

Medical Undergraduate Society

Special General Meeting minutes - March 23rd 2020; 7:00 PM

Date	MSAC	IMP	NMP	SMP	Call-In # 1-877-792-2770
March 23 2020	VC Room				939882 https://meet.vc.ubc.ca

Preparation

Review Robert's Rules [here](#).

Add/update/verify your contact information [here](#).

Minutes

Present: Monica, Stephen, Vanessa, Kala, Khash, Jordanna, Adina, Isaac, Gabe, Chloe, Parker, Billy, Dallas, Kian, Vito, Annette, Chris, Zach, Reem, Army, Sarah, Maichael, Vivian, Lisa, Aaron, Jeremy, Devon, Gabe, Dr. Lui, Willow, Sabrina, Alec, Tribesty, Sina, John

VC:

<https://meet.vc.ubc.ca> Call 939882

Regrets:

title	proposer	time
Approval of Agenda	Mover: Michael Second: Monica In favour: all	7:02
Approval of Previous Minutes https://docs.google.com/document/d/1v3sowTTL-H8N4BSJRplk3PUFOApwbw2cGBdgzQVi63I/edit	Mover: Army Second: Khash In favour: all	7:05

<p>Remarks from the Chair</p> <p>Brief updates about initiatives to assist the current COVID-19 crisis. No additional remarks aside from what will already be discussed.</p>	<p>Zach Sagorin (President)</p>	
<p>Internal Updates</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Med Ball Costs Refund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Had to cancel <2 days notice - Able to recuperate most costs but not \$2226.8 (1000 dollars of which are showpass fees) - In discussion with faculty to cover costs so we can refund students full amount - Confident faculty will cover everything besides showpass (?) - So students will be refunded full except potentially 3-5 dollar Showpass processing fee-- trying to advocate for students - Will be decided ASAP, refunds can be done easily through showpass 2. Elections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NOW to March 27th 23:59 → vote and encourage others to do so UBC Alma Mater Society :: Online Voting - Please vote and encourage friends to vote - Transitions (no rush :) - new council elected on Friday will get an email for who is coming into the new position. This is a good opportunity to have a prolonged transition, no formal roles to be delegated immediately. Have a slow transition and ensure the person coming in will have full responsibility when you leave the position formally. 3. MSAC Closed until further notice 4. Emergency Response Committee 	<p>Isaac Rodin (VP Internal)</p>	

-8.8 - Emergency Response Committee

- a) The Emergency Response Committee is an emergency committee of the Society whose purpose is to:
 - i) Organize and coordinate the response of the membership of the MUS when faced with an exceptional external circumstance requiring rapid leadership and logistical organization
 - ii) Disseminate information to the student body regarding decisions made by the MUS with faculty that affect student curriculum and/or student activities
- b) the MUS President can strike the Emergency Response Committee in aforementioned exceptional circumstances without the need for ratification at a general council meeting
- c) The membership of the Emergency Response Committee is at the discretion of the MUS President

- This is something we are hoping to introduce to the constitution. Everyone who has been working on the COVID volunteer response has been doing a good job; everyone is passionate and hard-working and dedicated to contributing as a medical student. However, I have received some concerns from students regarding the formation of the COVID response leadership network. There was confusion on whether this was a MUS initiative, how the students became to be in that role. In spirit of this, Zach, John and I introduced this change, which is to have this emergency response committee where the President could strike and organize a response to exceptional circumstances. This would make it more transparent and funneled through MUS. Although arguable this may not be equitable to have the President pick, the goal is to have transparent efforts. To reiterate, this is not to take away from people's hard work but this is about concerns brought to me and potential solutions. We will not be voting on this right now (voted at AGM) but this is to introduce / set the stage for conversation and get feedback about this
- Stephen: I think this is a great idea. Zach and the steering committee should be applauded as they acted rapidly and worked hard for a full week. Beyond COVID, we live in an earthquake zone and we should be prepared. We should add a bullet on perhaps when the President should have a meeting or communicate back to the MUS.

- Monica: If we have a 1 week turnaround time, that would be ideal, depending on how urgent it is.
- Stephen: Even what we're doing today, we could say a MUS meeting must happen in 2 weeks
- Isaac: I can make that change
- Maichael: This is a great idea. Perhaps Isaac, there can be another bullet point to address how the committee will take over as reporting structure for other arms of this society. For example, in this COVID case, they would also get reports from MEC reps from people of the faculty. Maybe the committee will determine which parts of the organization to restructure and pull into this emergency committee, which would be undone following the closure of this society.
- Stephen: I have a suggestion. It could be students who have a portfolio that covers that role, the President can pull them into this role.
- Isaac: We can discuss the specifics when we will be passing this in 2 weeks at AGM. Zach and I just felt that me discussing this now would set the stage well for the rest of the meeting. But this is very good feedback so thank you.
- Billy: One quick question. What were the concerns brought up? Did the students say they weren't sure if the committee was Faculty or MUS approved. Could you break down the concerns?
- Isaac: There was nothing about qualifications or adequacy of response because everyone in the committee is obviously passionate and there are members of the committee here and I am not calling anyone out in a public manner. Moving forward, there was just an unclear genesis of the committee and its relation to the MUS. This is the volunteer steering committee and not the volunteer task force.
- Billy: I just wanted to clarify that the steering committee has done an exceptional job. I was just wondering what the students' concern is.
- Maichael: I also heard from my own class council that they felt very sidelined. There were people

