

New Business

6:00 PM – **[Introductions]** New member introductions (15 minutes)

6:15 PM – **[Presentation]** New Student Org (10 minutes)

- The WSUSOM Student Senate supports **MALTA Medical Clinic on Woodward Avenue** as a new student org, contingent on the presentation of a defined leadership structure.

6:25 PM – **[Discussion]** Preclinical curriculum (30 minutes)

- *Class of 2024*
 - M2s have started in the new foundations curriculum for segment 2. First exam has already happened and next one is coming up this Thursday. We have received several reports of severe stress and mental health concerns due to the burden of the curricular content. Students have expressed thoughts of dropping out, and this is all very concerning to us as an M2 senate. We feel that we need to take some action to address this.
 - As such, we have been collecting feedback from our classmates, major points are as follows. We are looking for your feedback and ideas as a senate about how to address this. Currently we are planning an open letter to administration regarding this.
 - One of the changes we have this year is cumulative exams, part of which will be NBME and part of which will be faculty authored
 - Faculty authored exams are extremely unpopular, they are unfortunately low yield and not relevant to NBME material
 - The coursework is a very heavy volume compared to the previous material in M1
 - There are currently about 16 lectures per week and we lose our weekends between exams
 - No breaks between exams, 5 lectures scheduled 24hrs after the exam
 - The organization of the material makes it very difficult to sift through in order to find the relevant 3rd party study resources that correspond to the lectures (i.e. Boards and Beyond, Sketchy, Pathoma, Anki)
 - P4 assignments feel like busy work, they don't teach us the material. Also, we are on cameras for 3 hours in white coats
 - Pass rate was increased to 70% with no transparency and communication justifying this
 - Not enough advance notice for required events
- *M4*
 - Firstly, I am really sorry to hear that your class is going through this. Unfortunately a lot of these things seem like really similar complaints to what we have had in the past, with the exception of the introduction of cumulative exams. Do you think the burnout could also be related to the virtual environment and not having that peer support network?
 - *SES rep* - It is pretty significantly different because units are now 12 weeks, with a cumulative exam covering multiple organ systems which is quite a heavy change from the previous structure with quite a lot more content covered by the end of their unit
- *Class of 2024*
 - We wanted to find out what things are similar to past struggles and what things are new struggles with the curricular restructuring so that we can better approach admin with an informed approach. We just really do not feel like this current model is sustainable, and we have gotten a significant amount of feedback from our classmates on our class form
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- *Exec Senate* - Some of these problems are recurring problems, such as the disorganization of the P4 curriculum, but some of these are definitely new and we want to help you identify them and work with you to connect meaningfully with administration. We really recommend that your first step be to request a meeting with Dr. Rajasekaran to begin a meaningful dialogue. Unfortunately, and please don't take this the wrong way, sometimes letters like this can come off as slightly hostile to administration. Whereas, if you are able to have a meeting with them and establish that personal connection, it can sometimes be a lot more productive. Also, I was recently on a meeting with Dr. R where he mentioned to all of the course directors that he wants them to help him come up with creative solutions to deburden the M2 course content. So I do know that he is well aware of at least some of these issues and I think a productive discussion would be better served with a brief email outlining a few of your concerns in broad language and requesting a meeting
- *Class of 2022* - One thing to think about on the topic of dissatisfaction with Wayne exams, so the CO 2022 is the only class that never had Wayne exams, but all other classes have had them in some respect or another so admin may come back to you with something along the lines of "well those exams have a lot of data backing them up over the years" or something like that. So I just encourage you to make sure you are ready to respond to that
- *Exec* - Can you expand in a little bit more detail on the structure of the testing for these 12 week blocks?
 - *CO 2024* - So it is a 12 week block split into 3 segments, each exam builds on the other so every exam has some cumulative material on it. We were told that this structure was developed so that admin could track student success better so that they can intervene sooner to catch any students that may be struggling and provide them with supplemental help if needed. In contrast to having just a one month long unit with one exam and if the student failed that exam they would fail the whole unit. However, with this new structure, the time between exams is so short that it doesn't even seem that admin can intervene in time, for example after this last exam, some struggling students ended up having to reach out themselves for help, so it just doesn't really seem like it is working and there seems to be a lot of disconnect
- *SES Representative*
 - In trying to figure out the root cause of some of these issues, I combed through the CO 2022 feedback form comments and tried coding responses, noticing the following common themes:
 - The common sentiment of most messages was, stress is extremely high and mental health is at an all time low
 - The biggest issue seemed to me that the curricular balance was "out of whack"
 - P4 disorganization and seemingly trivial assignments seems to distract your mindset from what you are actually supposed to be learning in these sessions. Assignments are perceived as trivial and burdensome because they are due at exam time rather than after the exam time
 - We did have a previous discussion with Dr. R about how many contact hours were supposed to be allowed for the curriculum during any given week, I don't experience the curriculum, I am just going off of what I am reading here so seeing your calendar would be really helpful
 - Few complaints specifically about faculty authored questions, it doesn't seem like its the main issue
 - While wellness was a common theme, there were rarely specifics pointing to the issues that affect wellness, so I think it really boils down to the poor balance and disorganization of the curriculum leading to stress
 - Unfortunately a lot of the curricular content developers operate in silos, that is, The P4 directors might have great ideas for new content they feel is important for medical students to learn, but unfortunately, they develop the content without

