grant Reception. If you’ve received money from STUCO for an event or a conference that you attended, please have a 2-minute PowerPoint presentation prepared. You will be presenting in front of the Deans and other members of the osteopathic community.
- Last night, I met with the club presidents. We discussed travel requirements, room reservations, and club storage. If you have any questions, talk to Matt Vargas!

(E) **Secretary:**

- Nothing to report.

(F) **Public Relations:**
National Osteopathic Week is April 15-21: we are looking to do some outreach at Robert Wood Johnson to give them a sense of what osteopathic medicine is. We are looking to have a luncheon and do some OMM demonstrations.

36 responses from the survey – we took a look at some of the suggestions, and it seems that most people don’t know about the STUCO website. We’ll be making that more apparent.

Alumni Affairs:
- We’ve been working on a survey for third years regarding the alumni gift – we’re looking for feedback.

Student Senate:
- Next quarterly Senate meeting is in New Brunswick on Sunday, February 19th at noon.
- The tuition hearing is February 20th at 5pm. This will be a webcast.
- Senate elections are coming up as well!

SOMA
- We have a lot of Pre-SOMA chapters starting up! We will be going up to Rutgers with Dr. Channell to help start up the chapter. We also have talks with Delaware and up in North Jersey.

V. Class Reports:

2012:
- We are now finishing up our residency interviews and continuing the rank order process. Three of our classmates have already matched through the military. Of note, a former Class President - Amina Moghul - will be continuing her studies and employment on the sunny shores of Hawaii (where we will be sure to schedule our upcoming reunions). February 13th brings the Osteopathic Match, followed by the Allopathic Match on 3/16. The class will be opening up those fateful envelopes during a sponsored luncheon on that date and then celebrating at the Next to the Last Blast, hosted by the Alumni Foundation the following week. While Financial Aid exit interviews loom ahead, so does the joyful vision of Convocation and Commencement.

2013:
- Third years have gotten their fourth year schedules and are getting ready to schedule those rotations. We are signing up for the CE and PE exams.

2014:
- The class has finished their GI module and are moving onto Heme/Onc. Kaplan course introduction will begin next month. Most students are concentrating on boards now and have finished their 3rd year preference forms for clinical rotations.

PBL 2014:
- We just completed our Endocrine/GI/Reproductive module. We continue to meet with Dr. DeRisio and we have begun weekly assessments for performance on boards.

2015:
- The Class of 2015 has recently finished its respiratory and renal module on January 23rd. The GI module started the day after.
The Class of 2015 is finalizing in acquiring a for-pay (50 cents) Keurig coffee machine. It will be located in the student lounge. The 50 cents will be used for upkeep and supplies for the machine.

The Class of 2015 has been speaking with local food establishments in order to acquire student discounts. Managers of Qdoba (Voorhees Town Center), Chick-fil-a (Voorhees Town Center) and Baja Fresh have been spoken with. Qdoba is being the most receptive, and the other two will respond later. Plans to speak with Pancheros and other local establishments are in the works.

(F) **PBL 2015:**

- First year PBL is currently in the Sensory, Motor, and Musculoskeletal module. The class has scheduled 3 anatomy sessions with 2nd year anatomy TA’s and 2 physical diagnosis sessions with Dr. Scott.

VI. Committee Reports:

(A) **Curriculum:**
- We are dealing with the competencies that Dr. Griesback is talking about and making sure that they are fulfilled. There is talk of adding a laptop requirement added into our tuition. Currently, the laptop they have found is $800 – this would be $200/year added onto the budget.
- We will not be hosting third year rotations at St. Mary’s Medical Center in Passaic

(B) **Student Affairs:**
- Nothing to report.

(C) **Honor Code:**
- Honor Council is meeting together and working hard to address your needs. Please continue to bring up any questions or concerns (cheating, professionalism, inter-student awkwardness/need for mediation) to any of the Honor Council representatives, whether they are from your class or other years.

VII. Club Affairs:

VIII. Old Business:

IX. New Business:

(A) **Wilderness Medicine Club.** Presented Constitution and petition.
(B) **Medical Students for Life Startup Funds Request.** Withdrawn.
(C) **OHEENT Club Startup Funds Request.** Withdrawn.
(D) **Neuropsychiatry Club Alumni Grant Request.** Motion to grant $250 was unanimously passed (15).
(E) **JOMA Alumni Grant Request.** Motion to grant $250 was unanimously approved (13).
(F) **JOMA SACH Funding Request.** Motion to award $250 was unanimously approved (13).
(G) **SNMA Alumni Grant Request.** Motion to grant $250 was unanimously approved (15).
(H) **SPMA Kicks for Kids Alumni Grant Request.** Motion to postpone request until February meeting (13 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain).

(I) **Sports Med Club Alumni Grant Request.** Motion to not award was approved (12 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain).

(J) **Sports Med Club Funding Request.** Motion to award $250 for conference was unanimously approved (14).

(K) **ACOFP Funding Request.** Motion to award $96 per person ($1440 total) was unanimously approved (15).

(L) **SOMA Funding Request.** Motion to award $81 per person (for a total of $648) was approved (13 yes, 1 no, 1 abstain).

(M) **SAAO Funding Request.** Motion to table the motion until the February meeting (8 yes, 4 no, 1 abstain).

(N) **Kahn Preventive Medicine Conference Request.** Motion to award $122.50 was unanimously approved (15).

(O) **Jois Preventive Medicine Conference Request.** Motion to award $85 was unanimously approved (15).

(P) **DO Day on the Hill Funding.** $50 per driver + $10 per additional passenger in the car was approved (13 yes, 2 no, 0 abstain).

**X. Motion to adjourn:**

(A) The meeting was adjourned at 11:14pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Favara, OMS-III
STUCO Secretary