

Student Assembly Minutes

November 7, 2007

Representatives from the classes of 2008, 2009, and 2010 met in the Lincoln Conference Room. The representatives from the class of 2011 were present via teleconference in Carbondale. The Student Assembly Chair, Jen Grusby, called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

Present at this meeting were: Dr. Constance, Nancy Calvert, Jen Grusby, Jessica Tonozzi, Christina Doerr, Junaia Carter, Jennifer Creamer, Eric Garcia, Sumer Allensworth, Tyler Allison, Katie Eichinger, Ashley Starwalt, and Sameer Vohra. Attendance was not collected from the class of 2011.

Absent from this meeting were: Jackie Harris, Becca Hook, Lexie Hillard, Jake Sams, Casey Hollensteiner, Kanayo Okafor, Audrey Tanksley, Josh Turner, and Jennifer Rose.

Minutes: Motion to approve the minutes was made by Tyler Allison and seconded by Sumer Allensworth at 12:06 pm. No changes were needed.

Old Business:

- A. Winter Ball: Winter Ball is to be held February 9th, 2008 this year at the Northfield Inn and Conference Center. The planning is moving along and the committee met last week. The planning committee chose the theme of "Vegas Style" for the night. The students are working on having cabs available later in the evening to provide safe rides home. They are also hoping to have the cabs come later than last year in order to encourage students to stay longer and mingle. They are currently working on getting a DJ for the event. Committee members are having a food tasting soon and are working on planning the menu. Ticket prices have not yet been decided. Hotel rooms will be offered to the first year students at a discounted price, if reserved prior to a set date, which has not yet been determined. Nancy reminded the second year representatives that invitations and tickets are due very soon and that the information must go out prior to Christmas break. Also, arrangements need to be made with the caterer and DJ soon. The students are also going to try to arrange the "Tour of Homes" and school tours for the first years. They will attempt to arrange it to not conflict with the SCOPE meeting.
- B. Online Bookstore: The MS2's are trying to get the ball rolling with this project. They hope to really initiate the book selling. The second year representative running the webpage would still like to post the books himself. The question of finding a different website or making this a link off of our student page was posed. It was thought that allowing the students to post their own books via an intranet link that was available only to our students may be a better solution and less work for the currently acting student. It was proposed that this become an elected position that lasted 4 years. The elected student could work with

Information Technology to get this project off the ground. We will ask that the MS2 currently running the project attend our December meeting.

New Business:

- A. Branding Focus Group: This is a 2 phase project that involves researching the perception the community has of SIU SOM and its physicians. It will then take this information in to the second phase and use it as a means to brand SIU SOM and the Physicians and Surgeons. They are looking for 4-6 students to join the Focus Group in order to obtain the students' image of the school. They are asking the Student Assembly members first, as these are leadership positions in the school. The meeting is scheduled to go in November, but a more convenient time for students has yet to be announced. The time commitment for this event thus far includes the initial meeting. A list of volunteers was collected during the meeting. Volunteers will be notified when a set time and date for the meeting has been established.

Reports:

- A. Office of Student Affairs: Nancy brought to our attention information regarding the Hardship Deferment. This deferment is currently available for the first 3 years of residency and it looks at the resident's debt to income ratio. Right now the way this value is calculated is undergoing change and it will affect the class of 2008 and the classes to come. They are dropping the debt to income ratio to be 1 ½ time the poverty level and they are only going to look at the resident's income, not his/her debt. Another proposed change is to have smaller payments back on medical student loans, yet the resident will still be paying. As of right now the plan is to have deferment end now and payments beginning in 2009, which leaves a gray area. The AMA was able to get this extension until 2009, but it is scheduled to go away. We need to contact our legislators in order to get this stopped, as it will affect all of us. The key way to do this is to write individual letters to either Senator Durbin or Senator Obama, who is also on the education committee. We can also submit form letters, which are available on the AMA website.
- B. OSR Report: Sameer discussed and added to the above. Also, VSAS is being developed, which is an electronic way to apply for 4th year away rotations. Currently 10 schools are going to participate in this trial, SIU not being one of them. Students will have to pay a fee for their application to be submitted to the school in this manner. It is much like ERAS, the application system for residency. In addition to this fee, if the student is accepted for the away rotation, they will also have to pay the school's fee to hold his/her spot for the rotation. VSAS is expected to cost around \$30 to start and will have increased increments depending on the number of programs to which the student applies. This will be discussed in the year 4 orientation for the current MS3s. In addition, there is also discussion to have the USMLE Step I and Step II CK exams combined and taken as one exam at the end of the second year of medical school. There will then

be a Step II CS exam taken during the 3rd/4th years of medical school. More information to come.

- C. Chair's Report: Jen Grusby will be attending the Executive meeting later this month. She also attended the Obama session and found that if she would have had Obama's statements and information, the session would have been more useful for asking questions. No other news to report.
- D. Class Reports:
- a. *Class of 2011*: Currently having their clothing sale in Carbondale. No new news.
 - b. *Class of 2010*: Currently getting their own clothing sale in Springfield underway. Forms were emailed or can be found in the student business lounge or in the Office of Student Affairs. They donated a basket to the CMN Fantastic Basket Raffle. They will be having a class meeting in November.
 - c. *Class of 2009*: Half of the class will be finishing their third short very soon and starting the last short rotation. The other half is still on longs. The 3rd year students will be discussing USMLE Step I with the 2nd years in January. There is no other news.
 - d. *Class of 2008*: Most of the MSIVs are back from their away rotations and taking vacation time or doing electives. Many are attending interviews currently. Senior Nights are being held every Wednesday night at various locations. Emails are sent weekly inviting all to attend.
- E. Dean's Report: Dr. Constance discussed 2 big issues that will affect future classes. Cat Rapp was present for the first topic, which dealt with the Year 3 Curriculum Committee. Currently students who remediate years 1 or 2 receive an S* on their transcript, which means that the student passed the material with minor remediation. There is currently an issue with the way year 3 is documented. Currently, if a student fails a clerkship (due to one part of the evaluation, for example the shelf exam), the student will receive an S on their transcript, but the Dean's Letter will state that the student received an S after remediation. This causes problems with licensure due to the inconsistency. It has been proposed for all future classes of SIU SOM (none of the current students will be affected by this change) that if a student need repeat any part of a clerkship (including retaking a shelf exam) that the student receive S* on their transcript for that clerkship, which a description of the * on the transcript. Also, if a student currently fails an entire clerkship and must remediate the entire rotation, the student receives a score of U/S. If the student must remediate half of a clerkship, the student receives a grade report of S*. Cat received a consensus from the MSIVs and found that none of the students want issues with licensure, but that this type of score reporting should be presented to students upon entering SIU SOM, so there are no surprises later on. It is up to our classes to decide this for future classes. This matter will be presented at the Executive Committee meeting. The

second issue presented was brought about by Dr. Constance. He stated that many other medical schools do not allow students to participate on committees if they are on academic probation. This is due to the fact that the student should be spending his/her time studying, rather than participating in extracurricular activities. This was presented so we could decide if this is something we want for our school and to brainstorm ideas as to how the policy should be written. This will be presented to our classes and discussed at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: December 5, 2007

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Tyler Allison and seconded by Sameer Vohra. Jen Grusby adjourned the meeting at 1:17 pm.

These minutes will be posted at <http://www.siumed.edu/students/sa.html>

You can e-mail the entire Student Assembly at s_assembly@siumed.edu