

**OMSA Council Meeting #2**  
**September 11, 2021 10:00 - 16:00 EST**  
[Zoom](#)



**Present via teleconference:** Ushma Purohit (President), Angie Salomon (President-Elect), Mahdi Zeghal (VP Communications), Faran Khalid (VP Operations), Leah Bennett (VP Student Affairs), Zack Chuang (VP Finance), Connie Li (VP Education), Sauliha Alli (VP EDI), Abby Ross (Ottawa), Ayushi Bhatt (Western), Justin Lin (Toronto), Kristina Yau (Ottawa), Rylee Mose (NOSM), Chelsea Rehak (NOSM), Shauna Peng (Western), Jamal Tarrabain (Queen's)

**Guests:** Maddie Nolan (Chair of NORM), Victoria Turnbull (CFMS ORD)

**Regrets:** Sinthu Senthillmohan (VP Advocacy) - available temporarily for introduction and Executive Update, Devon Wilton (McMaster)

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

- 1.1. Motion to Start the Meeting
  - Mover: Ushma Purohit
  - Seconder: Leah Bennett
  - Motion passes
- 1.2. Motion to Adopt the Agenda
  - Mover: Leah Bennett
  - Seconder: Ushma Purohit
  - Motion passes
- 1.3. Motion to Approve Last Meeting's Minutes (July 3rd, 2021)
  - Mover: Leah Bennett
  - Seconder: Zack Chuang
  - Motion passes

## **2. Question Period**

## **3. Council Introductions**

## **4. Important Reminders\* - *President-Elect***

- Please review the following [slide deck](#)

## **5. Introduction to the CFMS - *CFMS Ontario Regional Director***

- Please review the following [update](#).
  - Q (Shauna - VPX Western): How often is the CFMS planning to put out the matchbook?
    - A: Plan is to put the matchbook on the CFMS website as different sections, and to update the sections as needed. Every year a 1-2 page update will be released giving the year's new dates and a summary of changes.
  - Q (Angie - President-Elect): Is the COVID grant ongoing?
    - A: I believe it is, but can talk to Edgar if people are interested in accessing that. Let me know if you are interested.
  - Q (Sauliha - VP EDI): When are the deadlines for the grants?
    - A: Can also ask Edgar when the deadlines are.
  - Q (Angie - President-Elect): For the wellness grant, how many are there?
    - A: It's one per school. It's accessible only by the wellness rep, or student affairs rep, or whoever the school's version of the wellness/student affairs rep is. They have access to \$600 through our organization.
  - Q (Shauna - VPX Western): When is nomcoms coming out this year for the CFMS?
    - A: Meeting being held today to decide that. Trying hard to make it equity-based and driven in that way that it wasn't in previous years. Working hard towards revamping the process and making it more objective.
  - Q (Leah - VP Student Affairs): For the wellness grant, you said that it's through the student affairs rep. But sometimes wellness activities are done by groups that are not necessarily the student affairs rep from the MedSoc. So can they also apply? Or is it only the student affairs rep from the school?
    - A: Based on the update from Alex, it will only be for the wellness rep. But they can talk to the wellness rep to access the money.
  - Q (Angie - President-Elect): Does CFMS have a wellness roundtable? And is that how you identify the wellness reps?
    - A: We get their names from the MedSocs. For the wellness roundtable, we did previously, but we have a lot of roundtables and we felt bad about how much time gets wasted at roundtables. So it has been minimized to the one representatives' roundtable, with just the presidents. We will not be having the subspecialty roundtables, at least not as often.

## 6. Executive Updates

- Ushma - President Elect: Many of our executive board members and VP Externals are starting clerkship this year, and their position has quite a large workload to it. So please

let other council members know what they can do to help make it easier for you or reach out if you ever need any assistance/support.

#### 6.1. Communications

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Q (Ushma - President): What is the workload like and is it manageable? Is there anything we can do to help out? And how will the subscription for communiques work?
  - A: Overall it should be fairly manageable. Many of the tasks requested are fairly quick like doing social media posts or updating the website. There are larger tasks that take more time like those under the Design committee, but in all instructions for all sections on Trello, I've indicated roughly how much time you should give us to complete those tasks. So sending that in ahead of time will help. As for communiques, the goal right now is to disseminate via Intro to OMSA orientation to first-years, and include a link to subscribe in the September communique. I was thinking of potentially including it on the website, but we may actually avoid that to prevent spam. This is still being brainstormed and hasn't fully been thought out, but I will look into it.