knowing the other burdens on the rest of the curriculum and there is no consideration of how the scheduling of additional content may affect the students receiving it, that is just one example. Unfortunately none of these issues are new, I think the issue that is making this more noticeable is the cumulative nature of things now, which makes the added stress of not knowing what to study

- I recommend reaching out to Dr. R for a meeting as others have requested. In addition I recommend a thorough survey of the student body to get pointed and specific recommendations and investigations of specific content and how it is impacting students. I also recommend looking at your schedule and comparing it to years prior to see what is different. Data will help you to brainstorm solutions with him
- *Veteran Senator -*
 - I do want to mention that the faculty authored questions do provide valuable content and were very helpful for Step 1, and don't go into the weeds any more than NBMEs, I know it is not a particularly popular opinion, but I can say that as a class who had mostly faculty authored questions that do get into the weeds, students came back from Step 1 and realized that yes those questions did really help them have the level of detailed knowledge required for Step 1. If you solely rely on things like Anki and First Aid, that don't go into very much detail, without the foundational content you learn from the coursepacks, you will be in trouble.
 - I know the short Step study time was a major concern of yours as well but we had 5 weeks and 4 days when Step was still scored, and the reason was so that you can get a longer M4, which I can now say, was actually a huge benefit and the tradeoff was absolutely worth it
 - I also want to comment that upon meeting with Dr. Rajasekaran, please don't let that meeting affect your perception of what your own needs, meaning you can let the meeting inform you based on what they are able to offer and do for you, but if you still feel that that will not meet your needs, don't be afraid to not back down
- *CO 2024*
 - Two big problems that we aren't saying, during M1, we always knew what was coming next, this year, we have Foundations I, II, and III, with no description of the content that will be coming, this makes it extremely difficult to guide our studying with our supplemental resources and leads to a lot of stress not knowing what is coming. There was a rumor going around that we were going to have things "lumped together that make sense" but we don't have a breakdown of what that looks like yet
 - Going back to what was mentioned earlier about admin operating in silos, I think we as senators need to be empowered to hold admin accountable for changing this because it has severe and stress inducing consequences for students. For example, for the last exam I had 4 separate required things scheduled at 1pm one day including P4, CEC, and an exam, and that all fell on me to try to figure out how to deal with that, which is not acceptable
- *CO 2024 -* So I understand that we take Step 1 about 4 months sooner than most schools, which gives us extra time for clinical rotations, which makes a lot of sense, especially considering that Step is now Pass/Fail, however, 4 months is like relatively extreme, I am wondering if these 4 months could be cut to spread the curriculum out in favor of wellness for the M2 year? I don't actually know the feasibility of this but I just wanted to bring it up
 - *Exec -* Yes that would definitely be another structural change, which they just did very recently, so I feel like it would be very unlikely, but you could definitely bring it back up in conversations
- *CO 2024 -* I do really think that the pandemic has put a huge strain on mental health and that is definitely a factor here. I think we really need to advocate for more in person activities as things start to open up. We recently had that social that I think helped boost moral a lot so I think we should try to do more things like that for sure

- The other important point I wanted to make is that some of the faculty lectures do not do a great job of making clear what the take home points are. For example, Dr. Bosch does a great job of summarizing what the main points of a lecture are that she wants you to walk away with, but unfortunately not all lecturers do this, some will just give you pages and pages of drug information and you have no idea what the high yield content is for the exam which leads to a lot of stress and anxiety
- CO 2024 - our next steps will be to request a meeting with Dr. R and Dr. Booza and do a more detailed survey of our class to get more specific information.
 - Exec - I would also recommend that you try to get some answers from admin regarding how they are evaluating the impact of curricular changes on students, especially from a mental health standpoint, as well as academic performance.

