# Executive Council Meeting
November 18th, 2020

sephgsa

## SEPHGSA Executive Council 2020-2021

| Role | Name | Email | Status |
|---|---|---|---|
| President | Hira Khan | hkhan117@uottawa.ca | Present |
| Vice President | Charles Thickstun | rthic032@uottawa.ca | Present |
| Vice President, Academic Affairs | Baies Haqani | bhaqa044@uottawa.ca | Regrets |
| | Irina Podinic | ipodi039@uottawa.ca | Present |
| Vice President, Wellness | Julia Shaw | jshaw012@uottawa.ca | Present |
| | Zaina Kahliel | zkahi017@uottawa.ca | Regrets |
| Vice President, Financial Affairs | Chau Huynh | chuyn097@uottawa.ca | Present |
| Vice President, Administrative Affairs | Emily Thompson | ethom069@uottaw.ca | Present |
| Vice President, Social Affairs | Samantha Lancione | slanc008@uottawa.ca | Present |
| | Dilan Patel | dpate051@uottawa.ca | Present |
| Vice President, Communications | Shannon Thomspon | sthom0193@uottawa.ca | Present |
| Vice President, Web Design | Sebastian Srugo | ssrug082@uottawa.ca | Present |
| Vice President, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion | Zahra Clayborne | zclay068@uottawa.ca | Present |
| MSc Epidemiology Representative(s) | Zobaida Al-Baldawi | zalba014@uottawa.ca | Present |
| | Rola Hashem | rhash064@uottawa.ca | Present |
| PhD Representative(s) | | | |
| MPH Representative(s) | Nick Brisebois | nbris080@uottawa.ca | Present |
| | Amy Li | yli847@uottawa.ca | Present |
| PHRAM Representative(s) | Natalie Jensen | njens090@uottawa.ca | Present |

## Agenda

1. **Collaboration with TMM – Coffee House (Mahdi Ahsan, VP External TMMSA; Priya Sarwal, recruitment coordinator)**
   - TMMSA wants to hold an event working with other student associations in Faculty of Medicine
   - Coffee house event showcasing talents of FoM students

- o Open to everyone, but talent would only be students from FoM (singers, instrumentalists, poetry, stand-up…)
- o Goal is to foster a relationship between the different programs and show off student talents
- Early 2021, not sure if January or February yet
  - o Auditions in December, GSA can send a designated representative to confer
- Want to raise money for a charity as well
  - o Conferring with each student association to pick a charity and come to a consensus
- SEPH's involvement
  - o SEPH logo included in all promotional materials
  - o Send e-mails out to students in department for auditions and attendees
  - o Performers not limited to students, looking for profs to perform too!
  - o MC from each department to introduce their students, if bilingual even better

## 2. Upcoming Wellness and Social Events (Sam)

- Planning a December calendar of events – combo of social and wellness
- First-year event planned by Amy (discussed later)
- Will add events to the google Calendar linked to the website
  - o Should also include workshops and other SEPH events
- BMI ended up not wanting to collaborate with SEPH in the end for some of the December wellness events

## 3. Virtual Townhall – Student Funding and Scholarship Reform (Emily + Hira)

- Where things are with funding going forward
- Melissa will be giving a brief presentation about the changes, along with the Vice Dean, with an open Q&A session at the end
- Email will be sent out this week to student body (Sam will provide poster)
- Last townhall went well, small turnout but great discussion with Melissa
  - o One actionable item about physical thesis copy that has not yet been addressed
  - o Notes from the meeting have been sent out and are available in the google drive

## 4. SEPH Merch Update (Seb + Sam)

- 180 sticker orders (AMAZING!!!)
  - o Another order of stickers is possible, but with another design because a lot of people liked the other sticker designs
  - o 50% of this will be profit
- Lots of sweater orders as well
  - o Markup for the sweaters is not a lot
  - o SEPH has offered to cover ALL shipping fees on sweater orders for students
  - o Amy is reaching out to MPH students about ordering sweaters

## 5. Discord Server (Amy)

- To help replace in-person interactions
- Lots of personalization and can hop between text and voice channels

- Follow-up with Emily about letting students know
- Social event for SEPH first-years to get to know each other, playing Among Us on discord
- Looking for someone with experience about admin and other things
  - Emily will reach out to her fiancé because he is a giant nerd
- Main advantages
  - Seamless integration between text and voice (can have parallel conversations ongoing)
  - Not run through the university, so we don't need to rely on anyone to set up a sub-channel
- Private GSA channel could be added within the SEPH server

