

OMSA Council Meeting #5 January 2, 10AM - 4PM EST



Present via teleconference: Sharon Yeung (President), Ushma Purohit (President-Elect), Saara Punjani (VP Comms), Michael Scaffidi (VP Education), Zachary Barkhouse (VP Operations), Jessica Scott (VP Advocacy), Courtney Leach (VP Student Affairs), Rae Woodhouse (VP Finance), Angie Soloman (Queen's), Jamal Tarrabain (Queen's), Kristina Yau (Ottawa), Alexandra Finstad (Ottawa), Sinthu Senthilmohan (UofT), Justin Lin (UofT), Shauna Peng (Western), Chelsea Rehak (NOSM), Rylee Mose (NOSM), Francis Lao (McMaster), Devon Wilton (McMaster)

Guests: Adam Kassam (OMA), Mary Boulos (CFMS), Gian Agtarap (student at UofT)

Regrets: Angela Fan (Western)

Reimbursements: All members present will be reimbursed through OMA Honouraria for their time. Lunch expenses will be paid by the OMSA Discretionary Fund.

1. Welcome, Introductions, and Adoption of the Agenda [10:00-10:05]

- 1.1. Motion to Start the Meeting
 - Mover: Francis Lao
 - Seconder: Jessica Scott
- 1.2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda
 - Mover: Michael Scaffidi
 - Seconder: Angie Soloman
- 1.3. Motion to Approve Last Meeting's Minutes
 - Mover: Zach Barkhouse
 - Seconder: Sharon Yeung

2. OMA Leadership - *Dr. Samantha Hill, OMA President* [10:10-10:40] & *Dr. Adam Kassam, OMA President-Elect*

- In terms of the vaccine rollout, it is clear to us all that it is not happening nearly as quickly as we would like. The barriers include ones related to administration/distribution, as well as procurement of the actual vaccine on a federal level. With regards to distribution, the vaccine needs to be stored in a particular type of freezer that is not available widely everywhere - only some institutions have this. At this time, staffing is not a rate-limiting factor, but it is reasonable to assume that it may become an obstacle once procurement increases significantly in the near future. It is essential that the province be prepared for this, by preparing possible volunteers/staff (this may include medical students, retired doctors, pharmacists, etc.) This has not yet been done in a coordinated way. A good first step for advocating for medical students both getting vaccinated and getting involved in vaccine administration is to use your connections (e.g. Dean Philpott at Queen's University, who has already done some considerable advocating)

- What levels are making decisions regarding the vaccine rollout? Various different levels have decision-making abilities - that is, provincial, regional (LHINs or OHTs), and institutional levels will all have a role to play.

3. CFMS Updates - CFMS Ontario Regional Directors

[10:40-11:00]

- Please find the update [here](#).
- How will the second NDoA look different than the first?
 - This event has been happening on and off in different years, and the plan is to organize it so that it happens in every year to come. It will be on a smaller scale with delegates that are more focused (more expertise in government advocacy). There will be fewer, more targeted meetings with MPs, as opposed to as many as possible, as is the case with the first NDoA.
- There are conversations around the possibility of OMSA directors to join relevant CFMS Round Tables. There is some resistance on this from other parts of the CFMS. One of the major drawbacks is that none of the other provinces have an OMSA equivalent. Is there information OMSA Directors can provide to make it more feasible/easier?
 - The primary benefit outlined is for information gathering purposes. OMSA Exec members often have ideas that they start to work on, only to later realize something similar has been done by another group in Ontario. This could be avoided with an avenue to gather information from Ontario medical schools, and since there is already a forum where these individuals meet on a regular basis, it does not make sense to create another one. The goal is not to be voting or active members, but just to gather info.
 - We need to demonstrate to CFMS would it be beneficial for OMSA to join the Round Tables - Past initiatives, other reasons that might show the rest of the team why it is important for OMSA to join. Try to get this info to Mary by Friday - a document will be sent out to Council members to fill out.