<p>advocating for peers for years and all of a sudden there were people on the response teams and people didn't feel as informed/involved and felt like the train left without them. I think Isaac is saying there should be an approach that involves all members of society if something like this were to happen in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zach: This was definitely a complicated situation. The initial founding of the Steering Committee and medical student response to Covid 19, there was no organized structure and it was very organic. This is just to ensure there would be an approach if something similar were to happen in the future. I appreciate the feedback given to Isaac and I look forward to the next time we discuss this. - Maya: I wanted to echo Maichael. Many fourth years were hesitant about volunteering and about the response because of lack of transparency. 		
<p>Transition Reports</p> <p>Transition reports https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1_8CbBLNW67QLZftrgyf_qPfwjZGwX7X1mNCRIRmWmew/edit?usp=sharing Please link your transition reports in this excel spreadsheet by April 4th, 2020.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With new elected positions, we will start with transitions. I have linked an excel spreadsheet where you can put your transition reports. Deadline is April 4, 2020. Ideally, you could meet up with your Jr before this meeting so they have an idea of what's going on, so you can introduce them to their position and review the transition report. If not, we can just transition you slowly in April. I have also linked last years' transition reports for inspiration. <p>Inspiration on transition reports from last year: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gY56DlrFBqqNd7sNLeYiX0i9el7zF2w5m7kFar3oiY/edit?usp=sharing</p>	<p>Monica Hsieh (VP Communications Sr.)</p>	<p>7:27</p>

Overview of Year 1-4 Curricular changes to the UBC undergraduate medical program due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UGME COVID-19 Task Force

The task force will be updating entrada daily about COVID-19. The ugme.covid@ubc.ca email will be monitored so refer any questions to this email.

Years 1 & 2

Students are encouraged to travel home if able to but need to be able to return when curriculum restarts. Dr. Mui will comment on FLEX regarding if you have to go to the hospital but no patient contact. If you get sick or need to be isolated, you will need to report this through the absence forms. Lectures (camtasia), CBL (zoom), family practice lectures are transitioned to online. Clinical skills and family practice are suspended and not recommended for hospital entry. Anatomy and histology labs are online now (no physical in-person sessions allowed). Portfolio is also on zoom. FLEX restricted to no clinical exposure. TICE will proceed as scheduled through virtual platforms. Clerkship will not likely start on June 8th, 2020. OSCEs are postponed indefinitely. Year 1 exams moved to the week of June 8, 2020 and Fos exac cancelled. They are looking at at-home vigilance online exams. Year 2 exams moved to the week of may 11, 2020.

Gabe: Due to the MCQ exam being moved to June, what happens if the student already has set something and cannot postpone this?

Maichael: The date has been moved to before the make-up exam. You are not supposed to make travel plans until after that exam date. The faculty is within their right to reschedule the exam. I would contact student affairs to help you navigate that.

Stephen: The outbreak will be here for a few more months.

Billy: For clerkship, how will this affect the rotations?

Stephen
McCarthy (VP
Academic Sr.)
& Maichael
Thejoe (Year
IV President)

Stephen: When the committee tells me that they do not have an answer I cannot speculate. They are potentially looking at ways to shorten the rotations. I am not sure if this will happen. The goal is to preserve the experience and education for each specialty.

Year 3

Clerkship block 4 has been postponed (10 weeks left). The coordinator is reassessing if we can restart in July. Academic half days are postponed. FLEX will be starting April and May. Not allowed to have clinical exposure. The recommendation from faculty is to be flexible for summers. The goal is to preserve the graduation date. Year 3 OSCEs postponed and MCQs postponed (only 2 weeks done of block 4). The ICC exam planned in April is also postponed. The morning task force created a blended model for the Years 3/4. The 4 week block of FLEX and winter vacation are being frontloaded. Once the curriculum starts again, we can start with the core rotations or elective 1.

Khash: Any inkling on the preference to put the clerkship on the front or back end of electives?

Stephen: Goal 1 graduate class of 2020 on time and to not interfere with the elective blocks. They are leaning on finishing the core rotations post-carms.

Annette: Certain schools require core rotations before doing the elective. Will this discussion need to be made at the AAMC level?

Stephen: The deans across Canada are meeting to discuss this. That requirement will most likely be waived. One rotation that is important is the internal medicine block.

AFMC portal electives will be auto-cancelled until September 21, 2020 due to safety concerns. They do not foresee the pandemic ending soon. Students are potential vectors and flying everywhere can exacerbate the crisis. If there is an active outbreak in one province and students cannot go

there it needs to be equitable. In province electives are all cancelled and the new lottery will be coming. There may be different start dates. Needs to be equitable and fair for students who had AFMC electives cancelled.

Khash: I understand that you are faced with these decisions as student representatives. I am concerned what the faculty's reason was to vote on the day of the cancellation.

Alec: I am the Y3 UGME student representative and steering committee representative. I wanted to apologize to you Khash that this decision was made shortly after the meeting. We were not expecting that the decision would be shared to the students today. Students were already distressed by how much was cancelled in the curriculum. I spoke in agreement that the messaging should be delayed. We both tried to remedy the situation by answering the questions from the student class. This task force that meets every morning does not have a specific voting structure. They make decisions by consensus. This was the first decision where the student representatives agreed that the lottery should be re-run. They wanted to jump on this fairly quickly. We will be bringing this issue of distrust with the students and the faculty due to this incident tomorrow morning at the meeting.

