

# OMSA Council Meeting #1

## July 11, 2020 10:00AM



**Present via teleconference:** Ushma Purohit, Sharon Yeung, Saara Punjani, Michael Scaffidi, Zachary Barkhouse, Jessica Scott, Courtney Leach, Rae Woodhouse

**Guests:** Felipe Fajardo (CFMS Ontario Regional Director)

**Regrets:** none

### 1. Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda

- **Motion to Start the Meeting**
  - Mover: Zachary Barkhouse
  - Seconder: Jessica Scott
- **Motion to Adopt the Agenda**
  - Mover: Jessica Scott
  - Seconder: Michael Scaffidi
- **Motion to Approve Last Meeting's Minutes (AGM)**
  - Mover: Courtney Leach
  - Seconder: Jessica Scott

### 2. Question Period

- Q: If there is something that just came up that would like to be discussed, do we add it to the discussion items or discuss it in varia?
  - A: Varia is only a few minutes, If it warrants significant discussion, add it to the agenda.

**Motion to add item to agenda:** Clerkship Kits

- Mover: Courtney Leach
- Seconder: Rae Woodhouse
- Motion: passes

### 3. Communications Orientation

- [Slide Deck](#)
- Team photos - each team member takes their own headshot, send to Saara
- OMSA email signatures - Saara will send the template for email signatures to council
  - Should we add pronouns and land acknowledgements?

- Members can customize/ add to their signature as they like, as long as the basic framework is the same.
- **Action items: Saara** to send council members the signature template. **Sharon** to send council members the land acknowledgement that she uses at the end of her email.
- Trello update - new lists, instructions for each type of task to be assigned to Comms to mitigate issues that were faced last year
  - Contact Saara through Whatsapp or email if there are any issues with Trello

#### 4. Director Updates (+ Work Plans)

[10:30-11:30]

- Communications
  - Please review the update [here](#).
  - Workplan: Improve French presence on social media by translating a minimum of 60% of social media posts. Organize “town halls” for each school to ensure students understand our initiatives and we get valuable feedback.
- Advocacy
  - Please review the update [here](#).
  - If any recommendations for co-lead for Advocacy Partnerships, let Jess know.
  - Workplan: Potentially put together EDI task force.
- Education
  - Please review the update [here](#).
  - Is there a good way to “anonymize” applications for MSERG?
    - Google forms can work well because you can download the responses as a Sheet, and delete the identifying information.
  - Plan to track MSERGs and see which led to projects that have been published
  - Workplan:
    - OSMERC - tentatively week of March 27
      - We are still deciding format of delivery and date.
      - Deposit was made for in-person event last year that was pushed to 2021. If planning on online delivery, see if this deposit can be pushed to 2022.
      - CARMS tour is March 8 - March 28. Keep this in mind when deciding on a date.
    - Securing funding for education projects.

- Concerns about confidentiality in OMA meetings.
  - Ensure it is understood that if there is information relevant to medical students, you may bring this to the council for discussion
- Student Affairs
  - Please review the update [here](#).
  - New updates on clerkship kits – this topic has been added to the discussion items.
  - Workplan
    - Thinking of establishing a wellness round table to bring together wellness initiatives at the different schools. There are lots of initiatives but not much communication between wellness reps. Planning for a meeting in the fall.
- Operations
  - Please review the update [here](#).
  - Workplan: Planning to review constitutional documents again and update as needed to reflect covid/quarantine/anti-racism discussions + anti-oppression training
- Finance
  - Please review the update [here](#).
  - Remember to fill out honoraria reimbursement form that Rae will send to council.
  - Rae is working with 3M and Surgo on stethoscope sale.
    - Is there another promotional strategy since stethoscopes can't be displayed in person as usual?
      - A virtual seminar is being discussed. We will put it in the August Communique. We want to try to advertise before school starts since some people like to buy early (McMaster starts early and UofT needs it before the first day of orientation). We will also try to advertise it in the Incoming Student Handbook.
        - **Action items:** Michael to find out if it is too late to add it to the Incoming Student Handbook for this year.
  - Workplan:

- Making sure sponsorship contracts are up to date and in line with OMSA values
  - Making sure money is being spent maximally. Rae will contact members periodically with the budget left for their committees.
- President & President-Elect
    - Please review the update [here](#).
    - Sharon and Ushma are planning to get more student consultation about our relation to the OMA Section in the fall once first years join our classes.
    - Idea to develop a platform with consolidated update on curriculum changes in response to COVID-19 at each school
      - CFMS: Our round table has access to changes that are happening at every school, and information should be able to be shared if you ask Felipe or Avrilynn.
        - **Action items:** Felipe will ask Avrilynn if it is possible to make this information public to all students.

## 5. CFMS Update

- Please review the update [here](#).