#### 6.2. Advocacy

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Q (Ushma - President): For those who haven't heard about it like the VP Externals, could you give a summary of OMSA's advocacy values and guiding principles?
  - A: Principles and values for advocacy priorities. Is a guiding document that outlines what we are about as an organization and what are the limits to what we can advocate on. Feel free to send any feedback.
  - See the following [document](#) for more information.
  - Angie - President: Ushma, Sauliha, Sinthu, and I will spend more time working on this and will send an email afterwards to the council for feedback and input.
- Q (Angie - President-Elect): How is it going for the topic selection for Day of Action? What's that process like?
  - A: Day of Action topic is long-term care homes. Making a list of consultations we want to do. Brainstorming physicians and non-physicians to reach out to who have done advocacy work. Have begun working on the speaker's list for the event. Although aiming for an in-person Day of Action, we're also ensuring it's easily switchable to a virtual event if necessary.

#### 6.3. Education

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Q (Ushma - President): What is the workload like and is it manageable? Is there anything we can do to help out?
  - A: In terms of workload - because of the way the committees are structured, it's well-setup since the committees have a very well-defined understanding of the initiatives that they end up applying for and running. One thing I've noticed is that there's an awkward lull period where some students move on to go to residency and those committee members happen to be the leads. So there's a time of trying to track down what kind of continuity needs to happen before recruiting new members. That was really the only challenge administratively and maybe other portfolios have a similar issue.
  - Ushma - President: That's a good discussion item to have around Feb/March as everyone starts transitioning so we know how to transition each committee. We could track them and reach out to them before graduating and so do this early, because many of them are actually free in April and May. So that would be a good time to hold the transitions. In any case we can discuss this more in Feb/March.

#### 6.4. Student Affairs

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Q (Rylee - NOSM): Idea for NOSM for clerkship kits - if we can have them sent out in the spring when we're all on campus? We leave in August for 8 months so it would be a hassle to get all student addresses and send to all individual addresses rather than to a single campus.
  - A: Thought about this. We could maybe make it so that each outgoing VP Student Affairs prepares clerkship kits for the following year. Possible transition to spring delivery so students have it ready for next year. This might also make people more excited.
  - Shauna - Western: Would definitely support late-spring/early-summer for future delivery of clerkship kits. This early timeline would give them and serves as a buffer in case the vendor is late by a few months. With this delay, it can still be distributed to students on time.
- Victoria - CFMS ORD: To increase survey engagement, one idea is to leverage personal relationship with them. With at least one council member at each school doing this, this can definitely increase engagement.
- Victoria - CFMS ORD: Question about the 26-hour call. The survey will probably of course cover more topics, but with the 26-hour call, is the idea to just stop med students from doing it or is the idea to eventually stop residents from doing it as well? Because I know there are concerns from the residents in surgical programs that if you stop 26-hour calls, their programs become 10 years long. There are

also concerns from students interested in surgery that if they don't do call, they won't know what it is like. So I was wondering what your strategy is.

- A (Ushma - President): We're not walking in with certain desires/wishes. Our goal for now is to simply get student perspectives and ideas. If at one point we do need to get a consensus related to certain topics (e.g. related to surgery call), then we can start advocating for that. As for the surgery 26-hour call, residents have already been advocating to turn it to a 16-hour call, and the question then becomes whether it should be specialty specific. If anything, we will advocate for situations where if a system changes where a specialty's residents do less call hours, then students should subsequently also have less call hours.
- Shauna - Western: To add onto that, whatever comes out in terms of data out of the survey, the data might need to be presented in a way that is school-specific to see those differences. So might need to have a blanket statement if saying that med students simply should not have to do more call than residents.

#### 6.5. Operations

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

#### 6.6. Finance

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Q (Victoria - CFMS ORD): Wants to know if she is eligible for the lunch reimbursement?
  - A: Don't 100% know, because won't be listed as an OMSA exec council. If possible, I will say no for now because it is uncertain. But I feel like OMA will say that CFMS would pay for lunch.
- Q (Angie - President-Elect): Given that it (the sponsorship grants) is the same deadline as our committee hiring, how would you feel extending that by one week?
  - A: Yeah I'm fine with that. I can push that back a week.
- Q (Ushma - President): For marketing of the grants, have there been any initial FB/Twitter posts or other promotions yet? And if we can work around committee hiring promotion to work around that?
  - A: Didn't reach out to Mahdi yet, but will do so soon. And we can push it back by 1 week.
- To help with managing workload, you can ensure you put in your reimbursements as soon as possible.