Khash: I understand but it still feels problematic that the decision was shared prematurely. It doesn't make sense to insult the student body after the decision was made. I rely on updates from you guys and we were planning on surveying the class over the weekend to see how to best do this. A lot of people feel sidelined as to what we are deliberating about.

Maichael: The first bit about feeling out of the loop is valid which is why in the future that an emergency response committee is created. We were caught off guard with this as well. With the fast timeline, the faculty is trying to build a hybrid year and you graduate on time. They are pressured

by the senate, PGME, CaRMs. They had to make a decision quickly on this matter.

Zach: Every medical program and UGME deans are meeting regularly. Although this is quite sweeping to us, if you are evaluating on a national perspective we are trending towards a similar trajectory. A lot of these decisions are probably coming from above our faculty.

Stephen: Major committees are being blindsided (Year 2 and 4 committees). Some decisions are coming from Dr. Roger Wong and the dean. Our role as the task force is to implement these decisions. I agree as to why this had to happen today after we received news that the out of province electives and clerkship are cancelled. We do unfortunately have to match the other medical schools.

Kala: Has there been any discussion around ICC for year 2 or 3?

Stephen: ICC year 3 students will still need to complete their 10 weeks and exam at some point. Next update will come in 3 weeks. Will need to bring this up to the working group for Year 2s.

Alec: It is not 100% determined if the current ICC students will return to their original site.

Year 4

Post-Carms elective has been cancelled one week in. Students are moving from clinical placements into paraclinical activities (self-directed learning, meded projects, COVID 19 response). It will be assessed to the same exit competencies as the elective. TIPP will be transitioned online and the pending exam may become take-home. Faculty is discussing an equitable way that complies with privacy and integrity policies of UBC to hold this exam. Portfolio is being held through zoom. Faculty is working with the senate to modify graduation requirements. The MCCQE I exam is cancelled (this allows students to prescribe). Not required to

enter residency so departments will adjust rotations so that exams can be written in the winter or postponed. The challenge is that students are moving to the other provinces and there is no national consensus at the moment. UBC is not keen to cancel the graduation proceedings so they are still as scheduled right now. We are trying to mitigate the financial impact if events are cancelled. That is the unfortunate nature of this situation. Many of the partners are sympathetic to this situation.

Zach: Has there been discussion as to where the funding that was originally budgeted for these graduation proceedings will go to?

Maichael: This may go back to MSAC for grad gifts, moved over to next year as a grant, back to faculty etc.

STephen: Everyone will be provisionally promoted and when the lab exams and OSCEs can happen, it will be scheduled in.

Maya: Will we be able to write orders without the LMCC in residency?

Maichael: Currently, we cannot and we would need co-signing with residents or staff. Ongoing discussions are being made about provincial licensing.

Khash: Will MUS be able to reimburse some costs that students have incurred due to electives and such?

Alec: We have brought this up to the committee twice now. Currently, we are assessing we can reabsorb the funding. IF that cannot be done, we will look at faculty for funding. They are sympathetic to students. We are actively looking for ways to remunerate the students. At this point, those individuals have not been mentioned but I can bring this up.

Stephen: I brought this up to student affairs. The best they can do is to get credit with the airline.

Billy: We have thousands of dollars in the MUS budget that can be used so this may be an option.

Stephen: We can repurpose the travel bursary awards.

Maichael: This may be worthwhile to call the MUS executive for.

John: A lot of clubs that did not host events will have money remaining.

Annette: The travel bursary is running retrospectively and the cutoff is March 1st before COVID happened.

Zach: So it may be using next year's travel bursary money.

COVID 19 UBC Response

https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/120uOUAn7ktXshMxeQRf1yE-jFgQZIB_2

There was an emergency senate meeting last Wednesday. The relevant motions were voted on and passed so that Senate could continue meeting during COVID. In line with what Maichael alluded to earlier, Senate mainly discussed ensuring graduation on time. Most faculties have agreed on extension of credit D for students and allowing students to withdraw from classes after their current grades were posted. Currently Faculty drafting a letter to offer transcript notations that grades received prior to this, honouring continuation of UBC awards and loans, taking students current standing before the pandemic when evaluating for scholarships and awards, promoting existence of technology funds that UBC has. Perhaps we could set aside some money for electives, as well as promoting current academic concessions should any students need special arrangements made.

Vivian Tsang
(Senator)

8:10

Zach: Thanks for the update. This is an important reminder that this affects society and all of the university, and for us to evaluate what the current challenge is at the moment.

COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Grants/VPX updates

CFMS Update

I also am on the national board of CFMS. We had a large delegation that was going to attend the SGM but the in-person events had been cancelled. The meeting will go forward virtually and more information will be coming through in the next few weeks. **The elections will still happen for the president position and the board roles.** I encourage students to **run for these positions.** It is an amazing opportunity to represent UBC at the national level. The CFMS has been providing memos once weekly (twitter, email, instagram). They are advocating year 4s at the national level. The LMCC/MCCQE exams are heavily influenced so CFMS is advocating for not having the exam during winter (studying during residency).

Stephen: Is the digital exam a resource problem?

Devon: The LMCC works with prometrics that has in-person biometric confirmation of students. Moving virtually would disrupt the contract between them. There are concerns how it can be appropriately invigilated. I personally do not believe these are insurmountable concerns if there is a will. Strong preference for writing the exam before the July 1st residency start date.

