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MISSION STATEMENT

The Alpert Medical School Student Senate democratically organizes and represents the interests of our diverse student body. We facilitate improvements to school policy and operations as well as exercise our voice in the larger healthcare system to better prepare excellent and conscientious medical professionals.

CORE VALUES

Our work will be guided and informed by our commitment to fostering a culture of advocacy, equity, diversity, communication, and accountability.

1. Advocacy: Advocate both for a medical school that nurtures socially and critically conscious health professionals through its curriculum, operations, and community engagements, while providing access to resources that support students’ academic success and mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well being.

2. Equity & Diversity: Promote historically conscious and culturally equitable practices within the framework of medical education, including the recruitment and retention of a diverse staff, faculty, and student body; the advancement of a structurally humble medical curriculum where the rights, dignity, and responsibility of the patient are emphasized; and the development of a culturally inclusive learning environment.

3. Communication & Accountability: Uphold open-channel communication between medical students and other components of the medical school and University, ensure that we operate within the interests and wishes of the student body, and acquaint both students and the administration with novel concerns and projects in order to foster a more concordant and united school community.
COMMITTEE UPDATES

COMMUNICATIONS
The Communications Committee has been working like elves this past month getting ready for the holiday season! In fact, we’ve been constructing this very document- the December Systole! The purpose of Systole is to help information flow faster and easier between members in the AMS community. Whether you're interested in community updates directly from Dean Tunkel, curious about fun events happening in Providence this month, or wondering what your class Senators have been up to this semester, you can find it all right here!

We have also been putting a lot of effort into strengthening our social media presence by posting on Instagram and Facebook (follow us @amssenate). We will be rolling out student takeovers on our Instagram to showcase how diverse days in the lives of AMS community members can be! If you're interested in taking over our Instagram account for a day let us know at ams-senate@brown.edu!

FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP
With the closing of November, the Senate Finance Committee would like to share some updates regarding its progress. The mid-semester funding cycle was completed and we are happy to announce that we were able to fund 95.89% of the amount requested from the interest groups. This is a monumental improvement from the 78.75% that was met just last year for Fall mid-semester funding. We will continue to strive to reach 100% funding.

We have seen some great events take place this year and have had fantastic speakers, community outreach, and educational experiences. The focus on sustainability has also been noted with a significant number of groups placing orders for vegan options and avoiding food suppliers who have unbridled carbon footprints. We have also noted more appropriate food orders being placed with a significant decrease in waste and discarded food, which was one of the goals for the Finance Committee in 2019-2020.

As we gear our budgetary focus towards Gala and class-wide celebrations for the upcoming year, we are also hoping to increase our Spring Semester funding allocations from the 44.14% we met last year to a benchmark of 55%. This cycle application will be released in early January 2020.

We encourage students to continue to attend our monthly Senate meetings to engage and propose ideas that would enrich our growing AMS community.
The Activities Committee has many exciting plans for the Winter and Spring! We will be planning a Dog Therapy Event in January, another event at the bar/arcade Free Play (make sure to catch this one if you missed the first!), and a Ski Trip! We also will be hosting class celebrations in the upcoming months to celebrate various milestones! The Research in Medicine Flashtalks Series is well under way, so keep an eye out for announcements about future talks! We are still in the process of creating an ongoing meeting between social work, nursing, pharmacy, and medical students in Rhode Island to create more unison and events together and will email out as soon as we have a date so that anyone interested can attend. Can’t wait to see everyone at this Spring’s Gala!

The Academics and Mentoring Committee is dedicated to enhancing the curricular experience and strengthening mentorship programs both amongst students and with faculty. Our Senate Mentorship Initiative was rolled out at the beginning of this year which paired current 3rd year students with a 4th year student in their area of interest. We have just sent our surveys for those involved to see how successful the program has been and to identity ways that it can be improved. Feel free to email us with your feedback directly!

We are also working on institutionalizing the Research Collective that was created last year. This is a database of current research projects that medical students are involved in and opportunities for involvement. Our goal is to make this an ongoing database continually updated and managed by students in conjunction with the Office of Student Affairs.