#### 6.7. EDI

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

- Q (Ushma - President): NORM is quite large and has historically been fairly separate. Sauliha and Maddie are doing great work integrating NORM more in our organization. My question is to distinguish between the EDI committee and the EDI roundtable and the difference between their roles.
  - Please review the VP EDI's last meeting [update](#) under "Role Overview" for more information

#### 6.8. President & President-Elect

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Q (Shauna - Western): Do VP Externals have any OMA events that we still have to go to?
  - A: No obligatory meetings for VP Externals, but they are eligible to sit in on the priority leadership group, panels and working groups.
  - Ushma - President: Needed to be an elected member of OMA Section of Medical Students, which is different from being part of OMSA council. The VP External Sr's who were still part of the old system and elected members on the section were eligible to apply. We will explain this in much more detail in a future meeting.

### 7. Break (Lunch)

### 8. School Updates

#### 8.1. McMaster

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Plan for hiring promotions:

#### 8.2. NOSM

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Plan for hiring promotions: Shared via FB, email. Haven't had many responses yet. Likely from the stresses of orientation and clerks starting clerkship.
- Q (Victoria - CFMS ORD): Just wondering about the visiting electives only in Ontario? Is it the AFMC doing that because for other provinces that would be very limiting (e.g. BC that only has UBC Medicine)?
  - A: Not sure; that's the rumour going around. Because it's just a rumour, I think that's why the school is choosing to hold off until February before saying anything.

#### 8.3. Ottawa

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Plan for hiring promotions: Shared via FB, email.

#### 8.4. Queen's

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Plan for hiring promotions: Shared via FB. However, 2T5's do not like FB that much. Meeting will be held with the MedSoc President and Comms Officer later this week to decide if they should shift to another social media platform to increase 2T5 engagement. Possibly Snapchat?
- Q (Ushma - President): Given that Queen's clerkship starts later, does that mean that they have fewer weeks for their core electives?
  - A (Angie - President-Elect): Each block is now four weeks long instead of six, we have 10 blocks so we'll end next late-Aug/late-Sep. Not sure though because 2T2's have a very similar schedule to us so the 2T1's had a normal schedule. Just to clarify that research block is one of our 10 blocks which can be placed anywhere.
  - Q (Ushma - President): And this is new right? The research block?
  - A (Angie - President-Elect): Yes, and this is part of the core time.

#### 8.5. Toronto

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Plan for hiring promotions: Shared via our FB page. Leah and Sinthu also shared it.

#### 8.6. Western

- Please review the update [here](#).
- Plan for hiring promotions: Shared via FB, email.

### 9. Motions

#### 9.1. Motion to Require OMA Membership to Qualify for OMSA Awards, Grants and Reimbursements and Other Financial Perks, Incentives, Programs and Offerings

- Please review the motion [here](#).
  - Q (Leah - VP Student Affairs): If motion gets passed, then maybe we can have an additional form for anyone who wants to apply for grants. So if a student has an OMA membership, then they go to this section and put their OMA # down. But if they don't, then direct the student to another section which can be a straight application form for OMA membership. This may make it easier for students applying to grants because getting an OMA membership may not be trivial for all students.
    - A: On each grant and award, we can have a caveat on there being like: "You must be an active OMA member" and then showing a link to sign-up if you haven't yet, and indicating the \$10/year cost.
    - Angie - President-Elect: And you can even include a checkbox where they confirm that they are a member to minimize students slipping through the cracks.

- Q (Shauna - Western): What if someone were to apply for something and not be a member, but then they get membership - would that work Zack?
  - A: I would probably build it into the form that you can't submit your application unless you are a member. So I would check that before choosing the winner. The only trick situation would only be if there's one application (but that's unlikely).
  - Q: Could we add a link to and a "how-to" on the OMSA website?
  - A (Angie - President-Elect): It is under "Professional Memberships."
  - Shauna - Western: Since it is a bigger deal then perhaps it should be more visible on the website.
  - A (Angie - President-Elect): Yes - we need to double-down on ensuring that students are members, but we don't want to get into the realm of hinting to the idea that students need to pay to have access to the services of OMSA.
  - Zack - VP Finance: To clarify - if you pay the membership, it just means that you can get paid back. It doesn't affect your ability to participate in Wellness Weekend or to sit on the board. It doesn't prevent you from accessing OMSA services; it's just that OMA won't send you money. If we don't do this, it has been progressively getting worse over the past few years; we would get to the point of having no entitlement units and we won't be able to do anything anymore.
- Q (Sauliha - VP EDI): If we bought enough OMA memberships for people, the amount of money we get from OMA would be more. Aside from that, speaking from an equity perspective, I think we should still have an option on our website, when applying for a grant, where we can subsidize the OMA membership fee. I don't know if a lot of students would use that, but I think we should still have that option of helping cover that cost.
  - A: We could do that; it's \$10 and in my opinion that isn't a significant amount of money compared to the \$500 winners win. So I think it's fine if we want to do that. We just need to determine what budget that would come out for. We would also need to develop guidelines for how we accept those fee waivers. Because the \$10 not only then allows you to receive the grant, it allows you to access the entire OMA network of benefits. So I see what you mean, but I think \$10 won't be cost-prohibitive to somebody.
  - Sauliha - VP EDI: Yeah I see what you're saying; we'll probably need to have a longer conversation on it. Another thing to consider is with requiring OMA membership, would that get fewer people applying to the grants?