Reem: The MCCQE exam will not delay the start of residency and the interviews for the second-iteration of the CaRMs match will be moved to online. The CFMS is supporting students with \$150 for students who are applying in the second iteration. Also, there have been advocacy efforts across Canada for COVID. If you are not in Vancouver, there are opportunities to help out in other provinces. The VP external portfolio is responsible for the provincial lobby day but it had to be postponed. I am looking at resources that

Reem Aziz
(VP External)

have been provided to graduate students. There are universities that have published emergency funding for students facing a financial crisis during this pandemic. I was wondering if this could be brought up to UBC.

Zach: Student affairs has a small budget for emergency financial means. This is a resource that could be available. It is a regular usage fund not related to COVID though.

Reem: Is there anything I can do to bring this up to the COVID task force?

Lisa: Student affairs has been brought forward a couple of times so this can be lumped in with this to the students. Clarifying that seeking financial help to student affairs can be an option.

Reem: I am thinking more of an emergency grant application or funds rather than just talk to us if you have financial concerns.

Devon: There are no financial grants but there is an emergency fund for people who cannot pay rent and are getting evicted. I don't know how much we should have to engage students on this aspect.

Zach: A huge amount of distress has been directed towards student leaders. These leaders have been responsible for bringing this to faculty so I want to commend these individuals for this. This is an example where we should bring this to faculty.

Dr. Lui: I can be an additional resource to any of you if you need someone to reach out to.

Unused UPasses (or UPass Desuetude due to self-Disengagement)

Gabriel Malvas (IT Officer Jr.)

8:27

This is an item of curiosity, related to financial implications of pandemic. UPass is a significant portion of tuition. Now that our curriculum is online, there is a significant decrease in our uses of UPasses and even bus fares are waved. Because we are essentially losing March - June, the UPass doesn't seem to be fulfilling the benefit to students. I didn't see any previous policies about this. I wanted your thoughts about this. Should there be anything done about this?

Maichael: I appreciate where this is coming from but I looked into this opt-out process as part of my consultation of transitioning to opt-out for health. UPass has been lumped into this, and so Year 1 and 2 would not be able to opt out. These are unprecedented times but unless the university is moving to refund us tuition, because this is lumped together, there is not a big chance we would get this money back. My requests about tuition refunds have only been met with ghash faces. To those who have not previously encountered this issue, we must engage with AMS and we are not their favourite child. Every time we bring this up, they will try and force us to change our opt-out and opt-in system. So I would caution to engage our AMS reps and Zach. Sometimes we have to weigh the costs of pursuing this and us getting the opt-in system.

Gabe: Thanks.

Zach: Some of us are familiar with your expertise, Maichael. Gabe, are there any other thoughts?

Gabe: Let's move forward!

Billy: Maichael, just a question. Who is the AMS rep in charge of this? I think this is something that is worth looking into, at least getting some tuition credit or partial refund. Total costs would amount to a lot of money. I know it might be futile but I still feel like something to pursue looking into.

Maichael: I don't want to take up too much time but the UPass is kind of like pancreas. It exists as an entity but if you

separate into pieces, it doesn't work. You have to deal with AMS, Translink and UBC. This may be a good thing for MUS execs to discuss when we talk about finances.

Zach: Yes this is something we can talk about at our following meeting, especially during budget review.

COVID-19 Steering Committee

Presentation:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1waMR_XLcdtIJFltnj7FGnXHCf2FSZe2XtNBrUa_r4ts/edit#slide=id.p

Terms of Reference:

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1h_wfDlv7936N86uvb_oHJRLhx-ziWD40A

This is BC Covid-10 Medical Student Response Team. As background, there is increased demand for public health and personnel to a degree that requires additional shifts and services like child care and prescriptions/grocery runs have been limited. This has sparked this committee. This coincides with disruption with the UGME curriculum so that students have time, skills and opportunity to support our system. This led to the establishment of a response team, on March 16, 2020. In essence, the response team began after the structure, protocols and best practices with medical student leadership across Canada. Despite the limitations, there were students from CFMS roundtable, board and equivalent medical student response team leaderships at almost all Canadian medical schools. Before we started, only Western and UofT had this started but now, almost all schools have one going. This is student-led, grass-roots organizations with primary efforts to mobilize student efforts. In terms of organizational structure, it's set up as a steering committee as evaluating and triaging possible opportunities. There is a student advisor that communicates with the steering community, and latter is responsible for intake and identification with student

Zach Sagorin
(President)

Motion
mover: Zach
Seconder:
Devon

In favour 14
Against 5
Abstentions
5

volunteers and matching them with potential matches and public health services. This is distributed to various sub-committees (VFMP volunteer coordinator), which is responsible for connecting the student with physician family and maintaining that coordination. There are respective site leads so that any problems can be disseminated. There is also a public health information committee, such as running public campaigns such as social distancing, social media news and connections. In addition, there are designated project leads. There are students paired with families, volunteer coordinators and independent public health projects so there is a student lead for each project.

Stephen: Could you explain the genesis of the six of you self-appointed and self-created this steering committee?

Zach: This was a fairly organic process that came together due to few different students involved in both task force and other activities, as well as students who communicated with them saying they were interested in supporting during this crisis. This came together due to a group of people with a shared goal. One student had already been in contact with Dr. Mary Kestler on public health responses, so they came in with that perspective. I came in as MUS President and member of CoVID task force. It essentially came together in a facebook message. There was no elected position or public opportunity for involvement, but rather just a group that wanted to start something from the ground up.

