**CMM/NSC GSA Meeting: Monday, September 11th, 2023**

Members present: Stephanie, Alex, Cameron, Aisha, Kelly, Vanessa, Ajanta, Alberto, Caroline, Mariam, Yalun, Devansh

**President (Aisha/Alex)**

* Financial Survey & meeting with Drs. Toth/Tuana/Lagace
	+ Aisha and Skyra working to raise student stipend and have been having meetings to work on stipend top-up.
	+ Discussed a potential top-up policy as either a percent or fixed value depending on the amount of the scholarship awarded.
	+ Want to ensure that all students are getting the minimum stipend.
	+ Interest shown in increasing stipend to $26,000 at both the MSc and PhD level.
	+ Discussed a change in requirements for those staying longer than 4 years for their PhD to not have to pay expensive fees when not enrolled in courses.
* CMM/NSC/ASE GSA Rep election
	+ The form has been sent out for reps to sign up until September 24th.
	+ The recruitment poster has been sent out with the bi-weekly. Will need people to help put up posters around campus, especially in places other than RGN.
	+ Internal council election will be held during the meeting on September 25th to choose reps to have reps on the council as quickly as possible.
* CMM/NSC student survey
	+ Survey to gain an idea of what things/events students are interested in for the upcoming year.
* Faculty of Medicine meeting update
	+ PharmD program has been added.
	+ Discussed proposal for a new clinical translational program (CTM program) focused on clinical based research potentially through the faculty of medicine. Based on the need for clinical researchers.
	+ Possibility of this program joining CMM/NSC/BMI courses, logistics are still being discussed about courses and program start date.
	+ Motion still needed for this program.

**VP Academic (Cameron/Ajanta)**

* Beyond Grad Series update
	+ Seminar will be held on September 21st, poster will be ready in the next few days.
	+ Form should be set up to gauge interest, this will help to book an appropriate room size and enough food.
	+ Series will be held monthly, CMM/NSC and BMI will be taking turns in arranging seminars.
	+ Suggestion was made to search for a consistent room and set up a consistent time to make it easier for those attending as well as for advertising purposes.
* Networking Collab with Matrix
	+ Collaborative networking event with BMI. BMI council will be doing most of the organizing, our commitment will be to split the cost of the event ($275).
* Scholarship list info
	+ Discussed holding a session for scholarship info or adding to the info provided by Dr. Tuana during TAC workshop typically held in October.
	+ Other ideas include making a pamphlet or slides including important scholarship info for students. Also discussed bringing back a buddy system where those applying for scholarships are paired with those who have been previously awarded scholarships. Could create a form for mentors and mentees. Another idea was to add to what is presented by Dr. Tuana by adding student perspectives and possibly a meet and greet after the session.
	+ Can create survey to see what students want for scholarship help whether that be a meet and greet, written information, or buddy system etc.

**VP Wellness/Student Support (Vanessa/Yalun)**

* Grad Buddy System
	+ Can pair mentors and mentees up using a form and hold an event to introduce everyone.
* Monthly event?
	+ Can do bi-weekly teatime. Previous events include hot chocolate lunch, Mr. noodles.
	+ Can collaborate with VP athletic for yoga session or similar event.

**VP Social (Alberto/Mariam)**

* Update?
	+ Can have a meeting session for new students, maybe another BBQ or beach day.
		- Potential BBQ with Halloween event. Halloween event will be joint with BMI and should start to be planned soon.
		- Beach day possible at the end of September.
	+ Transition report sent to VPs for all events that should be run.

**VP Athletic (Elham)**

* Start a weekly sport?
	+ Not available.

**VP Communications (Caroline)**

* Meet the council post.
	+ Send Caroline a meet the council post to put on social media – send today preferably or by the end of the week. Include name, year, lab, fun fact, picture.
	+ Bi-weekly next week – contact Caroline if anything should be added – send poster and blurb about what you want written.

**VP Website Design (Devansh)**

* Update the new council and meeting minutes.
	+ Will get the meet the council information and update the council website. Sarah has been contacted about logistics about how to modify the website.
	+ VP election information must be taken down and rep recruitment should be added.
	+ Meeting minutes should also be added to website.

**VP Finance (Kelly)**

* Updates
	+ Doing the budget for the year, if there are any major events like curling, research day, any off campus large events please tell Kelly so it can be added to the budget.
		- For curling the council should go to faculty/departments early to see about funding
		- Research day should not be CMM/NSC council financial responsibility but should request potential funding for “if-needed” supplies as last-minute finances were needed in the past.
	+ Anatomy program is merging to CMM/NSC which will add around an additional 20-30 people, funds to account for this addition should be discussed with the GSAED.
	+ Report is typically handed in around fall, Kelly will email the budget and associated letter.
	+ The annual general meeting will be held after reps are elected.

**VP Administration (Steph)**

* Updates
	+ No updates.

**GSAED Director (Arghavan)**

* Updates?
	+ Not available.

**Reps (OHRI, CHEO, uOSIC, Royal, Heart, CMM, NSC, Masters, New Student, MD/PhD)**

* No reps until end of September.
* Posting events requires volunteers until we get new members.

**NEXT MEETING: September 25, 2023**