6:55 PM – **[Discussion & vote]** Orientation / Class of 2025 welcome ad hoc committee (10 minutes)

- Exec - We have contacted Dr. Brennan in OLT and Student Affairs about making sure that senate has input in planning 2025's orientation, Mirna, any word on your end?
 - Yep! DOSO is trying to get WSUSOM student orgs involved in the student org fair
 - I would love help with planning orientation especially from upperclassmen
- Motion to make an ad hoc CO 2025 orientation planning committee
 - Passes
 - Great, we really want to make sure that the student senate has a strong voice in this to ensure that it isn't filled with redundant or seemingly useless information. We really want to make sure students get a chance to meet with orgs, socialize, see the city, understand campus life from the student perspective, etc.
- Dates? Believe they start July 6th, so assuming that is the start of orientation, but not sure on duration just yet

7:05 PM – **[Discussion]** Class of 2024 White Coat Ceremony (5 minutes)

- Talking about an in-person white coat ceremony for the class of 2025, and a re-do for CO 2024!
- Last Friday at the return to campus task force meeting, Dr. Chadwell mentioned that they may have secured a large outdoor space that could safely accommodate a lot of people, unfortunately the details of the location are still classified
- Huge response from the CO 2024 from a survey we sent out regarding their feedback on an event, 259 responses. The majority of people were really excited about the opportunity, but did not want a joint ceremony. We have sent the survey responses to Dr. Chadwell and Student Affairs so that the planning process can proceed. Have an open dialogue currently which we are happy about
- Two potential dates, one at the end of July, one at the end of August
- People suggested having the CO 2024 white coat later, maybe after Step 1, before M3, the survey responses here were more divided
- We will be following up at another task force meeting this Friday, more details to come!
- We don't want the announcement to be too short notice for families to be able to plan to come and celebrate with their loved ones. Would be good to be accommodating on that and we are going to make sure to bring that up with Student Affairs

Old Business

7:10 PM – **[Update]** Back to Campus Task Force (5 minutes)

- Still people that need to upload their vaccination status. Current amount of students per class that still need to upload their cards:

- CO 2023 - ~10 ppl
- CO 2022 - ~30 ppl
- CO 2023 - ~20 ppl
- Talked about opening up more currently available study space in Maz and Scott Hall as some places are still blocked off for social distancing. With new guidelines, they are planning to open some of these back up, including gym, meditation rooms, etc.
 - Of note, Wayne is still requiring masks for indoor activities, but outdoor can be maskless
- Graduation for CO 2021 is going to be in person at Little Caesars, congratulations!!

7:15 PM – **[Update]** Student Social Justice in MedEd Coalition Call for Student Helpers! (10 min)

- The SJMEC presented to the Segment 1-2 Course Directors meeting today to inform them of the implementation plan for curricular corrections and additions that have been identified as needing improvement in terms of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. As part of our implementation plan, we need to create a relatively large group of students that can be paired with course directors to help work on this important initiative and decrease the burden of this large task on Course Directors. They are actually really excited to work with students on this and to be a part of this change. We are requesting the permission of senate to use the senate channels such as Wayne's World and the BSO Newsletter to distribute this call to action as it is really time sensitive with the Course Directors well in the midst of developing their content for the incoming class of 2025 starting in July
 - No objections!

Executive Senate Reports

7:20 PM – **[Executive Vice President]** Internal committee assignments (5 minutes)

- Chairs of committees, please start a group messaging, elect your chairs, and come up with goals for the year before the next senate meeting!

Committee Reports

7:25 PM – [Discussion] IJI: Conflicts in Palestine (10 minutes)

- *IJI representatives -*
- Essentially, if you have been keeping up with the news, you will know that Palestinian people are currently being murdered. Overseas and, contrary to what you may see in headlines, this is actually not a conflict, nor is it a religious issue. It's important to note that the school of medicine has a very large Arab American population and In addition to that, we also serve the largest Arab American population in the United States over in Dearborn. Many of our students, as well as general Community members have been directly affected by the atrocities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip over the past few weeks. So we want to raise awareness about this, and we really want to help students understand that they have the power to actively speak out and fight against injustice. And so IJI, first and foremost, is here to support our student body and that's done in several ways. We want to gather and share resources for education, as well as healing during this time for students, and we want to amplify their voices. We're currently working on a formal statement to the school and we'd like to have that released, I believe, soon, when I spoke about the end of next week.
- *Exec -* As student senate we absolutely want to support this and stand with IJI's messaging, how can we help you .
- Thank you IJI for bringing this to us and the work you are doing, I think a communication like this would mean a lot to the student body. I just want to open up a discussion about how senate wants to approve and distribute this type of messaging. Should there be a general senate approval process before it is

sent out through the official senate email? Is that how IJI would like it distributed? Just tryin to get a feel for what we want this process to be.

