

SEPHGSA Executive Council 2023-2024

President			
Vice President			
Vice President, Epidemiology Academic Affairs	Sara Siddiqi	ssidd089@uottawa.ca	Present
Vice President, Public Health Academic Affairs	Stephen McCarthy	smcca104@uottawa.ca	Present
Vice President, Wellness			
Vice President, Social Affairs	Rebecca Cano	rcano028@uottawa.ca	Regrets
Vice President, Equity Diversity, and Inclusion	My-An Auprix	maupr046@uottawa.ca	Regrets
Vice President, Financial Affairs	Renee Schryer	rschr099@uottawa.ca	Present
Vice President, Administrative Affairs			
MSc Epidemiology Representative(s)			
MPH Representative(s)			
PhD Representative(s)			

Administrative Note

Time and Location

Unless otherwise specified in the minutes, meetings of the SEPHGSA are held on the **first Friday of each month at 16:00**. We currently hold our meetings on Zoom and intend to continue in an online or bimodal manner for the foreseeable future. All active members of the SEPHGSA (students currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Epidemiology, the Doctor of Philosophy in Epidemiology, the Master of Public Health, or the Graduate Diploma in Population Health Risk Assessment and Management) are welcome to attend the monthly Executive Council Meetings and may do so using the following information:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88552931410?pwd=SFZLTS9McCttekx6WllybDZsMjF2UT09>

Meeting ID: 885 5293 1410

Passcode: 183364

Council Member Updates

Administrative Note

- Updates were given by members of the previous council for this meeting

President (Vacant)

- Charles attended the SEPH School Assembly for March. Some brief notes:
 - The MSc in Epidemiology admissions committee expects to send out the usual 50 offers this year despite a lower number of applicants than previous years
 - This may be due to a change in deadline from January 31 to January 15
 - Quality of candidates remains high despite lower numbers
 - For this past year, FoM had some remaining money in the pot for MSc scholarships
 - Current plan for incoming students is to offer the standard \$2,000/term for the Fall/Winter terms and divide the remaining money in the scholarship pot among all eligible students (may result in less than \$2,000/each for the summer term)
 - Melissa and Ian are exploring ideas for increasing attendance at Student Research Day
 - SEPH is beginning the process of restructuring the PhD program
 - Concept is to shift away from a comprehensive examination in lieu of competency-based requirements in the first year
 - SEPH is drafting a list of optional courses that can be used in the program (max. 1 special topics course)

Vice President (Vacant)

- The Faculty of Medicine Graduate Studies Committee approved a Letter of Intent for the development of a graduate program in Clinical and Translational Medicine. This would offer both an MSc and PhD and be run directly by the FoM, not any single academic unit
 - Program focus is on advancing “bench to bedside” studies in clinical medicine
 - There is some concern amongst SEPH faculty that this program would draw students away from epidemiology due to a similar focus on trials
- The Faculty Council continues to pursue a strong Global Health agenda with the approval of Terms of Reference for a Clinical Global Health Council and a Planetary Health Council
 - The FoM Strategic Blueprint mi-cycle refresh was circulated for approval last week and still contains several items (such as an Executive PhD program) that are concerning
- The President and several members of his office will be visiting the FoM on March 30 at 9:30. This will be both in person (RGN Room 2005) and online (details to follow) and is a great opportunity to voice concerns to the highest levels of the University administration

Vice President, Epidemiology Academic Affairs

- The SEPH Epidemiology Graduate Studies Council last met in October but Shan would be happy to forward any concerns during the upcoming meeting this month
 - SEPH is currently working on a resource guide for PhD thesis proposals and will potentially be creating a more standardized form for the thesis proposal
- Shan has been helping with SEPH Career Day which is being planned for March 9 from 1-3pm at 850

Peter Morand

- Those interested are encouraged to [RSVP](#)
- Faculty of Medicine Career Day is being hosted March 9, 14, and 15 at RGN
 - Planning appears to be fairly last minute, but interested students should keep an eye out for additional details to follow from FoM
- No SEPH Program Development Committee has been held since our last meeting

Vice President, Public Health Academic Affairs

- No update was given for the SEPH MPH Program Committee
- No update was given for the SEPH Program Development Committee

Vice President, Wellness (Vacant)

- No Wellness Update was given at this meeting

Vice President, Social Affairs

- Mia has been organizing the SEPH Hoodie orders

Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- No updates from the SEPH EDI Committee this year

Vice President, Financial Affairs

- Haben circulated a financial statement for the SEPHGSA after the AGM yesterday
 - We currently hold a balance of \$4,648.21 and are in good financial health

