

Executive Council Meeting

February 3rd, 2023*



SEPHGSA Executive Council 2022-2023

President

Vice President	Charles Thickstun	rthic032@uottawa.ca	Present
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Vice President, Epidemiology Academic Affairs	Shan Dhaliwal	sdhal018@uottawa.ca	Present
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Vice President, Public Health Academic Affairs	Felipe Gallego	agall061@uottawa.ca	Regrets
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Vice President, Wellness	Robert Pap	rpap066@uottawa.ca	Regrets
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Vice President, Social Affairs	Mia Sapin	msapi072@uottawa.ca	Present
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Vice President, Equity Diversity, and Inclusion	Sara Siddiqi	ssidd089@uottawa.ca	Present
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Vice President, Financial Affairs	Haben Dawit	hdawi008@uottawa.ca	Regrets
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Vice President, Administrative Affairs

MSc Epidemiology Representative(s)	Junayd Hussain	jhuss025@uottawa.ca	Regrets
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	Carolina Soto	csoto007@uottawa.ca	Present
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MPH Representative(s)	Philippe Morin	pmori037@uottawa.ca	Regrets
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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

President (Vacant)

- Charles attended the SEPH School Assembly for January and February. Some brief notes:
 - SEPH Director Melissa Brouwers has applied for a mandate renewal
 - Students are not directly involved in this process, but if anyone would like to submit an anonymous comment (either for or against her renewal), Charles will find an avenue to bring those comments to the attention of the Dean
 - The Janet Wendy & John Last Lecture and SEPH Student Research Day will both be held next week at RGN (details on the [SEPHGSA calendar](#))
 - The MSc in Epidemiology has received 150 applicants (down from last year)
 - The MPH has received 624 applicants

Vice President

- A special meeting of the Faculty of Medicine Graduate Studies Committee was held to approve modifications to the MPH program. These changes include:
 - Reducing the language credit requirements for the MPH+ to 12
 - Formalizing both EPI 5242 and PBH 5107 as options for the MPH program
 - These may no longer be combined for credits
 - Creating three official concentrations from the four MPH streams. These must now be selected on program entry and appear on the student's diploma:
 - Public Health Practice
 - Public Health Policy
 - Global Health
 - **Note:** The Public Health Risk Assessment stream does not have sufficient student interest or faculty support to continue at this time
 - The Faculty of Medicine has received an extra 9 PhD admissions scholarships in our quota this year (49 total across all programs)
 - The MSc quota has not changed
- The Faculty Council passed the proposed modifications to the MPH program listed above. These will now go onto the Senate for final approval

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 Research Day planning and SEPH Career Day
 - Email Shan with any questions!
- 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

- No Wellness Update was given at this meeting

Vice President, Social Affairs

- Mia has been organizing the SEPH Hoodie orders
- She is also planning a social event at Dooly's for after SEPH Student Research Day

Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

- No updates from the SEPH EDI Committee this year

Vice President, Financial Affairs

- We have been officially registered with GSAED and received our Fall 2022 financial disbursement

Vice President, Administrative Affairs (Vacant)

- No Administrative Update was given at this meeting

Program Representatives

- Some MSc Epidemiology Update students are hoping for some more information about SEPH Student Research Day and what students should expect at the event
 - Charles will reach out to Dr. Elton-Marshall about sending around a schedule
- Some MPH SEC students have started working
- No PhD Epidemiology Update was given at this meeting

GSAED Director

- The GSAED Board of Directors Meeting was mostly internally focused. There will be a Graduate Student Week in March for students who are interested
- No University Affairs Committee was held since our last meeting

Business Arising

Vacancies on Council

- President
 - No one has expressed interest in the role of President at this time
- Vice President, Administrative Affairs
 - No one has expressed interest in the role of Vice President, Administrative Affairs at this time
- In the interim, Charles will assume the duties of the vacant positions in a limited capacity

Constitution Referendum

- Voting has concluded for our Constitution Referendum!
 - The measure has passed with 91% in favour (9% abstention). Notice was also given through the SEPH Daily Announcements
 - The revised Constitution can be found on the [SEPHGSA website](#)

Website Update, Avatars, and Biographies

- Charles completed going through the SEPHGSA website and blog posts to update links that were broken when the uOttawa website redesign went live. If you notice any dead links please let him know!
- We will 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
- Please send Charles any updates to your Avatar or Bio for the [About](#) section of the website (Avatars should be a PNG image from [GetAvataaars](#))

Main Business

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

- Now that our Constitution Referendum has passed, we will need to hold an Annual General Meeting
 - Charles circulated an email about timing. Most comments agreed that holding the event after Reading Week would give the best possible turnout and buy-in from students
 - Sentiment at the meeting was that **Wednesday, March 2 at 12:00pm** would be a good time for most students
 - We are required to give at least 14 days' notice and plan to have the date and location confirmed by Student Research Day on Thursday, February 9

Merchandise

- Mia and Charles have organized a SEPH Program Hoodie Order
 - 56 Orders were placed!
 - As of 15:00 today, 43 have paid (total \$2,475)
 - Reminder emails will go out this evening to outstanding orders

	Maroon	Dark Grey	
Epidemiology	18	14	32
Public Health	11	14	25
	29	28	57

- Epis were 1.6 times more likely to order Maroon than their Public Health counterparts!
 - (The chair of this meeting acknowledges that he is a nerd)

SEPH Annual Student Research Day

- February 9, 2023
- SEPH has reached out to us regarding funding support for awards, breakfast, small token prizes
 - Shan has been coordinating with Dr. Elton-Marshall
 - The SEPHGSA has agreed to fund a light breakfast and 50% of the second place prize for MSc students (we had agreed to support the PhD prize as well, but not enough applicants submitted)

Varia and Adjournment

Varia

- No items were raised in varia

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 16:45

Next Meeting

- The next SEPHGSA Executive Council Meeting will be **Friday, March 3, at 16:00**

*Note on meeting date

- The SEPHGSA Executive Council Meeting for January failed to meet quorum. The items raised during those meetings have been included in this document

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>

The minutes from this meeting were last edited on Friday, February 3, 2023 at 16:51:12