Devon: Many of our electives were cancelled. Many have said that if I were to organize this, and someone asked if there was interest. Vivian Tsang commented on a post and put me in touch with this group. There is a very formalized structure in place now, which is due to structural tendencies that a lot of us have, and that gives a false impression that this is an established, merit process that people were chosen but that is not how it happened at all. This was just a conversation and people were looped in. There are people at this meeting that I have never even met. I think that is the source of a lot of frustration among classmates but we just

coalesced and we were running before we even knew what happened.

Zach: I think that also goes for all of these involvements. Essentially someone reached out to see if there was interest. It was a very rapid and organic process, and it was just a matter of who stepped up. Of course, there is a selection bias on your newsfeed and who posts. In terms of accountability, there is technically a liaison with the MUS president, or past-president, and I would like to include that there is significant effort to communicate what is going on throughout this process. This was a challenge in that it was difficult to communicate with everyone through channels that had not yet been established. Everyone on the steering committee had probably worked 10h a day and the vast majority of this is Facebook chats and VCs with tons of people trying to figure out what is happening. This is just to emphasize how people were connected to each other. We also made contact with Dr. Mary Kestler and she has been our expert advisor with these activities. We have a Qualtrics form where physicians can fill in the projects that they need help with, and this is where we need expertise to evaluate whether these are appropriate before they are rolled out to students. We also may delegate this to other student groups, so essentially this is a toolkit which can be shared to other student groups. Again, this is not through an official means but rather through Facebook chats and messages. There is a lot of communication, such as when there are curricular or policy concerns, consulting with VP Academics and communications with the FLEX team.

As a basic summary, it is to mobilize students, maintain records and communicate results. This includes advocating student needs, such as doing our best to ensure appropriate safety measures are in place. If not in place, we would halt these activities or communicate with leaders. We would also ask for honorariums or address financial inequalities. There is also quality control and risk management. With COVID 19 pandemic, a huge priority is the safety of our colleagues and BC citizens. We have been in contact with student leaders

within Canada and legal agencies and UGME deans and Faculty and physician expert advisors to help construct these. These efforts state that activities must meet guidelines and recommendations. All activities undergo safety assessment and students must be asymptomatic. For example, only one student per family and weekly check-ins by volunteer coordinators. Also, activities are discontinued if breach safety standards. There have been multiple activities found to not meet standards, of which they were no longer pursued, but usually before they begin.

With these in mind, I'd like to talk about the results of this. We've had over 600 students sign up across sites and years and over 200 have been matched to placements. This does not include administrative roles. Some examples: 75 students involved physician support, 70 in 811 call centre.. Etc. Huge gratitude to all the students involved.

In terms of other results, there is explicit Faculty support from UGME Dean and Executive Associate Dean of Education, so with this, we can have formal integration of projects. Projects have been included in Year 3 and 4 curricular leads and FLEX projects, and made ways for them to count for curricular credits. The mobilization toolkit has been shared with Nursing, Dentistry, Midwifery.. Etc. There has been an awesome media response. This started a week ago and has been featured in CBC, Burnaby now and pending news sources.

There are quotes from various HCP and critical care teams, as well as Faculty who are grateful for our efforts.

MOTION: Supporting the COVID-19 Steering Committee in mobilizing medical students to community activities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

WHEREAS the current COVID-19 pandemic has required the suspension of clinical activities and the disruption of curricular learning of UBC medical students. Medical students have the time, skill, and opportunity to support our future colleagues and contribute to current public health priorities;

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic may result in overextending healthcare resources and overburdening frontline physicians. There is a growing need for physician support and public health efforts due to stringent self-quarantine measures and insufficient staff to meet the current needs of some public health initiatives.

WHEREAS the COVID-19 Steering Committee has emerged as the main UBC medical student leadership group responding to this effort. The Committee has established a platform to mobilize student volunteers to support public health initiative requests from physicians, and consults with the UBC UGME COVID-19 Task Force, UGME Deans, and Infectious Disease and Public Health Specialists for review of activities;

AND WHEREAS the COVID-19 Steering Committee follows safety protocols that will be iteratively reviewed in accordance with changes in the COVID-19 pandemic and government and public health guidelines;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Medical Undergraduate Society support the efforts of the COVID-19 Steering Committee as long as the MUS deems necessary;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the COVID-19 Steering Committee be invited to select a MUS liaison to sit on the Steering Committee and that this liaison communicate directly with the MUS President or Past President;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the MUS President be directed to advocate that the Steering Committee's operations are congruent with the Vision (I.2) and Objectives (I.3) of the Society

Mover: Zach Sagorin, President

Seconder: Devon Mitchell, VP External

Discussion

Support

Stephen: I have been thinking about this group. I volunteered on Sars and did a clinical trial on ebola. I am confident that they have a faculty advisor that the students will not do any student activities. Healthcare workers did not expect to die during SARS but they did in Toronto. Please be aware that students may get COVID or their family members may get it. There should be a contingency plan in place.

Can we place a friendly amendment that the liaison reports directly to MUS. The MUS president should have authority over the committee.

Zach: I view that as a friendly amendment.

Devon: I do not view this as a friendly amendment. We ran into difficulties because the committee has been running via consensus. The idea that the committee has to report to MUS and the president can dissolve it is contradictory to the committee's terms of reference. As a member of the steering committee, I don't agree that it is a friendly amendment.

Maichael: Stephen will you be withdrawing this amendment or putting it to a vote.

Zach: What is the intention of reporting?

Stephen: If there is a safety issue, I want the MUS to be able to support the organization.