Vice President, Administrative Affairs (Vacant)

- No Administrative Update was given at this meeting

Program Representatives

- No MSc Epidemiology Update was given at this meeting
- The MPH SEC has a group of new members and is working to lay out a plan for their structure and activities for the upcoming year—including efforts to coordinate social activities with the SEPHGSA
- No PhD Epidemiology Update was given at this meeting

GSAED Director

- The GSAED Board of Directors Meeting was mostly internally focused.
 - Large effort being placed on elections and internal hiring process for the General Manager and Executive Coordinator positions
 - Students interested in being the GSAED Representative from SEPH should reach out to the GSAED Chief Returning Officer at elections@gsaed.ca
 - Shan notes that we have a [Community Legal Clinic](#) on campus if students need legal services
 - The [Academic Group Projects Fund](#) is available for graduate students who are attending conferences and require financial support (up to \$500)
 - The Sociology and Anthropology Graduate Students Association has drafted an open letter protesting cuts to TA positions, scholarships, and seminars in the Faculty of Social Science and is seeking support from GSAED
- No University Affairs Committee was held since our last meeting

Business Arising

Collaboration with the MPH Student Experience Committee

- Stephen McCarthy, co-chair of the MPH Student Experience Committee is interested in collaborating in more social events with the SEPHGSA to foster more intermingling between the programs
- He also expressed an interest in creating some formalization of the MPH SEC under the SEPHGSA Constitution in order to ensure that the committee is not wholly reliant on SEPH

Annual General Meeting

- The SEPHGSA Annual General Meeting was held on March 2 at 850 Peter Morand and on Zoom!
 - Stephen McCarthy was elected as Vice President, Public Health Academic Affairs
 - Rebecca Cano was elected as Vice President, Social Affairs
 - My-An Auprix was elected as Vice President, Equity Diversity, and Inclusion

Merchandise

- Hoodies have been ordered!
 - Total order cost was \$3243.55 and has been paid out
 - All outstanding orders have been paid for (\$3,220.00 in total)
 - One excess hoodie was ordered to ensure all colour/program combinations
 - The bookstore gave a much longer timeline than usual for the order (6-8 weeks). Will provide updates as soon as we have a firm delivery date

Website

- We need to re-write the [SEPHGSA funding blog](#) to address these changes. For the moment it has been unpublished from the website to avoid confusion

Main Business

Council Turn-Over

- Welcome new members of council!
 - Please send a short Bio and avatar to uo.sephgsa@gmail.com for the [About](#) section of the website (Avatars should be an SVG vector file from [GetAvataaars](#)—select transparent background!)
 - Charles will reach out to new members of council to arrange a hand-off meeting with their outgoing counterparts
 - Invitations have gone out to new members for the SEPHGSA slack channel
- Stephen McCarthy was given access to the uo.sephgsa@gmail.com account in the absence of a President, Vice President, or VP Admin
- Charles will continue to handle some administrative tasks for the next few months as vacancies are filled

Vacancies

- President
 - No one has expressed interest in the role of President at this time
- Vice President
 - No one has expressed interest in the role of President at this time
 - Charles will continue in his role on the Faculty Council until June
 - Sara will attend FMGSC meetings until a Vice President is appointed
- Vice President, Epidemiology Academic Affairs
 - Sara Siddiqi has expressed an interest in the role of VP Epidemiology Academic Affairs
 - With a unanimous vote, her appointment was approved
- Vice President, Wellness
 - Two students have expressed an interest in the position of VP Wellness
 - Charles will reach out to see if they would be interested in sharing the position, or if one of the two would like to stand for one of the remaining vacancies on council
- Vice President, Financial Affairs
 - Renee Schryer has expressed an interest in the role of VP Financial Affairs
 - With a unanimous vote, her appointment was approved
- Vice President, Administrative Affairs
 - No one has expressed interest in the role of Vice President, Administrative Affairs at this time
- Stephen would like to hold an election to fill vacant seats and generate interest in the SEPHGSA
 - Early May was identified as a time when students would be less busy and may be more inclined to put their names forward

Varia and Adjournment

Varia

- No items were raised in varia

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 17:13

Next Meeting

- The next SEPHGSA Executive Council Meeting will be **Friday, April 7, at 16:00**

Minutes

SEPHGSA minutes are compiled as soon as possible after meetings of the Executive Council and hosted on a public Google Drive for review. These can be accessed from the SEPHGSA website at the following link:

<https://www.sephgsa.ca/resources>