- Zack - VP Finance: The vast majority of people who apply, like 90 to 95%, are already OMA members. It's usually students who are less engaged with OMA or OMSA who aren't members.
- Sauliha - VP EDI: That makes sense. Then maybe the area we want to recruit from is not necessarily through grants but another area to increase entitlement units
- Zack - VP Finance: Yes I agree.
- Angie - President-Elect: Grants can also be an opportunity for information to disseminate benefits that come with being an OMA member.
- Zack - VP Finance: One minor comment - it hasn't hit us in terms of finance yet. I'm just worried that it will in the future. One entitlement unit is worth far more than \$10, so that's why I'm saying thht we can't just replace it with OMSA \$10 fee, but just wanted to put that out there.
- Victoria - CFMS ORD: A suggestion - Instead of having an application for students to get reimbursed, we can get them to email someone (e.g. VP Finance) specific for special considerations explaining why they can't pay the \$10. It does add some level of equity but I think it can be easy for people to abuse an application form over a fee of \$10.
- Sauliha - VP EDI: Just wanted to echo what Victoria was saying - I agree I don't think a lot of people would use it, but I think there should still be an option since we are limiting access to certain opportunities. I've done it before for other organizations; and I don't think it should still be a big hit to the budget.
- Angie - President-Elect: I think that's a reasonable middle ground - we can just say that if this presents a barrier for some reason, please get into contact because we want to help and support you.
- Zack - VP Finance: We can make a process where they email me and CC Sauliha until we come up with a more permanent solution.
- Angie - President-Elect: Sounds good
- Ushma - President: Not much more to add; we've talked about how we can incorporate an equity lens here which is great. Glad we came to a consensus. The reason this is a bigger problem is because of COVID-19 - in the past the OMA membership fee was such a steal, and so many students got it. It's just that they haven't gone in-person anymore to the orientation weeks because of COVID-19 so no one even knows that the deal is happening, which is why we're facing this in the first place. If we can highlight what you can get for joining, for example under "Join" column under "Get Involved" we can add "Join OMA," and then we can

have one place that's like how do you get involved and what you get for it to be very upfront.

- Angie - President-Elect: So two tasks for Mahdi (VP Comms) - that as well as having a standing item in our communiques with just the QR code to join the OMA

- Mover: Zack Chuang
- Secunder: Ushma Purohit
- Motion passes unanimously

#### 9.2. Motion to Amend the OMSA Constitution\*

- Please review the motion [here](#) and the [proposed constitutional amendments](#).
- Mover: Faran Khalid
- Secunder: Ushma Purohit
- Motion passes

#### 9.3. Motion to reduce the duration of OMSA Council Meetings

- Please review the motion [here](#).
  - Zack - VP Finance: This would cost OMSA money; right now we're not using entitlement units because we ran out, but once January 1st hits they're back and I'll be on them so we can get paid. So right now we won't have an issue, but later on it will; OMA defines a full day meeting as 5 hours, not 4.5. So because it's only 30 minutes less and we're paid by chunks of time (hourly until 2 hours, and then half-day, full-day, day-and-a-half), so this would only qualify as a half-day. So our funding would be reduced by 50%. Only way to get around would be to have more frequent meetings; but yeah 5 hours is the magic number; if we do 4.5 hours we lose 50% of funding.
    - Sauliha - VP EDI: Sorry do you mean 50% of funding for the entire year?
    - Zack - VP Finance: For each meeting yes; and this is how our honouraria is calculated. So if we have a 2.5 hour meeting, we get paid the same as a 4-hour meeting. So if we reduce it to 4.5, it would go to half-day. Again it doesn't matter right now, but it will matter in the future. We usually run out of units at the very end of the year (this year was an exception), so if we go to shorter meetings without increasing frequency, we'll have more leftover units so it would result in a funding decrease of roughly 35%. If we don't use entitlement units, they get dropped the previous year, so that would hinder the entitlement units for every future rendition of OMSA council.

