



Faculty of Health Sciences Graduate Caucus – General Meeting Agenda

Date: October 14th, 2020

Time: 12:30 PM PST

Location: Virtual Meeting via Zoom (invite details may be found below)

In attendance: Total of 11 attendances

Tsion Gebremedhen (Executive Coordinator)

Julia Hwang (International Students Rep)

Modupe Ayodele (Academic Coordinator)

Manvir Aujla (MPH Rep)

Naima Osman (TSSU Rep.)

Amanda Rowlands (MSc/PhD Rep.)

Zalina Abner-Green (Administrative & Communications Coordinator)

Amilya Ladak (GSS Councillor)

Genevieve White (GSS Councillor)

Stephanie Witham (Social Coordinator)

One 2nd year MPH student

<u>Time</u>	<u>Item</u>
12:30PM – 12:35PM	<p>APPROVALS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to order: Tsion 2. Appointment of Chair: Tsion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned: Julia • Seconded: Genevieve 3. Appointment of Secretary

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned: Tsion • Seconded: Julia
12:35PM – 1:00PM	<p>1. Motion to approve today’s agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned: Tsion • Seconded: Naima <p>UPDATES</p> <p><i>1. Update on COVID-19 Survey dissemination:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have started building report from survey results, 75% along the way. • Themes of report include financial impacts, academic impacts, research impacts, personal/home impacts, and student/caucus recommendation. • Report will be presented to PPAC next week by Manvir on the 22nd. Report will be shared with all student/faculty body (stay tuned for date). <p><i>2. Career Fair Event: Scheduled to occur in November (stay tuned for official date announcement):</i></p>

- The grad caucus deemed it necessary to host a career fair event (on zoom) due to the highly competitive nature of public health and the concerns raised by many 2nd-years about landing a job immediately after graduation. Also, some 1st-years are at the climax of deciding the field of public health/organization (that aligns with their career goals and aspirations) to have their practicums.

- A survey will be sent out within the next week for students' preferred public health organization, interests and availability. The grad caucus intends to contact SFU alumni in these organizations to be facilitators at the event.

3. *Debrief for August anti-racism dialogue: Scheduled for October 23rd, 2020*

- Debrief will be held on the 23rd with a variety of Faculty members, and current caucus
- We will present the main findings with some members of

the previous caucus who planned this event

- We will present the main themes, next steps

4. Update on student anti-racism working group:

- We don't know if we will keep this because the Faculty wants to integrate anti-racism within all structures and organizations of FHS
- This means that we are hoping we will be able to work as student body, WITH the faculty
- We will have more updates at tomorrow's FC meeting

5. Follow up on Peer mentorship Program - Mentor-Mentee Zoom Hangout:

- The program took place on the 8th of October and we had an impressive turnout with about 26 students (mentors and mentees) in attendance. It was a great avenue for second-years to meet with first-years. We had 2 mentors discuss tips

on navigating 1st year of graduate school, we also had the MSc/PHD representative (Amanda Rowlands) share advice for MSc and PHD students. Mentors/Mentees were assigned to breakout rooms where mentors interacted with mentees and addressed questions and concerns from Mentees.

- Some of the suggestions/recommendations offered include: Enrolling in Volunteer positions with NGOs; Collaboration with fellow colleagues, 2nd-years and Faculty; build connections and social interaction; prompt commencement of the Epidemiology final paper; get engaged and be involved. To add, be aware that there is an opportunity to transition directly into the PHD program and explore Research commons SFU page (<https://www.lib.sfu.ca/about/branches-depts/rc>) for free courses like statistical programming languages, scientific/article writing, referencing and other

workshops for graduate students.