## 6. Motions

- Motion to Adopt the Position Paper “Integration of PoCUS Into Formal Curricula Across Ontario Medical Schools”
  - Please find the motion [here](#). Please find the position paper .
  - Mover: Michael Scaffidi
  - Secunder: Jessica Scott
  - There are concerns that POCUS skills may not really be used practically in most clinical scenarios, and that if your specialty does require this skill, you will get a lot of exposure in residency.
    - The thought is that POCUS will become more integrated into everyday clinical scenarios over time, so proficiency is important.
  - What is the objective of endorsing position papers? Do the recommendations ever become more than just recommendations and translate into action?
    - As a team, we will put more thought long-term as to what kind of papers we want to be publishing, and have a plan as to how to advocate for the papers we endorse. This may be done by being more specific with the

- criteria for submitting position papers – perhaps add a section where students must submit an implementation plan, which will also result in recommendations becoming more realistic and feasible. There is also thought of setting aside some Education team members focused on bringing implementation and actionable change with these papers.
- Motion to postpone the motion until the next OMSA meeting on September 13
    - Mover: Michael Scaffidi
    - Seconder: Sharon Yeung
    - Motion: passes

## 7. Discussion Items

- Conversations About Race - *President*
  - At our last meeting, we decided to reserve 15 minutes at each OMSA meeting to have conversations about race. Sharon shared an [article](#) as a prompt for discussion. Emerging data is outlining an enormous racial disparity in COVID infections and COVID-related deaths. It is often stated that natural disasters and pandemics are an “equalizer” as they affect everyone, but evidence shows that they amplify differences in treatment of minority groups.
  - Members have had experiences hearing uncomfortable conversations in clinical settings from staff making insensitive and ignorant comments about current issues. It can be frustrating that even the most educated people do not understand the structural inequalities in a white-dominated society.
  - Article also touches on the dichotomy in stories that are amplified vs. not widespread. Anecdotal evidence about Black folks not caring or being careful about COVID were widespread in early stages of the virus, whereas evidence-based information that Black people are actually must more worried about it was not amplified.
  - The biological impact of racism, in the response to continuous stress causing prolonged activation of the sympathetic nervous system, increased stress hormones circulating in the body leads to a higher incidence of hypertension and CVD.
    - It is common in the healthcare space to place a significant amount of responsibility and blame on the individual when it comes to their behavioural choices, without any thought or responsibility placed on the

structural factors that lead to decisions being made by individuals. We must keep this in mind as future healthcare providers.

- How should we continue these discussions in future meetings?
  - If someone comes across a thought-provoking article, podcast, etc. that they would like to share as a prompt for discussion, email Ushma before the meeting.
- Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) Initiatives Fund - *President*
  - The idea is to develop a money pool similar to our COVID Initiatives Fund to support student-led EDI initiatives. It has been noted that these groups/people are expected to provide free labour that is also quite emotionally taxing to further EDI at the different schools, so perhaps we can look to this as a way to rectify that. What could this fund look like in terms of parameter, scope, actions?
    - There is concern with taking the responsibility away from the actual institutions who should be providing this.
      - Some solutions might be for us to advocate for something more sustainable from the institutions. Another suggestion is to match funding from schools, which would make it a requirement for schools to give something.
    - Another concern is that, depending on the way we choose to distribute funds, individual students that are requested to help with EDI work that are not part of a more formal initiative might slip through the cracks. We also do not want to make this a competition where we end up suggesting that one type of advocacy work is more “important” or “deserving” than another.
    - Conclusion is to consult the developing EDI task force to determine how to move further. In the meantime, we will focus our upcoming Sponsorship Grants on projects that are related to promotion EDI.
  - The Development of an EDI Task Force - *VP Advocacy*
    - We are considering putting together an EDI task force responsible for developing position papers specific to equity in medical education and taking on tasks like organizing anti-racism training in future years. They would potentially develop a strategy to promote EDI within our own initiatives and

work with their own schools' admin to promote EDI in med ed. We are thinking of having 2 co-leads, and 6 members (one from each school).

- Who should the co-leads be? Should they be VP Advocacy and VP Ed or non-VPs? Should the members be the already allocated diversity leads (or equivalent) from each school, or should this be opened up to anyone?
  - Depending on the time commitment to the task force, this may be too much work for diversity leads to do in addition to their existing work. A potential option is to create two teams: one more formal EDI task force opened up for applications like any other committee, and another informal round table for diversity leads to enhance collaboration and communication between them.
  - Another idea is to use the task force as a third-party consultation that is affiliated with OMSA but not necessarily part of OMSA. They could write position papers which we can look at and see how we can advocate based on. VP Ed and VP Advocacy could act as liaisons between the task force and OMSA.
  - **Action items:** Meeting will be arranged with Jess, the Ontario Regional Directors and the CFMS EDI TaskForce Leads (Ushma can make the introductions as necessary)
- What is the envisioned timeline?
  - If this is open to all general members, applications can come out with the other OMSA apps in the fall. If we are consulting MedSocs or appointing members, we can do this over the summer.
- Anti-Oppression Session Training Details - *VP Operations*
  - Zach has been working with a team at UofT to organize OMSA Council's Anti-Oppression Training. There will be three main workshops: microaggressions, allyship and how to practice it, and intersectionality. The session will be planned for August, with the date to be confirmed. The organizers would like to know if there is anything else particular we would like them to include and if we are okay with the session being filmed and provided to the public