Devon: The MUS does not have that power currently. If any grassroots initiative that comes up, only the government or the members of the organization can bring it to an end. Then, that would be something that can be followed. It would make the motion unbinding because MUS cannot enforce that. We can advocate due to overlap in membership and it will continue to be done. I am more than happy to work with the MUS but we have no control over this.

Maichael: Stephen are you withdrawing or putting it to a vote.

Stephen: I would like to put this to a vote.

Isaac: I will second it. If this were able to happen again, the committee would be under MUS. We were all saying that this would improve transparency and to lay the foundation for a group. The reason I am supporting this is because we are doing this in reverse. If the group reports to MUS, this would be an appropriate method to run it through the student government.

Devon: I want to hear Reem's perspective about this. It is not our authority to absorb a group into MUS if they do not want to absorb it. I understand why we haven't thought of this initially. The MUS does not have a jurisdiction over this autonomous group of students.

Reem: I do see both perspectives in this situation. Should this happen again, it should be under MUS. I realize this committee was made before we agreed on this. It is not reasonable for us to have power over it now. I don't think we can all of a sudden say that they are under MUS. The steering committee never signed up to be part of MUS to begin with.

Stephen: This organization reports to the MUS and only for safety reasons. An organization that has been made in 10 days that is not flexible is concerning. I am concerned that none of the steering committee members are public health experts. It should be under our jurisdiction to shut down a group if it puts students' safety at risk.

Dr. Lui: One thing that I am wondering is the reason behind the proponent not wanting to be associated with MUS.

Devon: It boils down to flexibility and responsiveness. The committee has been very flexible with a small number of people whereas MUS has over 30 people. The structure of the committee and efficiency will be severely curtailed with having to report to MUS. This organization has been integrated to the Year 4 curriculum in 10 days. There has not been as much oversight as we want. We are all volunteers to help other volunteers. I hope that addresses people's concerns about this. The MUS representatives are involved but this is separate from the MUS entity.

Khash: I am one of the members helping out with this initiative. I have concerns with accountability. I feel that we cannot control this organization but we also cannot endorse it. Perhaps, we do not have to give it MUS' blessing if something does go haywire. It can continue to operate on its own and give us the feedback. I just wouldn't push forward with endorsing it.

Zach: MUS feels the majority of the steering committee are current MUS or previous MUS members. MUS is being represented in this organization. The idea that the organization has to report to the MUS is unnecessary is because MUS is already a part of it. I think that if it were to report to MUS, it would make no difference. Having MUS' blessing would be a positive feature. A majority of us have decided to support this as private citizens but not yet as an organization.

Dr. Lui: You need to be clear about how there are members of MUS execs part of it but we cannot say that MUS is already part of it. We must be careful which hat you're wearing and clarify that subtle

difference. This poses a risk of conflict of interest if you don't declare which hat you are wearing.

Gabe: First of all, thanks to the steering committee for taking on this role to take the lead and this organic nature of this rising so fast is a good thing because it serves as an example how fast students can do things. I wanted to ask about the organization because as brought up by Stephen, the purpose of this motion seems as though we are absorbing the steering committee into MUS but as it is said, that is not the case. So that is more clarified now. So as Khash mentioned, are we just giving a stamp of approval to this organization? I was wondering as to what the purpose of this is. Is this absorbing them, giving stamp of approval, becoming overseer to work parallel with them? Lastly, what would Zach's role be? He is the MUS president to who the steering committee would report to. What purpose would the MUS have with this committee.

Devon: Can we clarify what the amendment is?

Stephen: Fundamentally, I want to change one word "reports directly" and not "liaise"

Maichael: Can that text be delineated?

Stephen: Thanks Gabe. The original motion was just to get MUS' blessing. But my amendment is that this organization should be under MUS. VP Academic portfolio cannot function, and MUS is a fundamental organization of student body and wellness and academic activity. VP Academic must be able to encourage students to go to CBL and class and that curricular activities are still attended. Twice this week, there has been a grumble with this group where they didn't want to report their activities in Year 1-3. It would be easier if this organization reports directly to MUS.

Zach: Thanks for raising the question for my role clarification. This has been a continuous challenge because my involvement in this group was to help expedite the process to mobilize students and to help them contribute their efforts. This essentially is a conflict of interest because these are two different roles. This document/motion does just ask for the stamp of approval, it does not request accountability to MUS and the rationale is that this is an activity intended to be grass-roots, trying to be for students by students, while recognizing that this is not democratic and has challenges associated with it.

Devon: Thanks for the discussion. By changing one word of the motion, we are trying to change the spirit of this motion. The intention was to create lines of communication between MUS and this group. The more that this group can liaise with each other, the more we can work as synergy and work together. From a procedural perspective, if this is amended, it is not functional. Even if this motion passes, the organization can just ignore us. We can just create a harmonious motion instead.

Dr. Lui: The only paradox is down to words; on one hand, the amendment speaks to the fact that they would like MUS to have a governance role to us and yet the main motion directing the group to appoint someone. We should change that word. The word "direct" is used but we cannot force the group to appoint someone. We can "invite" them but "direct" speaks to governance.

Isaac: Devon and others were in agreement that future committees be run by MUS. If you are in agreement that in future disaster or response that needs a logistic response should be run through MUS, I don't understand why you wouldn't agree in this case. I don't think every decision made by this committee needs to be approved by MUS. This is a very narrow view of oversight and that's not what I'm suggesting. MUS represents students' interests and when we have something that so many students are engaged with, it's reasonable to have an oversight that is our society so we can respond to situations that may occur. I know it's only one word and I support this motion with the friendly amendment. I support the spirit of the original motion.

