

SEPHGSA Executive Council 2022-2023

President			
Vice President	Charles Thickstun	rthic032@uottawa.ca	Present
Vice President, Epidemiology Academic Affairs	Shan Dhaliwal	sdhal018@uottawa.ca	Present
Vice President, Public Health Academic Affairs	Abi Kalanandan	akala013@uottawa.ca	Regrets
Vice President, Wellness			
Vice President, Social Affairs	Mia Sapin	msapi072@uottawa.ca	Present
Vice President, Equity Diversity, and Inclusion			
Vice President, Financial Affairs	Haben Dawit	hdawi008@uottawa.ca	Regrets
Vice President, Administrative Affairs			
MSc Epidemiology Representative(s)	Junayd Hussain	jhuss025@uottawa.ca	Present
	Carolina Soto	csoto007@uottawa.ca	Regrets
MPH Representative(s)	Felipe Gallego	agall061@uottawa.ca	Regrets
	Philippe Morin	pmori037@uottawa.ca	Regrets
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 Doctorate 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)

- No update was given for the SEPH School Assembly

Vice President

- The Faculty of Medicine Graduate Studies Council has not been held since the last meeting
- No updates from the Faculty of Medicine Faculty Council

Vice President, Epidemiology Academic Affairs

- Substantial discussion was made on the report for the SEPH Epidemiology Graduate Studies Council (See “Scholarship Changes” in Main Business)
- No updates from the SEPH Program Development Committee

Vice President, Public Health Academic Affairs

- No update was given for the SEPH Public Health Graduate Studies Council
- 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

- Events Update (See “Summer Planning/Orientation” in Main Business)

Vice President, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (Vacant)

- No update was given for the SEPH Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee

Vice President, Financial Affairs

- No Financial Update was given at this meeting

Vice President, Administrative Affairs (Vacant)

- No Administrative Update was given at this meeting

Program Representatives

- No updates from the MSc Epidemiology representatives
- No updates from the MPH Update representatives
- No updates from the PhD Epidemiology Update representatives

GSAED Director

- GSAED Board of Directors has not met since the director was selected

Main Business

Vacancies on Council

- There are currently several vacancies on council, including the SEPHGSA President. Charles urges that the presidency be a high priority for recruitment (ideally before June) to allow for a smooth transition

- Members are encouraged to reach out with expressions of interest in any of the vacant positions on council
- In the interim, Charles will assume the duties of the vacant positions in a limited capacity

Handover Meetings

- Most filled positions are currently being held by those who held them last year, so handover meetings are not strictly needed at this time
 - Charles will coordinate meetings between the current outgoing members of council when replacements are identified

Constitution Referendum

- Charles notes that the referenda language presented at the AGM was generally well received
- He will begin the process of circulating the language to the student body and preparing an anonymous voting system for the referendum

Summer Planning/Orientation

- The SEPHGSA has traditionally not been active over the summer, should we plan more events?
 - Shan offers to plan a writing workshop or retreat sometime in late May in advance of the June 15th deadline for MSc Thesis Proposals
 - Mia will plan some form of summer social event for July
 - Board Games? (Loft)
 - Intramurals? (Ultimate Frisbee?)
 - In Person Social (Ice Cream?/Barbeque?)
- Orientation/Early Fall term will be an opportunity to reach out to new students and to begin holding regular events, given that SEPH is intending to return to campus as much as possible

Scholarship Changes

- MSc Admissions Scholarship
 - Changing to \$6,000 + \$7,500? (amount allocated by supervisor, Charles to confirm that this is still a requirement for all students) to all students with an **8.0GPA** or higher for 1 year
- Excellence Scholarship has been discontinued as of Spring/Summer 2021
 - “As of September 2021, a new graduate scholarship model will be implemented at the University of Ottawa. As such, this scholarship will no longer be available beyond the spring/summer term 2021. All students who are currently receiving this scholarship will continue to receive it for its expected duration.” [GradMed Website](#)
- PhD Admissions Scholarship
 - Still \$9,000 per year for 4 years
 - Faculty of Medicine is seeking to prioritize students who are trying to fast-track to PhDs
 - This disproportionately advantages wet labs (BMI/CMM/NSC) as these students are much more likely to fast-track
 - This also creates a further disincentive for non-uOttawa students to enter the program – on top of the already strict credit transfer requirements
 - SEPH is seeking internal Faculty of Medicine quota to proportionally allocate

scholarships to SEPH PhD students

- Charles will follow up with Alain Stintzi (FoM Vice-Dean Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) and Claire Turenne Sjolander (Vice-Provost Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies) about the changes
- We will also need to re-write the [SEPHGSA funding blog](#) to address these changes

Varia and Adjournment

Varia

- No items were raised in varia

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 17:03

Next Meeting

- The next SEPHGSA Executive Council Meeting will be **Friday, June 3, 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>

The minutes from this meeting were last edited on Saturday, May 7, 2022 at 19:47:02