- There are concerns that there might be less engagement from Council if conversation is being recorded. Perhaps we can ask them to omit our private thoughts and discussions from the recording and only record the more general information training portions.
  - This recording will also be provided to the new VP Externals who will not have been selected by the time the session takes place.
  - Is the team hosting this going to be compensated for their work?
    - Zach has asked multiple times and received the response that there is no cost to the session. However, we do plan to give some sort of honorarium for all the work they are doing for us.
  - **Action items: Zach** to email all council members to set up a date for training that works for everyone.
- In-Lieu OMSW Planning for 2021 - *VP Operations*
    - The in-person OMSW event in Niagara has been postponed to next year to preserve deposits, etc. We are planning an in-lieu event for this year's incoming class. The idea is a "mini-OMSW" at each school - a day/weekend event in January where each school has their own workshops/speakers for their first-year students, with a large video session broadcast to all the schools, and social events. The VP Externals would possibly take on the role for running this. The issue is that with regulations and distancing rules being unpredictable and constantly changing, it is hard to plan at the moment. We would also like to see how orientation week at each of the schools runs. As for now, until there are more concrete variables, Zach will start bouncing around ideas with VP Externals and pre-planning and wait to develop a team.
  - CFMS Input on Education-Related Position Papers- *VP Education*
    - Should we start getting CFMS input on education-related position papers that have aspects relevant to education at the national level. Pros are that we receive their endorsement and we receive a different perspective on issues – we can see what other provinces are doing and work ideas into our own models.
      - This is a good idea if the papers are relevant on a national level, but still province-specific – we want to be cautious of having national-level papers that would be more appropriately endorsed by the CFMS. The input can be given longitudinally (both before and after revisions). We



will want to set strict deadlines on their input, moving on without it if not received in time.

- Would it be possible to make it a two-way relationship? Can we also give input to CFMS on their position papers?
  - Not sure if there will be issues surrounding fairness. Will depend on if other provinces need to be consulted as well.
- Financial Sponsorships - *President*
  - **Motion to move in-camera**
    - Mover: Sharon Yeung
    - Seconder: Saara Punjani
  - **Motion to move out of in-camera**
    - Mover: Sharon Yeung
    - Seconder: Saara Punjani
- Clerkship Kits – *VP Student Affairs*
  - The clerkship kits given to new clerks have historically been sponsored by OMA Insurance. Last year, the kit included a water bottle and USB drive. This year, they have unfortunately declined to fund the kits, except for a small sum that can may be used towards the kits. This was unexpected based on previous conversations. Some options as for where to go from here include abandoning the clerkship kits completely or using our own funds to put together a much smaller kit. With schools starting clerkship at different times, it may be confusing to try to distribute kits to all students, so along with the financial issues, this may mean abandoning the kit altogether may make sense. The other option is to provide a smaller item (a hospital ID badge pull-out clip was suggested) that we can fund ourselves.
    - Perhaps this is a good time to collaborate with banks. Onboard MD from MD Financial has previously given out water bottles for something different, and may be willing to provide them for this. We can then use the OMA Insurance funding and our own funds for the name tag clips, as long as OMA Insurance is still willing to fund us if we partner with another organization.
  - **Action items: Sharon** to bring ideas to external sponsors and get their opinion on it. **Courtney** to put together a draft budget that can be presented to the organization by Sharon.

## 8. Varia

- AMF PPE Rep
  - AMF has asked Michael if he can act as a student representative for PPE issues among medical students. He agreed, although his role is a bit unclear.
  - **Action items: Michael** to create a Google Form asking about any PPE issues med students are facing that he will then distribute to MedSocs.
- Creation of a public document with information about academic changes at each school within the context of COVID-19
  - **Action items: Michael** to touch base with VP Externals and MedSocs to see how much information they are willing and able to release to gain an understanding of feasibility of creating this type of document.
- Day of Action 2020
  - **Action items: All council members** to look at potential Day of Action dates and let Jess know if there are any conflicts with any of the dates proposed.
- Zoom recording of council meetings
  - Saara had trouble engaging in discussion while trying to keep track of everything that is mentioned for the meeting minutes. Would council be comfortable with recording future Zoom meetings for minute-taker to look back at in case anything is missed?
    - Council is comfortable with recordings that will be kept on a temporary basis before being deleted. Other suggestions include only recording higher level points instead of details, and most importantly focusing on the conclusion to discussions.
    - **Action items: Ushma** to record next Zoom meeting and request a brief summary of topics to be discussed when members are submitting a discussion item.

## 9. Next Meeting

- Sunday, September 13, 2020 from 12-6pm

## 10. Meeting Closure

- Motion to end the meeting

- Mover: Zachary Barkhouse
- Seconder: Jessica Scott