- Generally, it was a fruitful and rewarding event.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. FEC meeting

- We heard about a few ideas from the anti-racism working group within Faculty on addressing this issue within the Faculty (eg: workshop, looking at student representation deployed within Faculty level committees, reviewing policies and processes, reviewing hiring/search processes etc.)
- Also highlighted a collaborative effort between MPH professors and 1st year MPH students to create a safer space to discuss heavy topics presented in classes like HSCI900 and HSCI835
- We are waiting for UBC to make a decision about the WDA
- Discussion about option to offer virtual version of classes

in parallel to in-person going forward

- Kellie (FHS Program Manager) is back in her previous position; Robyn has left as she was a temporary hire.
- A request has been put forth for a partial in-person format for the MPH Capstone

2. *FC meeting*

- Will happen Thursday Oct 15th, in the afternoon
- Faculty will bring discussion about anti-racism efforts to this meeting, in an effort to embed anti-racism within the entire Faculty

3. *PPAC Meeting*

- **Mentorship for MPH students**
Malcolm asked for suggestions to allow new students to connect with faculty, such as brown bag sessions. It was suggested that meetings focus around specific topics such as the practicum. Malcolm asked Manvir to canvas students for topics they would like to meet about and associated faculty to

invite. Malcolm also asked for feedback regarding inclusion of adjunct professors in the mentorship of MPH students. The committee agreed that it would be best to contact adjuncts directly to request their participation in brown bag sessions or other options for involvement.

- **WDA Implications**

Robyn reminded the committee that students will be limited to one directed reading and/or one WDA. Forms on the website will be updated to reflect this limit and the program manager will inform/remind students during the semester dates and deadlines. Additional options could include courses at SFU but outside of the faculty. At the moment, UBC is still listed as part of the WDA on the website, however, indications have been made that UBC may not be accepting further WDA requests starting in the fall semester.

- **Graduate Student Report**

The Fall 2020 cohort has connected several times over the summer through Whatsapp and Facebook. There was a question regarding payment of the entrance scholarship and if

students who are paying tuition installments would be able to use the scholarship for the fall semester. Robyn explained that the scholarship will be deposited into the students' accounts in the third week of the semester and all outstanding tuition will be deducted. Any remainder may be left in the student account or direct deposited. Regarding use of the scholarship for installments, Robyn will confirm with GPS.

Online asynchronous versus synchronous teaching. Students were seeking clarity regarding delivery of online courses and expectations. Malcolm explained that first term instructors were invited to the orientation to discuss how their respective courses would be delivered online. Faculty consensus is that the course would be synchronous at the time listed on the schedule, however, asynchronous teaching may be necessary. Additionally, synchronous teaching would be recorded. Office hours would also be an option for students to connect synchronously with the instructor. A clear policy for online teaching would be helpful for the students,

therefore, Malcolm will draft a message in consultation with Nicole Berry to be sent to all MPH students and instructors.

Next Meeting: Oct. 22nd, 2020: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

4. *GSS Meeting*

- SFU Licensing Agreement approved for 3 years
 - Estimated cost \$22k for this year until August 2021
 - Rent after this will be \$25373k for 2021-2022 fiscal year
 - Voted in favour of signing licensing agreement
 - Strategy to occupy space now so that GSS is positioned for long term negotiations
- SFU Sustainability Initiatives
 - SFU 2025 advisory council
 - SFU 2025 website
 - Living lab research funding (students can submit proposals)
<https://www.sfu.ca/sustainability/projects/livinglab.html>
 - New research projects to facilitate sustainability themed climate action research at SFU, focusing on first 4 targets for this year.
 - 4 targets: Transportation, procurement and waste,

renewable energy, and building and fleet emissions

- \$10,000 for each grad student researcher +2500 for research costs
- Contact office with a project idea
- Proposals due October 30
- Projects start in Jan 2021s with 12 months to complete project

- Open to graduate students in professional programs

- COVID Safety Concerns
 - Only allowed on campus if your program requires it and safety plan in place
 - Grant program to help students improve their home workspace
 - Safety plans for on campus research? Approval?
 - Bringing up impact of work spaces at home being inadequate to SFU admin

- GSS Committees to join- open to all graduate students
 - E.g advocacy, human resources, etc
 - Stipend is \$25
 - Meet once a month usually
 - Don't meet over summer usually
 - Executive GSS elections coming up
 - 60 hours per month time commitment

- January to December 2021

5. MPC meeting

- Waiting to hear back from Frank when MPC meeting will be.
- While we wait we will be sending out a survey to gain feedback from Msc/PhD students on anything that they want addressed.
- Syllabus issue
- Students have expressed that they want consistently across all of their classes. Why is there lack of consistency among teaching content?
- FHS seminar research series— used to be weekly during lunch
- Embedded within the series was the InProgress research talks that allowed students to present their own work to faculty and other students
- These talks are absent from the schedule. We will be reaching out to FHS research grant coordinator to see if we can provide space for students to be able to present their research.
- Bringing InProgress back is a great opportunity for students