- Angie - President-Elect: Two quick comments that might resolve this; if we have a 4.5-hour meeting, we'll just tack on a half-hour at the end and call it a 5-hour meeting. We're not going to have a lunch break if we have a 4.5-hour meeting.
- Sauliha - VP EDI: Just to clarify something - with the document you shared Zack, the idea is that all the honoraria for OMSA execs has been pooled and we use that towards our OMSA funding right? So if we have a shorter meeting our honouraria we get is less and that means we get less funding overall?
- Zack - VP Finance: Yes
- Sauliha - VP EDI: And it doesn't matter until February?
- Zack - VP Finance: January 1st; but if we make this a motion and it's a policy, it's not going to policy from now until Jan 1st
- Sauliha - VP EDI: Right; so I guess the main thing is moving us from that category of the 5-hr meeting into the category below because shortening the meeting by an hour I don't know if that actually reduces anyone's stress, but how significantly will that impact our budget?
- Zack - VP Finance: Won't impact it immediately; in previous renditions of OMSA they've had enough. My goal is to max out credits with OMA so that you all have as much money as possible to spend. With previous years, by the time they get to December, that's when they run out of units. So that's when, for example, for a meeting in Dec, I would make Ushma, Leah, and Justin travel to the meeting without being paid honoraria (doesn't make a difference to them personally since the money doesn't go to you anyway). I would have them unpaid and pay everyone else, so I would pay them out of OMSA's account and I wouldn't cash that under OMA. But they usually run out in December...the problem with shorter meetings is now we'll have 50% extra entitlement units at the end of the year, unless we increase the frequency of the meetings to spend those units. If we don't spend them they're gone forever (take a very long time to get them back).
- Angie - President-Elect: So the concern is that we won't be able to use all the credits by doing shorter meetings?
- Zack - VP Finance: Yes at the same frequency that we have now.
- Angie - President-Elect: We all agree that it would be a hit to our organization to just cut our meetings in half in general. And like you said we run out of entitlements by December, but I'm still certain that we use all of them, and if not, Ushma and I can use them for meetings we have with individual members. Because

technically we can claim on any meeting not just full council meetings?

- Zack - VP Finance: Not sure how it would work with external members, but usually you guys would get that paid from an OMA budget, not OMSA budget. So I wouldn't want to use our entitlement units if OMA is going to give third-party external funding. No reason for me to cash it in.
- Ushma - President: Happy to see a motion like this come up because it shows that you guys are not accepting things for the way they are and you want to change things - that's really good. Also, I've always hated the barriers to wellness so if anything is getting in the way, the first person that will be upset by that is me. I definitely think that you make valid points about having longer meetings which may affect accessibility of individuals. I think, and Angie can attest to this, that it is an incredibly challenging job simply because we get so many requests from people to have discussion items, motions and guests. There's a lot of stuff that we've done which is actually impossible to meet the 6-hr mark that we have; sometimes we've had to table discussion items and committees had to wait for months before moving on to the next project, because council couldn't vote on their motion. There's a balance between getting in the way of the progression of our committees, and students and their access to services and getting in the way of that because decisions are slow simply because we're not meeting. There's a balance between being an elected member at the provincial level, choosing to represent Ontario med students and having that responsibility that comes with it. That doesn't mean you're expected to have to have a ridiculous amount of time to dedicate to OMSA. We need to make sure we're not doing the opposite of what our job is. My point - the total hours we meet; I would request that it does not change. If that's the case, if we cut meeting length down from 6 to 3 hours, that would be doubling meeting frequency. So we do need to meet the total number of meeting hours to get what we need to do completed. My amendment request is that if we keep it 4.5 hours, then the total number of hours we typically meet stay the same every year.
  - Sauliha - VP EDI: Yeah you make a lot of great points. One thing I was also weighing was are we going to still have enough time to have meaningful conversations with a shorter meeting time? The reason that I think it might make sense to have a shorter 3-hour meeting and it's more frequent is because it's hard to block-off a 6-hour long chunk of time or set aside a day for some people, but blocking-off 3 hours is a bit easier to fit it. This might also speed up communication that's happening within the team; we won't

have to wait so long for change to happen between meetings. We also get more continuous feedback on things. I think maintaining the same total number of hours is good, but just spreading that out in a way that would make it more manageable for folks.

