

**Executive Summary**  
**Dartmouth Medical School Student Government**  
**2005-2006 School Year**

Prepared by: Brett Chevalier, President

The Dartmouth Medical School Student Government is a body consisting of elected student representatives from each of the four medical school classes, the Center for Evaluative Clinical Sciences and MD-PhDs. Ten meetings, one per month, were conducted throughout the school year with meeting minutes taken appropriately to record all discussions and decisions.

**MEMBERS:**

Brett Chevalier DMS IV, President  
Jamie Bessich DMS III, Vice-President  
Kristen Yurkerwich DMS II, Honor Chair

<b>CECS:</b>	<b>DMS: Curriculum:</b>	<b>Class Reps:</b>	<b>Financial Reps:</b>	<b>SNAP:</b>
Angela Barnett	Will Nugent	Tom Kesman	Lisa Ernst	Chris Jons
Mabel Chan	Brett Chevalier	Doug Latham	Ted Yuo	Becky Swensen
Maureen Joyce	Jamie Bessich	Rulon Hardman	Jif Frese	Brian Porter
Raj Loungani	Pedro Teixeira	Debraj Mukherjee	Garrett Davis	Hai Sun
Asad Qasim	Ben Northrup	Andy Cronin	Kristen Yurkerwich	Alli Binkowski
Senjit Sarkar	Laura Reis	Dana Carne	Ryan Joyce	Courtney McIllduff
Sarah Schuster	Abby Rao	Ben Snyder	Kenton Allen	Kari Vandenburg
Sheryl Sinha	Narath Carlile	Elizabeth Sack	Nishan Kugan	Mark Roberts

**MDPhD:**

Scott Seeley  
Jon Huntington

The following is a summary of policy and financial decisions discussed during the 2005-2006 school year. This list may be used for reference in future years to help maintain fluidity between years of Student Government.

**POLICY DISCUSSIONS AND OUTCOMES:**

- **Clerkship Hours:** Implementation of guidelines for balanced clerkship hours for 3rd and 4th year students. LCME governing body advises that every medical school have a policy overseeing student's time on clerkship wards. Although the student government sensed that most clerkships were following these proposed guidelines already, discussion continued to enact written guidelines with the intention of providing a work-life balance for 3<sup>rd</sup> year students, but at the same time, not curtailing any education opportunities. The balanced clerkship hours guidelines were passed at the December meeting by a vote of 12-7

**Balanced Work Hours Guidelines:**

On-call schedules for each clerkship will be established by clerkship directors for their own clerkships, with the intent of optimizing the total educational experience for each student. No student should be on call more often than one night in three, unless as part of a "night float" system.

- 1) Clerkship schedules for students should be designed to not exceed 80 hours per week for all clinical and educational activities. In unusual circumstances, a student can exceed this target for a specific, unscheduled and unanticipated activity of significant educational value to the student (e.g. assisting with a procedure or surgical case on the afternoon after call).
  - 2) At least one 24 hour period every 14 days should be free of all patient care and scheduled educational activities, and should be spent outside the hospital.
  - 3) When post-call, students should complete scheduled patient care activities at approximately the same time as other members of the on-call team. Usually this means finishing patient care activities by 1 PM on a post-call day and being excused at the time the on-call team goes home. However, if a student has had adequate (several hours of) sleep while on call, there is no prohibition to remaining later in the day.
  - 4) Students should attend required teaching conferences, such as those run by clerkship directors, even when post-call. However, these teaching conferences should be scheduled to end by 4 PM.
  - 5) On-call rooms at DHMC will be available for post-call students wishing to take a nap prior to driving home after their nights on call, if they feel too tired to drive home safely.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Year Schedule:** Discussion with Dean Nierenberg and Dean Shirley to change the third year curriculum into 7x7 week blocks allowing one "elective" block for students in the 3rd year to allow exploration of a new specialty or an interesting course of their choice. The Student Government exhibited overwhelming strong support for this change in the 3<sup>rd</sup> year curriculum. At year's end, the Deans were presenting the clerkship directors with the idea for proposed implementation into the 2007-2008 school year. Further follow-up needed to complete project.
  - **Admission Forms:** New DHMC Patient Admission forms printed which include a paragraph about students being part of the medical team and part of the patient's medical care.
  - **Dar-Dar Tanzania Project:** Initiative to create a relationship with the student body in the Dar es Salaam medical school in Tanzania. Updates given at Student Government throughout the year. Initial interest meetings for students as well as the establishment of a link on a Wiki website to allow students to post discussion and to correspond with students in Tanzania over the web and via email. Ongoing project that has received Dean Spielberg's full support.
  - **DMS Works Website:** A website created for student use to exchange ideas, notes from class, post announcements and to link to the Dar-Dar Tanzania project. Further ideas about using this website for summer internships, research, rides, introducing this tool at orientation etc. could be implemented. Initial student feedback strongly positive; website well utilized.
  - **Party Guidelines:** A set of guidelines was written in order to provide guidance to Social Chairs or other students planning a SG-sponsored party to ensure safety and student responsibility. Approved at the January meeting and sent to Dean Sue Ann Hennessy
    - 1) For significantly larger parties (i.e. over 200 in attendance), a ticket system must be administered. This will help to ensure that those in attendance are in fact invited and/or directly related to a Dartmouth graduate/professional student. In essence, a ticket system will assist with controlling the number of participants at an event.
    - 2) For significantly larger parties (i.e. over 200 in attendance), at least one DMS faculty member and/or administrator must be invited to serve as extra support to ensure that students enjoy themselves responsibly.