4. OMSA Executive Updates

[11:00-12:00]

4.1. Advocacy

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

4.2. Education

- Please review the update [here](#).
- OSMERC Abstract Submission deadline: January 11, Registration deadline to be announced
- MSERG Application deadline: April 27

- Considering collaboration with Queen's-led Clerk Aid app on distributing universal clerkship guide.

4.3. Student Affairs

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

4.4. Communications

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

4.5. Operations

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

4.6. Finance

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

4.7. President & President-Elect

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

Lunch

[12:00-12:30]

5. School Updates

[12:30-1:30]

5.1. McMaster

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Mac faculty is considering sharing a biweekly letter with updates on COVID changes to curriculum since students are not updated as often as necessary
 - Queen's has a similar letter being shared but the level of detail is usually quite superficial
 - UofT has a Faculty of Medicine update that usually has some COVID related updates, but also usually superficial

5.2. NOSM

- Please review the update [here](#).
- NOSM are encouraged to reach out to Queen's students/program to discuss avenues to admission, since QuARMS does have its drawbacks.

5.3. Ottawa

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

5.4. Queen's

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

5.5. Toronto

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Rae and Sinthu drafted a letter from PARO, OMA, OMSA on equity in CaRMS interviews and are waiting for feedback.

5.6. Western

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

6. Discussion Items

[1:30-2:40]

6.1. Conversations on Race - *VP External Sr, McMaster*

- Please find Francis and Gian's presentation on Filipinx in Medicine [here](#).
- FAMS is trying to expand province- and country-wide - let Gian know if you know anyone at your school interested in starting a chapter.
- Is it possible this is in part related to the immigrant experience? Do you think these trends might change as Filipinx immigrant families become more established?
 - Trends are different in Filipinx than other immigrant cultures (South Asian, Chinese, etc.) This is partly due to the fact that Filipinx are largely represented in fields like nursing, etc. so their children are influenced to stay in those fields as opposed to going for medicine.

6.2. COVID-19 Vaccine Delivery - *President, OMSA*

- Medical students, especially preclerks, want to be involved and could be useful in administering vaccinations as the rollout progresses. So far, nobody from any school has been informed of any opportunities for medical students to get involved, but some of the MedSocs are considering or already advocating for med student involvement. Past experience from UofT students suggests that faculty will not actively advocate for students to become involved, in the interest of avoiding liability issues.

- Concerns around OMSA advocating for this are that we want to make sure we are doing it in the interest of the public, rather than ourselves. Are we advocating for medical students to be involved because they are the best people to take on this role, or so that med students feel useful and have more opportunities? We want to make sure it is the latter, so in anything we release, we should make sure we are pushing for what is best for the public interest. An important point is that the vaccine rollout is not happening fast enough, and students are a potential resource that is not currently being used/considered, if staffing is one of the rate-limiting factors.
- Next steps from OMSA will be to collate and gather information from each school about their specific circumstances as the situation progresses, and use this to determine how we should move forward.

6.3. Art of Medicine Award Themes 2021 - *VP Finance, OMSA*

- Team to think about possible themes for the Art of Medicine Award for 2021. Suggestions include “What has COVID taught you?” or something around diversity in medicine, which has been a very important topic over the past year.

6.4. TD Banking partnership - *VP Finance, OMSA*

- Motion to go in-camera
 - Mover: Rae Woodhouse
 - Seconder: Sharon Yeung

6.5. Budget Reallocation - *VP Finance, OMSA*

- In-camera item

7. **Varia** [2:40-2:50]

7.1. OMSA Sweaters

- If members are still interested in OMSA sweaters, we can order them by the end of February.

8. **Next Meeting**

8.1. Feb 20, 2021 10AM - 4PM EST

9. Meeting Closure

[2:50-2:55]

9.1. Motion to end the meeting

- Mover: Francis Lao
- Seconder: Zach Barkhouse