## 6. Website Update (Seb)
- Domain and premium subscription have been purchased
- Please take a look at the job board and provide any feedback to Emily

## 7. EDI Updates
- EDI committee meeting Nov. 13
  - Academic freedom issue that has been ongoing at uOttawa
    - Requested the existing policy that can be referenced or challenged to see what is or isn't okay in the classroom and what is considered academic freedom
    - Find channels for students who feel discriminated against to report these issues or publish resources (different levels you can report issues to – Melissa, GS director, GSA, ombudsman… possibility of creating a blog post)
    - Maybe have the GSA advocate for student concerns
    - How to deal with issues between peers? Look into resources
- EDI sub-groups
  - Program learning outcomes (integrating EDI into course materials)
  - Colloquium series meeting
    - Likely to be talks under the health equity umbrella
    - Let Rola know about possible speakers
    - Reach out to Dr. Vivian Welch about possible list of speakers (this is her whole field)
- Student funding survey
  - Student funding is a big concern - next step forward is the townhall
  - Document sent to working group to crowdsource what to include in the survey
- Inflexibility with professors with some of the online courses
  - Issues regarding office hours and recording (need for a policy)
  - Changes in syllabus – need to be agreed upon by the rest of the class
  - Can we host some kind of Zoom town hall about student issues to first to raise issues of online learning?
    - Townhall will be held in January about this – moderator from GSA (too late since second semester will have already started?)
    - Possibility of having a first-year meeting to have students discuss between themselves, but many students are unfamiliar with each other due to the online learning aspect
    - Vent with SEPH event
    - Sebastian has made the contact form on the website anonymous if students would like

to submit their concerns without providing their info

8. **Updates, If Any, From Each Member**

   a. **President**
      - Attending GSAED meetings and speaking of EDI issues; have a lot of technical knowledge about policies

   b. **Vice President**
      - Has a proposal for an online exam policy to bring to FoM GSC (opting out of recording, issues if internet fails…) – hopefully will be brought up tomorrow (Nov 18)
      - Funding changes – huge cut to funding next year that will hit all incoming students, by at least 5500$ if not more
        - Following year, matching fund likely to be implemented but on the back of supervisors so department hesitant to implement – concern about disparity between funded and unfunded students

   c. **Vice President, Academic Affairs**
      - Scholarship Infosession – Great turnout; Nadine Wiper Bergeron presented, did a fantastic presentation and focused on how to distinguish yourself

   d. **Vice President, Wellness**
      - Sam, Dilan, Zaina, and Julia are meeting to discuss upcoming wellness and social events, will send out an email later
      - Emily to send out email to student body about upcoming events

   e. **Vice President, Financial Affairs**
      - Email about scotia bank account, online purchases now working

   f. **Vice President, Social Affairs**
      - Same as wellness
      - Exciting things happening!

   g. **Vice President, Communications**
      - No updates
      - Blog about SEPH animals

   h. **Vice President, Web Design**
      - Blog post about relationships with supervisors, EDI concerns

   i. **Vice President, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion**
      - None

   j. **Vice President, Administrative Affairs**
      - Please loop in the GSA e-mail on all GSA matters

**k. Reps**
- Thesis vs research paper – panel of upper years for directing questions about their experiences (possibility of recording it as well) – one will be hosted in 2nd semester

## Reminders

9. **Join the SEPHGSA Facebook page:**
   - https://www.facebook.com/groups/832774063421219

10. **VP Communications is the Designated Manager of SEPHGSA Twitter Account: @SEPH_GSA & Facebook Account**

11. **VP Admin is the Designated Person for Emailing List + Manger of SEPHGSA Emails**

12. **Suggestions/Concerns**

## Administrative Note

### SEPHGSA Archives Project

These minutes were compiled as part of an archival project to collate the minutes of past SEPHGSA Executive Council Meetings into a complete archive on the SEPHGSA website. The goal of this project is to provide a complete record of SEPHGSA activities in so far as we are able

As these minutes are being formally compiled after the fact, there may be information that is missing or incomplete as it was not included in the written record at the time. If you have any questions about the archival project – or have information about missing or incomplete records of SEPHGSA activities – we encourage you to reach out to uo.sephgsa@gmail.com or visit the contact form on the SEPHGSA website at https://www.sephgsa.ca/contact

SEPHGSA minutes are compiled as soon as possible after meetings and hosted on a public webpage for review. These can be accessed from the SEPHGSA website at the following link: https://www.sephgsa.ca/documents

The minutes from this meeting were last edited on Wednesday, March 22, 2023 at 21:32:53