- We were hoping to follow a similar format for how the BLM/SNMA communication was sent out last spring, it was drafted in collaboration, but signed by all organizations involved, with hand written signatures, which was really powerful
- We are currently working on advocating for a formal crisis response plan and have been since the start of the pandemic , so that the school knows who should b taking action for that and mostly putting it in the hands of administration and hopefully having them be like the primary because in addition to holding leadership positions like we're also students and also processing it ourselves, and so to be responsible to make a statement on the behalf of admin I think is an unrealistic expectation, for them to put on us. But in terms of having an answer of how we want to have senate involved in who we want to help even with the assistance of the draft I don't have that answer as of now.
- Senate is happy to work with you all on crafting this communication and support you with resources in any way we can.
- *General Senate* - So this conflict definitely warrants a statement and I think that it is important that we show support for Palestinians who are being executed. But all I ask is that we show sensitivity in how it is worded because i've seen examples where people have used this support for Palestine as an excuse for anti-semitism. However, we do need to make sure that we also ensure that the language in this communication is carefully crafted to ensure that we do not unintentionally use language that could be perceived as anti-Semitic, and I know the people who really support Palestinians in this issue aren't intending it to be anti-Semitic. There can sometimes be some kind of excuse where people think that if you're being anti-Israel you're anti-Semitic I don't think that's the case, I think, right now, obviously, you have to take a stance and be supportive Palestinians, but I just want to throw it out there as a sentiment to consider when you craft this message to please chose your words carefully and with consideration for this issue
 - *IJI* - Yes absolutely, thank you for bringing this up, and I would like to be completely clear right now there's no question that anti-Semitism is intolerable and completely unacceptable, you cannot claim to be pro justice and then also spew hate speech or engage in hateful acts, so I completely agree with you that language does matter. I would really like to make a statement with the support of senate that we condemn; murder, genocide, apartheid, and that we condemn anti-Semitism. I think it is very important to use careful and inclusive language. I think it is also important to make clear that you can be pro-Palestine and condemn anti-Semitism and the two are not mutually exclusive, you can condemn an apartheid government committing genocide, while also condemning anti-Semitism and I think it's very important, as you said, to word that carefully, but I also think it's important that we show students support.
- *Exec* - Thank you very much for this important discussion. I think this is a great idea and will mean a lot to students. I think moving forward as IJI drafts this statement, it would also be nice to have some interested senators help look it over as we draft it and to have an executive senator contact for the drafting and distribution of this statement. I also know that we are kind of in between deans for ODI right now, have you been in contact with any of the current leadership there?
 - Dr. Smittherman is still the contact point right now, as his resignation doesn't take effect until sometime later in the year. Dr. Leah Robinson should be cc'd on all of these communications as she is the interim person and is very responsive, her position is the one that is in the process of being filled with a search committee right now
- *IJI* - If you all did not In response to the email that was sent out today from Dean Schweitzer regarding the one year anniversary of George Floyd's murder, I do not advise you to read it. There were several issues with this communication that upset a lot of students. I will just give you a short synopsis of why you shouldn't read it. Basically he just gave like literary commentary about how racism is a

disease Rather than explaining that racism is a disease, etc. It didn't really contribute or add anything and we felt it was unnecessary. It would have been much better served to explain what the SOM has been doing to actively stand up against these issues and why students should continue to educate themselves and learn how to become anti-racist. I think what IJI would like to do after we finish crafting this statement on the Palestinian conflicts, we would like to craft a statement to this effect and possibly meet with Dean Schweitzer about his messaging regarding why we thought that it was inappropriate and should have focused on our mission at Wayne and what we are doing to combat it. Students felt that it was unnecessary and unproductive regarding the contact and some students were significantly triggered by that email.

- *Exec* - Yes thank you so much for bringing this up. We think it is really important for Dean Schweitzer to understand that these types of messages are really sensitive and need to be crafted with more diligence and care. He seems very open to criticism and I think would be really willing to hear us out on this so when you guys are ready please let senate know and we would be happy to set up a meeting to open up a conversation about this with senate's help if you would like.

Jazz's BSO Update

- We are crafting an email to go out to the student senate regarding the passing of the House Bill and subsequent legislation that came to the table as a result of student advocacy

Class Senate Reports

7:35 PM – Class Senate Reports (10 minutes)

1. Class of 2024

- The new curriculum is doing a number on class mental health. Please continue sending your comments on the feedback form and be on the lookout for further communication from your senators.
- Congratulations on finishing the second foundations exam Thursday (5/27)
- Congratulations to Jonah and Joey for being elected as class reps!

2. Class of 2023

- Second rotation shelf exams coming up this Friday
- Some students have not received any feedback on their 1 month rotations yet, so we are advocating for that and working on it with the site reps

3. Class of 2022

- MSPE meetings still being scheduled
- ERAS opens June 9th, ophtho opens July 1st, urology/plastics/military timeline TBD
- ERAS Headshots will be \$35 sometime in early June, scheduling TBD
- 297 days until match, 14 days until c/o 2021 graduation and 379 days until c/o 2022 graduation

4. Class of 2021

- Graduation is in-person
- Class of 2021 senate is hard at work planning in-person celebration as well, stay tuned for updates!

7:45 PM – Adjourn