

# Student Advocacy Committee Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2020

12:00 – 1:00 pm, Via Zoom

**Attendance:** Shelley Collins, Beverly Dede, Jim Gorske, Morgan Brazel, Mitsy Audate, Daniel Stribling, Grayson Burdick, Ester Duquaney, Samari Blair, Aalekhya Tenali

**Recording:** Renata Dolbier

**Begin** 12:02 pm

## 1. MD/PhD

Research students are concerned about whether they will need to stay at UF another year due to the pandemic and closures of labs. Targeted reopen date is June 1<sup>st</sup>. Possibly will need to extend their PhD years to complete program sufficiently. Students feel Dr. Pearson is doing a great job communicating and helping students during this time and having bi-weekly meetings rather than monthly. Students are keeping a close watch on how the re-opening of labs will affect their progress; not much can be resolved just yet.

## 2. 1<sup>st</sup> YR PA

Some students are concerned White Coat moved to a zoom celebration. What will clinicals look like, scheduled to begin in July. Faculty has been doing a good job of keeping students on track and not giving too much uncertain information regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. Exam scores are fine and spirits are up.

## 3. 1<sup>st</sup> YR

Class reps have sent out check in surveys to class mates to see how they are coping with the pandemic. Concerns regarding professionalism particularly with live streaming lectures having altercations regarding interruptions with questions taking too much time. It was suggested to put a question asking policy in place and to reach out to professors to set boundaries and limitations during the lecture and to steer individuals toward office hours. Student indicated, they have exams on Friday for the COVID capstone.

## 4. 2<sup>nd</sup> YR

Class is worried about Step 1 exams being cancelled. Only open testing sites available are in Canada. Broward Hall has construction has not begun, students would like to present a plea to keep Prometric location open to give opportunity for Step exams. Need to contact Dept. of Housing, potentially 8 people per day / 7 days a week. Dr. Collins will follow up with Dr. Fantone and Dr. Tyndall. Dr. Dede will reach out to a contact to intervene with the Department of Housing. 3<sup>rd</sup> YR is willing to assist. Another option to see in our COM can become an acceptable site. Elective sign ups slight miscommunications, but most have put on back burner.

## 5. 3<sup>rd</sup> YR

Things are up and down, but settled with concern regarding how and when clerkships will be made up. Had option to accept a pass/fail or a grade for last clerkship. They are preparing for shelf exam. Stem 2 exams are being canceled. Students having difficulty rescheduling. Geriatrics is going through revamping and there is confusion. Dr. Collins will gather clarification. Externships are of concern. Dr. Harrell is assisting with scheduling periods 3 and 4 in July and August with Sub I or specialty selective elective. Hoping the ERAS submission deadline will be pushed back. Dr. Dede putting together a

personal statement informational workshop with a panel from specialties (peds, pathology, surgery) for the class. Dates mid-May. Follow up with email to class.

## **6. Diversity**

First Diversity workshop huge success. A lot of support. Had to cancel remaining. Hoping to start back in the fall. If not live, probably via zoom. New class orientation diversity training plan in place. Plan to provide Optional resources in each block of courses for student to dive more into topics at hand and study how it effects different populations. Suggested to share with Dr. Aris, course directors' chair let him know what you are doing and including in subject matter what is additional risk, culturally. How to operationalize. Still concerned with Professionalism, will be working on something to push down on the class and something deliverable to the incoming class. Science Day on hold. Shout out to Dr. Russel – Brown (did 1<sup>st</sup> lunch workshop) in the law school. She contacted diversity leaders to check in how they were doing during this time. Nice connection with Law School. Regarding Science Day, think about access to virtual kind of learning. Is this a place where we can show students that you can still advance your learning through science? Dr. Dede suggested to incorporate a student to sort of shadow you.

## **7. Overall comments from Dr. Collins**

- a. In times of uncertainty/chaos focus on what you can control, reach out to advisors and program directors
- b. Over-communicate
- c. Zoom etiquette - be mindful of yourself and your interactions
- d. Student and Faculty coping skills really tough time. Communicate with students there is still availability for help, (Dr. Dede). Stay in touch with colleague.
- e. Student Advocacy website redone

**Meeting adjourned: 1:00 pm**