



# Minutes

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018 – 17:00, Seminar Room 4 (AEB)

**Present:** *Alicia Paessler (AP), Ana Shahmiri (AS), Cal Barnes (CB), Cal Kenny (CK), Ellie Deane (ED), Gabby Alexander-Harvey (GA), George Le Bihan (GB), Harry Cross (HC), Honey Manso (HM), Ibrahim Hamami (IH), Iain Peacock (IP), James Barber (JB), Josie Porter (JP), Matt Williams (MW), Rebecca Gill (RG), Ziqiao Qi (ZQ).*

**Apologies:** *Alex Taylor (AT), Amber Moys (AM), Dan Sims (DS), Humaid Ghorri (HG), Vivien Ngo (VN).*

**Absent:** *Alice Lagnado (AL), Bradley Stewart (BS), Daisy Holmes (DH), Joe Tan (JT), Kate Howell (KH), Megan Harrison (MH), Sophie Lloyd (SL).*

	Agenda item	Notes and actions to be taken	Person responsible
1.	<b>Committee business</b>		
2.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b>	The minutes for the previous meeting held on Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> February 2018 were approved.	
3.	<b>Matters arising</b>		
3.1	Presents for faculty	HC: One much loved member of BSMS recently left and so it would be nice to get a leaving present for her. Wondering the best time to do this. JB: She should be attending the Graduation Ball so could be done then.	
3.2	Payment Methods	IP: As Social Secs we handle lots of money from cash sales for balls and socials etc. I'm sure we used to have a card reader so what happened to it? CB: I think our World Pay membership has been revoked as I asked the treasurers to use it for HWTB and they said we don't use it any more. HC: Would be a useful thing to reintroduce. Would need to add a small charge for the person using it. JB: Remember from last time that the money comes through in huge blocks so if there are two events in close succession you would have to be careful that the money reaches the right people. CB: The commission rate is relatively low so this would be a good membership to set up again	HG/AT to set up World Pay membership
4.	<b>Any other business</b>		



<p>4.1</p>	<p>“Outsiders” at BSMS discussion</p>	<p>HC: Received an email from the student support team to make us aware that some students are feeling like outsiders due to their background. Intentionally or not, peers may be treating certain people differently. What is the general consensus from MedSoc, do we cater for this?</p> <p>CB: I wasn’t aware of this and after receiving the email as a student rep I posted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> year Facebook page asking anyone who had experienced this to come forward so we could help. I got no responses.</p> <p>JB: As a committee we are mainly comprised of outgoing people with opinions and so that automatically categorises us as people who might not have experienced this or be in contact with people who have. The people who feel like “outsiders” may do so because they feel like they can’t speak up.</p> <p>MW: There is definitely a divide between the older grads and younger students but whether the problem is within international students or religious groups there are societies that cater for this. It’s difficult to say where the problem lies without examples.</p> <p>CB: The HWTB venue said they cannot provide Halal food without a £3 extra charge so I messaged those who listed this as a dietary requirement giving them the option of paying this extra cost or having the vegetarian option. Most were happy with this but one student argued that they shouldn’t have to pay more for a dietary requirement when others do not. This is fair enough.</p> <p>JB: Maybe next time this is something we should pay for out of MedSoc’s budget.</p> <p>MW: One positive is that this year we have had much more non-alcoholic socials so we are trying to cater for everyone by placing less emphasis on drinking</p> <p>ED: When I came to uni the lifestyle change was a shock and I was surprised at how much things cost etc. I can see why people would feel like outsiders from a financial perspective. It would be good to organise more free socials like just meeting up to go on a walk/bike ride etc.</p> <p>JB: It would be good to set up an anonymous survey to identify key areas where people feel they have been excluded (money, culture etc). Just like last year we did a survey asking everyone what they thought about MedSoc.</p> <p>IH: We have a surveymonkey subscription at the moment so why not utilise it and do it as soon as possible. Possible questions like: How is MedSoc doing? What do you think we could do to improve socials/environment around the medschool/ integration between year groups/MedSoc social media? Do you feel that BSMS is inclusive? Is there anything we can do to make you feel more included?</p>	
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4.2	First Year Engagement	<p>CK: There is a real problem with the First Years not engaging in events and socials. We ran a mock VIVA in first term that was fully booked and very few people showed up.                  AP: The same thing happened with the surgical skills day, only a few of us turned up.                  HC: This is really bad news as it just means in future these events won't go ahead and people will miss out.                  CK: We've decided not to run mock VIVAs this term as they were so unpopular                  JB: It's kind of a mob mentality – if my friends aren't going to this event then I won't go. If no one's going to events the events are bad and so no one goes etc etc. Perhaps you could offer incentives like certificates of attendance for these days that they can later use in their portfolios and put towards their CVs. Point out that in years 4/5 you don't have time to be a member of multiple societies so they should do it now.                  CK: I think timetabling also plays a part as we barely see the first years so we don't have such a close relationship with them as we do with the older years. Sometimes they've already had lectures and gone home by the time we arrive for uni and vice versa. Hard to do shout outs and get them excited for events.                  GB: Participation in sport is also down this year which makes it very difficult for teams to operate.                  JB: We used to have patrons for sports among the staff who would champion particular sports and increase uptake. Would be useful for sports day and doctor vs student matches throughout the year to have these links with staff</p>	<p>IH to add questions about engagement to the survey (Do you think you are fully engaged with life at medical school? If not why not? What can we do to make events more appealing?)</p> <p>HC to mention timetabling and other barriers to year group integration at the Student Affairs meeting</p> <p>GB/JP to ask captains to approach staff members with a particular interest in their sport to act as patrons</p>
4.3	Expenses for conferences (last meeting)	<p>HC: As a follow up from last week we asked the Dean Malcolm Reed's secretary how it works with regards to societies asking BSMS to cover travel expenses etc for speakers. The treasurers have agreed to create a template that societies can use to inform BSMS who the speaker is, where they are coming from and how much money is being requested. Should streamline the process.</p>	<p>AT/HG to make a template for conference funding requests to BSMS</p>



4.4	Charity Action Tutoring	<p>RG: I was contacted by Professor Gordon Ferns who asked me the best way to distribute information about an opportunity for BSMS students to reach out to local GCSE students from a disadvantaged background and provide mentorship and a role model to promote medicine as a career. This is supported by Dean Malcolm Reed as a way of widening participation.</p> <p>MW: I can put the information on the weekly bulletin and IH can post on Facebook about it</p>	MW and IH to distribute information about this scheme
4.5	HWTB Update	<p>CB: We have been offered £300 from a sponsor in exchange for a 5-minute slot to give a presentation at the ball itself. Committee are not keen on this because they think it will be awkward and make the event impersonal, but we do really need the money. We can do another social to make money and some bake sales later in the term.</p> <p>GH: The problem is that sponsors like having direct contact with students but BSMS will not allow this so we had to offer them a private event like the ball.</p> <p>JB: I don't think this is a bad deal for £300</p> <p>CB: If we did do it when would it be?</p> <p>HC: I think the earlier the better, ideally before the meal. From a financial perspective we don't want you to turn this down and then lose money without offering some kind of alternative.</p> <p>RG: Could you not offer them a stall at the ball instead, so it doesn't break up the evening and they can still interact with students.</p> <p>CB: We are doing physical tickets too, so we could put their logo on them.</p>	MW to create MedSoc life poster for HC to print over the next 2 weeks
5.	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	TBC	

Minutes taken by RG