	<p>to practice presenting their work in front of a supportive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western dean will be brought up for input on their thoughts as we wait for UBC's decision.
<p>10:15AM – 11:15AM</p>	<p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>1. Student contributions on caucus website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students are interested in contributing, however feedback received is that it is too much for them to contribute currently, but that they are more likely to contribute at the end of semester. • Blurbs are starting to come in from students • We expect the student contribution to be up before the end of the month <p>2. Upcoming events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Peer Mentor-Mentee outdoor event (stay tuned for date announcement)</i> ○ As an extension of the Mentor-Mentee zoom hangout, we plan to host an outdoor event to

encourage social interaction between mentors and mentees (and the graduate students as a whole) taking into consideration COVID-19 guidelines.

- We will be sending details of this and a survey to students for their preferred location, style and availability.

- *Virtual Happy Hour (today, Oct 14th 2020)*

- *Next Happy Hour Halloween virtual games night (date TBH end of Oct)*

- *International student event planned for October 25th, 2020 at 10am PST*

- Focus on checking in and playing games to de-stress during midterms

3. Discussion/Q&A with Dr. Tania Bubela

- The Dean would like to have an open session with FHS grad students
- It will be like a Q&A session about anything related to FHS
- We will send a poll to students to add their questions with the newsletter at the end of this week (all will be anonymous, unless you

specifically don't want it to be, then you can bring the Q up at the meeting)

4. Faculty response to Open Letter addressing anti-racism in FHS

- We just found out that there was an official response to the Open Letter on anti-racism within the Faculty that was written by some Faculty members, as not all of them have seen the letter due to some conflicts[\[TM1\]](#)
- We will forward this response to the entire FHS student body

5. First year MPH cohort academic concerns

- Biostatistics Course
 - Student concern surrounding delivery of the lecture and method of instruction
 - Students gave some feedback to prof which has been improved upon but students still seem to be struggling with the method of delivery (ie PowerPoint presentation would likely be helpful)
 - Suggestion is to discuss course delivery with professor directly first before bringing this to a committee meeting

- Requirements outside of HSCI 900 course time
- Saturday workshop (people have children, part time jobs, health care appointments that had to be re-scheduled)
- Improve coordination between course deadlines and re-visit requiring outside of class requirements on weekends
- Bring to committee meeting

6. Community Action Fund

- You can find more info in the newly ratified constitution, can be found on the caucus website
- \$700 yearly budget provided by Faculty
- Each project can be eligible for a maximum of \$200 per event or \$150 for a recurring event.
- We will provide more information about the application process as soon as possible; in the meantime, if any student is interested, they can go through the details in the constitution and submit their request/proposal by email to caucus members .

	<p>7. International Student Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for more faculty support. ○ Want professors to be more understanding about work. constraints and less tedious readings ○ Regular check-ins/ reaching out to students in difficult time zones. • Need for cohesive policy for synchronous/asynchronous and attendance.
<p>1:25PM – 1:30 PM</p>	<p>WRAP UP</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Next meeting (TBD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To discuss in further detail: Clothing drive and 2021 elections, in-person event, budget 2. Adjournment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motioned: Tsion • Seconded: Julia

Zoom invite details:

Topic: FHS Caucus General Meeting

Time: Sep 3, 2020 10:00 AM Vancouver

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://sfu.zoom.us/j/98087136573?pwd=bXE2bWRJZW5CYW9UN3lzdFdWNU4vUT09>

Meeting ID: 980 8713 6573

Password: 590610

One tap mobile

+16473744685,,98087136573#,,,,0#,,590610# Canada

+16475580588,,98087136573#,,,,0#,,590610# Canada

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 204 272 7920 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

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Meeting ID: 980 8713 6573

Password: 590610

Find your local number: <https://sfu.zoom.us/j/98087136573?pwd=bXE2bWRJZW5CYW9UN3lzdFdWNU4vUT09>

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