There are many ways to get involved with the Academics and Mentoring Committee and we would love to hear from you!
SENATE Q & A

**Student Rights**
Request that students have access to certified financial planner
- Senate bill drafted and passed
Request for 1st floor gender neutral bathroom and gender neutral shower in anatomy suite
- Request discussed with Dean Tunkel, Senate bill being drafted

**Facilities**
Request for Lysol wipes in seminar rooms
Request for side door in Red Academy to have swipe access
Request for standing desks in the library
- All three referred to Progress Committee and awaiting response from facilities

**Curriculum**
Request that Student Senate members not endorse study products
- Student Senate will refrain from product endorsement messaging
Request that students don't talk when entering lecture hall on examination day
- No action taken at this time

**School Policies**
Request that Gateways students and AMS workers have access to fourth floor gym
- Request made to Dean Tunkel and Dean Vrees
Request that Gateways are able to join specialty interest groups
- Referred to Finance Committee who will survey interest group leaders
Request for increased transparency on school budget
- We agree this is a necessary conversation, there is no action plan at this time
Request for indigenous land acknowledgement plaque
- Senate bill drafted and passed, negotiations for funding ongoing
Request for AMS's ICE response policy
- We posted the University's ICE response policy on the AMS Senate website

**Parking and Property**
Request for improving Coro Shuttle reliability and student safety while walking to RIH
- Referred to Senate President to discuss with Dean Tunkel

**Misc.**
Continued student debate regarding AOA criteria
- Addressed in newsletter by Dean Tunkel, in addition the Progress Committee will publish a document about the history of the AOA at AMS

If you'd like any more information regarding something covered in this Q & A please email ams-senate@brown.edu to reach us. If there's a question you'd like to see featured in the Q & A (and is of the appropriate length to be added here), use this handy form to ask!
FROM THE DESK OF THE DEANS

DEAN TUNKEL

CLIMATE AT AMS

During my time at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University (AMS), a number of events have significantly shed light on the climate at the medical school. I recognize that these events are very emotional and have greatly impacted our students and the AMS community. While it would not be possible to recount every situation, the events surrounding Indigenous Peoples Day in 2018 really had a profound ripple effect throughout our community. I want to acknowledge this not merely as an isolated set of incidents, but a moment that caused great pain and subsequent deep reflection.

After the Town Hall meeting of April 15, 2019, Dean Elias asked members of his leadership team to work with the Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity, Dr. Shontay Delalue, to form a working group on issues of diversity and equity at Alpert Medical School to respond to these events and create a process for addressing issues in the future. We have convened the AMS Working Group to Address Climate Concerns. It includes representation by faculty, administration and students, and has been meeting regularly. I am writing to highlight some of the accomplishments and plans of this working group over recent months.

People We have created a new position of Assistant Dean for Equity and Diversity that will report to Associate Dean for Diversity and Multicultural Affairs Joseph Diaz, MD and Vice President for Institutional Equity and Diversity Shontay Delalue, PhD. The position has been advertised and a search committee has been formed that is chaired by Dr. Roxanne Vrees, Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and Dr. Lindsay Orchowski, the Deputy Title IX Coordinator at Alpert Medical School. The search committee has completed an initial review of the applicant pool and met as a group on Wednesday, November 6, 2019, to discuss next steps. This person's role will include coordination of diversity and inclusion initiatives including, but not limited to, establishing, implementing and maintaining compliance processes and procedures, including training and remediation that is clear and accessible to members of the AMS community; serve as a resource for persons seeking consultation about diversity, equity and inclusion in their workplaces; and work closely with the Title IX Program Officer and the Equity Care Coordinator to provide critical daily leadership to address climate concerns in the AMS community.
Training  The Dean’s Leadership Team (which includes Dean Elias and other senior leaders) had their first training with Dr. Delalue in February 2019 where she provided an introduction to who is in the community and using critical reflexivity to lead positive change. Dr. Delalue continued to meet with key members of the leadership team throughout the remainder of the Spring 2019 semester. We resumed trainings this fall. To ensure that future trainings of the senior administrative leadership is more inclusive of those who have important leadership and administrative roles, there was a workshop on unconscious bias led by Kelsey Kagnos, PhD, titled “Everyday Bias for Healthcare Professionals” for the Dean’s Extended Leadership Team (including the Dean, Senior Associate Deans, Associate Deans, and other leadership staff) held on October 3, 2019, with plans for ongoing additional trainings planned during subsequent meetings of this group in early 2020. In addition, mandatory anti-racism training for faculty in the Office of Medical Education and Continuous Quality Improvement (OME-CQI), Office of Student Affairs (OSA), Office of Diversity and Multicultural Affairs (ODMA), clerkship directors, associate directors and coordinators will take place at a full-day event on December 6, 2019 that will be facilitated by Dr. Mercedes Avila from the University of Vermont. Dr. Avila provides consultation and training on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice, and has trained more than 7500 providers across 27 states and more than 150 communities. I can assure you that AMS’s commitment to training and education on matters of diversity and inclusion will be ongoing, and is consistent with the value “Dedication to anti-racism” that was added as a result of student input into the Mission, Vision and Values statement of Alpert Medical School.