- Abby - uOttawa: Just my personal opinion, and I recognize everyone has different situations and opinions, but for me, I think that it's less prohibitive to have the meetings less often and longer because you still have to take a big chunk of your time out of your day either way. So for me, it would be less prohibitive to have longer, less frequent meetings than shorter, more frequent ones.
- Zack - VP Finance: Entitlement units are split between travel and paid time. So the more frequent we have a meeting, and Mahdi makes a good point if we are in-person, I'm going to have to spend more entitlement units on transportation than I am for paid time. So we would run out of units sooner, or VIA Rail would make more money.
  - Angie - President-Elect: Yeah I think when we're in-person it's a whole other ballgame. But I understand that with Zoom it does allow for more flexibility. So we can keep this in mind.
- Angie - President-Elect: The other thing logistically is that we would have to change the functioning of our meetings because just our updates took 3 hours; so we couldn't do this every meeting. So it might still be that 6-week period before giving another update or tabling a motion. For clarity we currently have 5.5-hour meetings not 6 because we have a lunch break. We could try cutting another half-hour but our agenda is usually packed and we didn't have any guest speakers today. And if we want to continue having EDI discussions then that would take some time as well. It's flexible so we can decide what we want to do.
- Sauliha - VP EDI: I agree with a chat suggestion from Rylee in terms of efficiency. When delivering updates we can focus on the high-level points. A total side note, but a lot of students when applying for leadership positions or to come onto council were not informed that they need to attend long, almost 6-hour meetings. And just from talking to other students, some are very surprised that our meetings are long. And I know that might discourage some students. I also just wanted to quickly say that it shouldn't have to be that way; that has been a limitation that has been imposed on us from the OMA in terms of how their funding scheme goes. So even if this motion isn't passed, I think it's something we need to review because in terms of student wellness in our time, I don't know how feasible it would be to require us to have a meeting of that length just to secure a sum level of funding. I believe that does not make a lot of sense; at the end we are volunteering our time on top of other commitments and

paying other dues. It really selects a candidate who has a lot of privileges to volunteer that much of their time. But thank you all so much for the ideas. I appreciate hearing what you guys have to say about this.

- Angie - President-Elect: You make great points Sauliha. So I think we need to clarify if you would like to keep the motion on the table and vote on it, or if you would like to take it away and amend it. I agree from the comments about trying to make our meetings more efficient.
- Ushma - President: I would suggest a friendly amendment, so it may not be helpful if you don't want to propose a motion this time around anymore, but my amendment was to add a phrase that says that the total number of hours would stay the same throughout the year to hold us accountable. Sauliha did you want to add more amendments or how did you want to go about this?
- Sauliha - VP EDI: Based on what Zack has shown, is it a minimum 5 hours to remain within the same range? And we currently have meetings that are 5 hours?
- Ushma - President: 5.5 hours, plus lunch
- Angie - President-Elect: If the idea is we keep the same number of hours, the finances shouldn't be affected. The question now is how do we want to conduct the meetings?
- Sauliha - VP EDI: Yeah I think we need to keep a break in the middle. Because of all the funding implications, I think for now we can maybe change that number to five and still stick within that range. That wouldn't impact anything on your end Zack. And then after one hour we can find some ways to make the delivery of updates and discussion items more efficient. I think we need to have a longer conversation with the OMA about how that funding is allocated and why those time limits have been set.
- Zack - VP Finance: Just to clarify, those rules aren't just for us; they apply to all OMA committees.
- Amendment - all instances of the phrase *4.5 hours* changed to *5 hours*
- Motion to accept the following amendment: addition of the phrase *however, OMSA council must continue to meet a minimum of 35 hours throughout the school year.*
  - Motion passes
- Leah - VP Student Affairs: If this doesn't get adopted now, maybe at the end of this year we can make sure it's already incorporated into future years. So if this doesn't happen now, then on the last general meeting we can have this conversation again.
  - Angie - President-Elect: Yes I agree.