Maichael: I'm giving everyone 2 min to vote on this. In the second "Be it resolved" clause, it would strike "communicate" and replace it with "report," and "with" is changed to "to." Guest members are expected to withhold from voting. Also, everyone please just vote once. To clarify, we are voting for the amendment.

Devon: Is this why we are voting blind?

Maichael: It would just take a lot longer to vote on VC. There is no specific motion to have a blind vote.

Maichael: Motion is defeated and returns to original state

- Now original discussion

Devon: Can we make the next vote so that you write your MUS position and say yes/no?

Isaac: That is the case.

Anette: I wanted to clarify about the slide about risks and liabilities. Was there a document or protocol similar to needle stick protocol, such as what happens to a student who does get exposed to someone who is COVID positive. Is there a resource they can easily refer to, instead of calling 811. This could be something to think about further, especially as a student-led group.

Zach: In the event that students develop symptoms, they are immediately pulled out of activity and told to self-isolate and go visit appropriate health care services.

Gabe: Against the motion. Given that we are at an impasse as to having approval, the steering committee seems to be wanting to move forward independently. I do see Stephen's point that MUS giving approval will give some assurance for what to do if something were to happen. If things go bad, what is put in place to protect the students?

Devon: As in Zach's presentation, everything we do is coordinated through Dr. Mary Kestler, who is an infectious diseases expert. There is no patient contact. This follows all faculty, public health and government guidelines. We are assured that risks to students remain very low. And should an exposure were to occur, that would be equal in risks going to the grocery store.

Devon: I wanted to say my last piece in support. This motion is important in establishing open lines of communication between new and old organizations. Formalizing communications and how we are briefing and information MUS is very important. Voting down will decrease synergy between motinos, which would be a shame since many students are brought into this group. The more we can buy into these two distinct groups, the more we can appreciate this.

Dr. Lui: Unless the words "directed to" are changed to "invited to", the net effect of the current motion remains one of a governance role for MUS, which was essentially defeated by the non passage of the amendment. I am not taking sides. Just trying to point out the contradiction.

Stephen: I have to speak against this motion. The six students are well-intended but none of them are public health experts or have

infectious disease training. We must learn from SARS. They had expert opinions too and gave advice to PPE but still got exposed. I don't think the organization is ready to take liability. I have experience for 10 years.

Monica: I wanted to bring up a quick point. Upon running into legal issues, MUS' endorsement means we will be taking up that responsibility. In an event that anyone decides to sue for any reason in regards to child care or exposure to COVID, will we be taking on that legal liability?

Devon: All activities undertaken are what Faculty classifies as para-clinical, such as public health tracing or administrative work, are covered by Faculty's liability insurance. We have asked students to register on Entrada to get covered.

Zach: The goal in bringing this motion forward is, as described previously, is to increase lines of communication between MUS and steering committee. I recognize that it puts me in an awkward position but I would like to emphasize that increasing communication is better than it functioning independently, which decreases communication and MUS' ability to function, and reduces our ability to advocate for students. With these considerations in mind, these are good motions to enhance those.

Dr. Lui: I thought I heard that there would be financial considerations for some of the activities. One thing I would encourage the committee to look into is to possibly get worksafe BC coverage. Some of these positions may be considered contracted work and you may need to pay the appropriate premiums.

Devon: Thank you, we have been consulting the faculty on this.

Annette: I am wondering about the liability coverage and I checked under Entrada. Students who are going through 811 are not covered and childcare activities also are not covered. Just wanted some clarification about this.

Zach: For 811, the liability is covered under their own organization. The childcare activities are volunteer activities as private citizens.

Devon: The general consensus that we are clear to students that they are taking on these activities as private citizens, there shouldn't be

Amendment
For 8
Against 10
Abstain 2

legal liability there. We wanted to move that up carefully. Other schools have provided guidance.

Gabe: We are talking about if students are exposed to COVID-19. What if the students bring something to the volunteer activity?

Devon: That falls under the umbrella to the students that this is a student-led initiative. The legal liability is low because it is not an occupational danger at the moment.

Vito: Were you guys planning on sharing the presentation with the student body? Anecdotally, a lot of students are confused as to how this committee was formed and the exact roles.

Zach: I would be open to sharing this publicly.

Amendment Vote

<https://forms.gle/NzugyjJ1ZnjermQZA>

Voting Link:

https://ubc.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5aUIMQADC0cfwxv

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RF0kURaEbil1N09SpTR4m20dBnPCgrjlugPRi5wV4Fw/edit?usp=sharing>

Maichael was the chair for this specific motion.

Zach: Thanks for the discussion. Being contentious reflects the need for increased communication so that we can have additional input moving forward. Thanks Maichael for taking over the chair, music and hydration involvement.

For 14
Against 5
Abstain 5

Student Representation

I wanted to bring this up to MUS. The COVID taskforce has been formed and I, myself, have not been a part of it. There are MUS reps on this taskforce and thank you for contributing your time for this. I am wondering how these student representatives were chosen and who do they represent?

Zach: It is a subcommittee under the UGME committee so all of the UGME reps are automatically part of it. I am a

Khash (Year III President)

non-voting member on this committee so I am on it. There were two nominations to be on this committee (Maichael, Stephen and the ICC rep).

Khash: May I just ask was it based on their role on student government or their previous qualification? Stephen had a virology background and curricular changes as VP academic. They are not sitting on the taskforce as the VP academic and the Year IV president.