Communication  We recognize that there is a need for enhanced communication to the AMS community to address the resolution of recent climate concerns and plans to continue to address these issues. This is my first communication, but continued communication from the AMS Working Group to Address Climate Concerns, as well as updates about diversity initiatives, will be included in the monthly AMS Vital Signs newsletter beginning in the new year.

On behalf of the AMS Working Group to Address Climate Concerns, we appreciate everyone’s input into these initiatives and look forward to continued collaboration in creating an inclusive and positive learning environment and climate for everyone in the AMS community.

Sincerely,

Allan R. Tunkel, MD, PhD, MACP
Professor of Medicine and Medical Science
Senior Associate Dean for Medical Education
The Office of Medical Education and Continuous Quality Improvement (OME-CQI) is the office at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University (AMS) charged with developing, implementing and evaluating curriculum. Our team is excited to work with students across the four years in delivering an innovative and socially responsible curriculum.

**OUR MISSION**

Foster the growth of students, staff, and faculty through collaborative continuous quality improvement of an inclusive, visionary medical education program that graduates compassionate, highly skilled, and scholarly physicians who are dedicated to positively impacting people and society.

**OUR VISION**

To innovate, inspire, and promote an exemplary medical education program that serves our learners, the local community, and the wider population.

Furthermore, the OME-CQI believes that all curriculum should be diverse, representative of our community, and inclusive of, but not limited to, those of all races, sexes, genders, ethnicities and abilities. The OME-CQI will work with faculty and students to promote diversity and inclusion in its curriculum throughout the four year continuum in line with our anti-racism values at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University.

Any member of the OME-CQI is willing to help with any inquiry from a student in regards to the curriculum or any other topic at AMS (we have an open door policy in the OME-CQI). We have also composed a face sheet of our key faculty and administrators as a quick reference guide in case you have a question about a specific topic within the curriculum.

Find out more about Who's Who in MedEd under Resources on the AMS Senate Website.
MEDSTEP is a mentoring program whose main goal is to create community and structured mentorship within AMS for individuals who self-identify as underrepresented in medicine (UIM). The program uses a group and peer mentorship model that includes students, residents, housestaff, and attendings to build community at AMS and create a safe space for discussion, education and professional growth. The objectives of MEDSTEP are to:

- Establish a system of mentorship for all medical students and trainees who self-identify as UIM.
- Utilize the group mentorship model and peer mentorship to leverage the resources of the entire AMS UIM community.
- Prepare mentors and mentees to address challenging professional situations. Strengthen the sense of community at AMS for UIM faculty, trainees and students.
- Create a safe space for discussion, education and professional growth.