- Kristina - uOttawa: Just an opinion - it's hard to take time off, and 5 or 6 hours is personally the same experience for me, but adding one more meeting will be more difficult because you'll need to take an additional day off.
- Angie - President-Elect: Yes I understand; I think if we can make a more radical change where we're really cutting these meetings in half, then that's different. But it also requires quite a few more meetings and I agree that it's difficult; if you work a full-day that day, then you have to take that day off. In general, I think it's my job to take what you're all saying and recognize that our meetings are quite long and things can be more efficient, so I'll see how we can address that. Let's move forward with voting on the motion.
- Mover: Sauliha Alli, VP EDI
- Motion defeated
  - Angie - President-Elect: Let's continue this conversation; Sauliha you and I can talk more.
  - Sauliha - VP EDI: Really happy about the insights today; I think we need to have a longer conversation and more time to make these changes in time for next year.
  - Ushma - President: I don't want you to think that because this was defeated, that it's not important. This is such an important conversation to have, and the fact that you brought it up is amazing so thank you. I think we're in a challenging position; the reason we have longer meetings than the CFMS is because they don't get paid with the CMA so they have a very different pay structure. So we are in a different situation but we will find a way across this. And we can definitely try to include more breaks and find ways to be more efficient. Maybe we also make proxies more of an availability to make it more flexible for us. So finding ways to tend to our wellness, while still ensuring our functioning as a council continues.

## 10. Break

## 11. Discussion Items

### 11.1. Meeting Dates and OMA Leadership Topics\* – *President-Elect*

- Please review the following [document](#).
- CFMS AGM coincides with the next council meeting, which poses a problem for VP Externals who must attend the CFMS AGM.
  - Next council meeting date amended to October 30, 2021
- February council meeting falls on the long weekend with Family Day
  - February council meeting date amended to February 26, 2021

- For EDI discussion topics, we're covered for the next 3 meetings and require three more people for the last meetings. So if you're interested let me know.

#### 11.2. Partnership with TD - *VP Finance*

- TD did pitch before; there were some problems in terms of encroaching on OMAi territory, and the last OMSA council didn't want to pin us onto a contract that we didn't even read. They didn't send a new pitch yet; it's coming soon. Let VP Finance know if there are any issues they have with OMSA partnering with TD. The sponsorship will look like them sponsoring some of our grants and us cashing in from them. They have been financing thousands of dollars already for different things such as OMSW for several years.

#### 11.3. Use of alternative communication method (Slack) - *VP EDI*

- Sauliha - VP EDI: I raise this because I know right now we're using WhatsApp and other platforms; might be good for some but others might not find it great because of needing to use multiple platforms. It has been hard to have that division between work and personal life especially during the pandemic. So do we want to continue with WhatsApp, use Slack, or use another platform.
- Mixed reactions from council members. Some are indicating that Slack has issues with pushing notifications, and that it requires everyone to be on board. Others are saying that it is beneficial in terms of breaking down committees and/or projects into channels which support productivity. Another issue is that if you have multiple workspaces, then if you're not selected into that workspace, then you won't see its notifications.
- Ushma - President: From my experience the difficulty is ensuring everyone is on board...so If we do Slack, then we need to make sure everyone is on it. One thing I would suggest is having smaller subgroups using it, so Mahdi if you're interested, Comms can start having its committees on Slack so that you have everyone accessible, and then EDI can start. And so slowly we can integrate it so that it's a bit easier. Just to note: OMSA started using WhatsApp because in clerkship, you'll notice that you use WhatsApp to talk about your patients with the entire team. So most rotations have WhatsApp and so most clerks already have it.
- Angie - President-Elect: I think to be safe, we'll stick with what we have now. If you have a particular issue with WhatsApp, then I will try my best to reach out to you in a different way. For your independent groups/portfolios if you want to switch over to a different platform I encourage you to do so.

#### 11.4. Update to Submission Method - *VP EDI*

- Sauliha - VP EDI: I was just wondering if there's a simple way to submit all the documentation we need for meetings. I know you have a meeting folder; maybe



we can just drop our documents in there or is there a need for the form to document that submission?

- Angie - President-Elect: That's a good point; I take the documents from the form and put them in the folder so I can make all the titles uniform and ensure things are in the right place. We could try it a different way.
- Sauliha - VP EDI: I know each of us has our own document where we provide updates; is that for documentation purposes? What if we just put them all in one document? It's really a minor discussion item; we don't have to go into this, but it might be easier.
- Mahdi - VP Communications: Just wanted to clarify the reasoning behind simplifying the process; i.e. what is the main issue(s) that you'd like addressed.
- Sauliha - VP EDI: For me, if I submit something on the form, sometimes I wonder if I wanted to change something or add something whether I can go back and change it. Whereas if I dropped a document in the folder I can just go back and quickly change that - I just find that it's more modifiable that's all.
- Angie - President-Elect: That's a great point, and I think there are a few people who submitted this week and then multiple time thereafter (with updates), so I think I'll change the settings in the form to make it so you can edit your submission. Does that work?
- Sauliha - VP EDI: Yep that works!
- Ushma - President: Last year what we did is that people would go in and add/remove files once I gave the folder link; was it just because the folder isn't editable - is that's what's happening here?
- Angie - President-Elect: I don't think there's a difference between this year and last year
- Ushma - President: Oh ok, so what you can do, like we did last year, is submit documents via the form and then we provide a link to the folder so you can go in and change anything you'd like
- Angie - President-Elect: Yep I think the solution here is I'll just make the form actually editable - so if you go back into the form with your login, you can amend whatever submissions you've made.
- Ayushi - Western: That works; another idea for achieving the same thing is instead of uploading your file, you just copy/paste your link of your document
- Angie - President-Elect: That can also work; I can confirm that the form is already editable so you can go back with your login and change your submission