Zach: To a degree, both of them had taken on leadership roles that are related. That was a component for bringing them on the committee but it was not the sole factor.

Khash: That raises concerns regarding unequitable representation of the year cohorts. The other issue is who is responsible for getting back to the class with the updates.

Stephen: After Friday and Saturday where our curriculum was gutted, year 1 and 2 UGME reps speak to the class presidents daily. The faculty asks us to be confidential information. We have leaked some information due to safety issues but we will be drafting communication that is sent out everyday.

Maichael: Since it was such a rapid situation, the acute issues were year 3 and 4. This fell onto the UGME reps at the time but a part of it is that the faculty is learning quickly about this. They even blindsided some of their own committees. They have averted some of their standard protocols and we are not used to it. We have people at different stages, but even the faculty has not been able to do this. We pulled people in strategic positions at this point quickly. I agree with you, Khash, that there should be a more organic way to select students on this task force. In the future, we will be better poised about this. We could designate certain roles as emergency roles to step up to this. The faculty were looking for some students with background knowledge. I would not place the blame on the students at this point.

Khash: I am not trying to put on blame but rather allowing MUS council to have awareness of who to go to for questions about COVID. Who are the year reps?

Alec: In regards to updating the MUS and year presidents, the representatives are not allowed to divulge any information including year presidents. On general days, information will only be sent through official communication from the faculty.

Khash: We accept that there are rules that are put into place.

Year 1: Robin stone

Year 2: Richard Xiang

Year 3: Stephen McCarthy, Alec Yu, Jessica Dawson

Year 4: Maichael Thejoe, Sarah Macvicar

Khash: In terms of future planning, elections are under way and replacements are happening. Will there be any replacements for people who are involved in COVID and MUS once they leave? Are there any plans for transition?

Stephen: I have tried to contribute with my virology background but it was mostly from a VP academic role. I will try to get Annette on this taskforce.

Zach: The MUS update is included in the taskforce meeting tomorrow.

Khash: If we could give students a heads up on specific votes or decisions on certain matters, that would be ideal. Without consulting the student body, it is giving the faculty an easy way out. I felt irritated when the faculty added this in their communication about the decision.

Zach: The students on the committee have also been blindsided. A lot of the decisions are also notifications to us rather than provide us the opportunity to negotiate.

Personally, I do not think we can provide a heads up due to confidentiality issues. We can push for that though.

Khash: I think it stems from the mistrust when faculty states that there has been student representation on certain decisions.

Alec: We will redouble our efforts to do this. At these meetings, there is no voting structure so there are multiple incidents where decisions are notified to us. There is no discussion for student input.

Update of the COVID-19 epidemic in British Columbia.

I did a presentation last time and I want to give a more precise update. This is my experience from virology. Our situation in Canada, updated today, and Wikipedia is quite helpful. There was a big leap in cases today. On March 23, there is a 44% increase in cases, there was an exponential increase earlier, then plateaued then exponential again. There were 400+ new cases today. Now that borders have closed and flights are stopped, 5 days after that, we should see a decline in cases just caused by travellers. If it is just local spread, it would be 5 days after these closes, which is unfortunately what is happening in Quebec.

In our province, we have 472 new cases. We're in the best province for testing so we have rapid turnover.

Unfortunately, the greatest deaths are in Lynn Valley care centre, which is why we want to protect the vulnerable populations, such as elderly and immunocompromised. Some parks have been closed to encourage social distancing. Some people are still going out in public areas. Essential services such as groceries and day cares are still open to support health care workers. There are fines to businesses if they do not keep people 2m apart, and individual fines. You should only go outside but only with family members in small groups.

Dr. Bonnie Henry presented data over the weekend. There is a lag of 5-6 days between someone who is positive and

Stephen
McCarthy (VP
Academic Sr.)

knowing that they actually are. This is why we do social distancing. We want everyone to have as few contacts as possible because we could be transmitting the virus even if asymptomatic. The next diagram has Covid cases by age. There are more elderly affected, and children are quite safe. Children may be a route of transmission but do not get sick themselves. Many health care workers also fall sick.

Pandemic Provincial Plan

The city will be focusing on protecting the population, vulnerable citizens, health workers and capacity of hospitals. Expert modellers predict this to be at least 3-4 months long. They are trying to help each business make their way through. To protect the population, we need to respond rapidly and use emergency powers. There is a chance of community spread in hospitals. Even an activity like looking at patient charts could spread a case. To protect health workers, they want to redeploy staff who have required, ensure that staff can move rapidly across provinces. To support health-care capacity, they unfortunately had to cancel surgeries to ensure sufficient beds. This is put across provinces to be mobilized to hospitals that need it most. Some wards are now used as temporary ICUs. There is also a need to triage rapidly. There is also a need to establish inventory. There is a prediction that Toronto will run out of PPE and wards will be full in 7 days. We will reach capacity at 4 months.

There is some good news. In Europe, the epidemic is beginning to decelerate in Europe. On March 10, Italy lockdown took place but for about 2 days, it went from linear to deceleration phase. This matters because this shows that lockdown isolation does work. Italy drives outbreak numbers in Europe and Spain's numbers are going down slightly too. Gloomy component of the outbreak is in the future but it will go down.

This is a minimum 8 weeks for us in BC but it could go on for 4 months.

For the US, some are forecasting to up to 1.5y. It is much worse than ours.

Zach: Could you make these slides available?

Stephen: Yes! I'll give these slides to Monica.

Zach: Are there any last questions or concerns?

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Monica

Seconded: Gabe

In favor: All