MEDSTEP kickoff event took place on September 18th 2019. There are over 150 people who are part of the program which consist of attendings, residents and students. The kickoff had an attendance of over 95 people consisting of thirteen families of about 10-15 individuals of diverse backgrounds. During the event mentorship families had an opportunity to acclimate themselves to one another as well as discuss goals and expectations for the group. Along with icebreakers, and conversation over food, families got an opportunity to plan for future mentorship meetings. MEDSTEP families are required to meet at least 2-3 times per semester off campus and currently, all families have already met one or multiple times, and expressed positive feedback regarding the program. On January 27th, MEDSTEP will have its first “family reunion” at AMS from 5:30pm - 7:00pm. The theme and keynote will be focused on mentorship to not only discuss the importance of mentorship, but to also learn how to better navigate these relationships. We look forward to our January family reunion and continued MEDSTEP engagement in the spring semester. Questions? Send an email to the ODMA at odma@brown.edu.
This issue features Dr. Sarita Warrier. Dr. Warrier originally hails from Michigan and completed her college education at the University of Michigan—Ann Arbor. As an undergraduate, she explored her interests in medicine and the social sciences by double majoring in biology and history. She would then go on to spend another four years at her alma mater to pursue her MD degree at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Dr. Warrier first came to Brown for her internal medicine residency in the program’s General Internal Medicine track. As a graduate of the program, she notes that the great educational culture and process of teaching and mentorship facilitated her interest in medical education. After residency, she went on to work as a service attending physician in the Division of General Internal Medicine at Rhode Island Hospital, where she worked and taught clinically on the wards and precepted in the medical clinic. It was around this time that she became a small group leader in the Year II Doctoring course at AMS and later served as the course leader for the Year I Doctoring curriculum.

Now, Dr. Warrier is an Assistant Dean for Medical Education. As such, one of her responsibilities is to oversee the Year II curriculum, a role in which she works closely with course leaders, schedules and plans course content and lectures, and recruits various physicians and other educators as lecturers. Beyond the walls of AMS, Dr. Warrier enjoys running, hiking, and doing other outdoor activities (this past summer, she developed an interest in boating). In reflecting on her experience in medicine, Dr. Warrier has the following advice for medical students—

“Embrace the medical school year that you’re in. Study the information that you’re expected to learn, but make sure you still have time for the things you enjoy in life. If there's something you're passionate about, it's important to hold on to that.”

The AMS Senate thanks Dr. Warrier for her continued contributions to this school's students and the greater AMS community!
EVENTS CALENDAR

To submit an event to the calendar, please email ams-senate@brown.edu with the name of the event, start and end time, location, brief description, contact information, and RSVP information, if applicable.

Recurring Events

Sunday’s: Meditation Session, 4-5 pm, Manning Chapel on College Hill (21 Prospect St)
Monday’s: Beginner’s Dance Class with Sarah, 4-5 pm, AMS gym (4th floor)
Tuesday’s: Med^2 Meditation Session w/ coffee and tea, 8:30-9:00 am, AMS gym (4th floor)

Providence Ghost Tour: Let us lead you by lantern light through the darkened streets of Providence, RI’s most historic neighborhood. Let the history and mystery of College Hill introduce you to the dark side of our capital city.

RI Philharmonic Orchestra: Celebrate with the RI Philharmonic and Providence Singers at a must-see performance of this beloved holiday classic!

NYE One Providence Ball Drop & Festivities: New Year’s Eve virtual ball drop and fireworks to ring in the new year. There will be free events as well as ticketed events.

December:

PROVIDENCE LOST FILM SCREENING
DEC. 10
7:00 pm
Room 270

COBRE ON OPIOIDS & OVERDOSE SEMINAR
DEC. 11
10:00 am
Room 245, 121 South Main St.

THE AGE OF LIVING MACHINES: HOW BIOLOGY WILL BUILD THE NEXT TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION
DEC. 12
2:20 pm
Sidney E. Frank Hall for Life Sciences, 185 Meeting St

BLOOD DRIVE
DEC. 18
10:00 - 2:00 pm
Brown University School of Public Health, 121 South Main St

ANNUAL WOMEN’S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH TALK
JAN. 10
12:00 - 1:00 pm
TBA

AMS MUSICALE 2020
JAN. 11
7:00 - 9:00 pm
Sayles Hall, 81 Waterman St.

GOOD MEDICINE: CREATING INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS FOR LEARNING
JAN. 28
5:30 pm
Room 275

SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT:
Facebook: facebook.com/AMSsenate
Instagram: @amssenate
Website: brown.edu/go/medsenate

You can find useful resources as well as information on how to interact with Senate, propose new bills, or get involved.

FOR MORE EVENTS IN & AROUND PVD IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY, CLICK HERE!