- Previously the CaRMS deadline was in November. This was tricky because going into 4th-year you only have a few weeks of electives and not as many options for reference letters. The pandemic has caused CaRMS to push this deadline to January, but in my perspective, I don't see why it would be bad for the administrative people at CaRMS or anyone else on their side, but it also gives us a whole lot of extra time and the Winter Break to work on applications and get more electives. So because of COVID-19 they've been pushing it, and I'm worried that once the pandemic clears, that they will pull it back to November. I think it would be great to do something to help advocate that they stick to the January deadline or the latest deadline possible. Wanted to open the floor to see if we want to start a task force or just brainstorm ideas together to see if anyone would be interested in tackling this advocacy project with me and Connie. Also if you have any thoughts or questions.
  - Ushma - President: It's an awesome idea. I think this is going to become an area where CFMS is going to say that we are stepping into their territory, where it might be something that they think is within their jurisdiction because they are very involved with the national CaRMS issue. A really good person to talk to would be Neha on the CFMS, but also Victoria, because she's gone through CaRMS and so she can be a part of the process and its advocacy. She can also easily connect you to Neha. So in this task force you can include Victoria (we'll give you her contact info) and she can help facilitate that with CFMS. If we can get some CFMS members on that group that would be great.
  - Leah - VP Student Affairs: Yeah I'd definitely message Neha and Victoria too. Maybe I'll send an email and reach out to them letting them know this is something we want to do. Also wanted to open it up to the council to see if anyone else is really interested so I can CC you in communications.
  - Sauliha - VP EDI: Yeah I'd be happy to support. In terms of language that we use when reaching out, I'd definitely be happy to help out there.
  - Leah - VP Student Affairs: Great so I'll send an email and CC everyone that wants to be CC'ed; just message me if you'd like to. Then we'll make a WhatsApp group.
  - Angie - President-Elect: I'd also be happy to be on that list as well!

#### 11.6. Forget me Not (2nd years) - *VP Student Affairs*

- Would like to do something for the 2nd-year students because they seem to get left out or forgotten at times. The new initiatives committee is under our portfolio and I'll be chatting with our Lead to come up with something. I called it Forget me Nots for now because I was thinking of sending them each a card with seeds that grow forget-me-not flowers, as in don't forget about your wellness. 1st-years it's exciting because you just got in; 3rd-years it's exciting because you just start

clerkship, 4th-years it's exciting because of CaRMS...but I feel that 2nd-year has nothing. So wanted to do something to let them know that we see them and know they're there. Let me know if you have any thoughts or ideas.

- Angie - President-Elect: That's a great idea! Definitely bring it up with your WEPS committee and see what you guys come up with.

## **12. EDI Discussions - VP EDI**

- Discussion around global health, and critical approaches to global health
  - Some medical schools look for experiences in global health and assisting developing countries
  - Many medical programs resist in incorporating global health
  - A need to have an anti-oppressive lens and have a critical approach to global health work
  - Where do we think this notion of global health originates from?
  - Global health as a way of advancing Western ideals of development and progress
  - Lot of moral valence given to these activities, when in reality the solutions we're leveraging are not in consultation with these communities, or based more on a Western context
  - Examining power structures in terms of how much an individual can contribute to care in another community
  - White-saviour syndrome
  - Use of terminology such as "third-world," "developing," "global south"
  - What are the inherent problems of global health that will continue to persist and what are some of the problems that we can overcome?

## **13. New Business/Varia**

- None

## **14. Next Meeting**

14.1. October 30th, 2021: 10am - 4pm

## **15. Meeting Closure**

- 15.1. Motion to end the meeting
- Mover: Ushma Purohit
  - Secunder: Connie Li
  - Motion passes