*Regarding Alcohol:*

3) There shall be at least 2 alcohol monitors for every 75 people. For example:

1-75	2 alcohol monitors
76-150	4 alcohol monitors

- 4) When another graduate school (e.g., Thayer, Tuck, and/or Arts and Sciences) is invited to a DMSSG hosted social function, that school must provide alcohol monitors of their own, in order to patrol their fellow graduate students. This will ensure the monitors are familiar with their fellow classmates. If the graduate school's policy regarding alcohol monitors is less than the number stated in #3 above, it is expected that the graduate school will comply with the DMS guidelines.
- 5) All alcohol monitors will have reviewed the alcohol policy and confirm that they are comfortable "monitoring" their classmates.
- 6) The appropriate paperwork should be filed with the Student Affairs Coordinator at least 3 days prior to the function when Student Government funds are requested for a party.

- **USMLE:** Student Government supported a Medical Education Committee document written with guidance from the academic advising deans and Dean Susan Harper to implement deadlines for students to take their USMLE Step II CS and CK exams in their 4<sup>th</sup> year. Extensive discussion ensued regarding this decision; however, the majority felt that these deadlines of November 15<sup>th</sup> for the CS exam and December 15<sup>th</sup> for the CK exam were designed to allow students to retake the exam in time for residency in case the student failed.
- **Grading Policy:** 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year Honors/Pass/Fail grading policies reviewed with questionnaire sent to all four classes. Given the lack of a clear student consensus on whether to keep or change the grading policy, the issue was not discussed further following the results of the paper poll.
- **Travel Budget:** Reorganization of the Travel Budget guidelines to ensure that all students in all 4 years have equal access to part of the Travel Budget for academic conferences and for making poster/oral presentations. All students who receive travel money must share their project or conference material with the student body.

**Student Activity Fee:** Initial discussion and formation of a subcommittee to investigate raising the student activity fee. Currently the DMS student activity fee is \$87 which is below the average of \$200-400 at other medical schools. Raising the student activity fee would prevent the cost-cutting often required during 4<sup>th</sup> year graduation activities and would allow more monetary flexibility with social events.

### **FUNDING PROJECTS:**

- 2 new Dell computers for student use at the Zimmerman Lounge at DHMC. Removed old Macintosh computers.
- Industrial strength microwave for DMS Hanover Lounge
- Exercise equipment for the Zimmerman Lounge area to start a separate DMS/CECS fitness area for students only. This equipment would better utilize the locker-room space in Zimmerman Lounge at DHMC. Student Government unanimously supported providing funds for this purpose. Project ongoing into next school year. Would involve costs to take out lockers and repaint walls. Estimate \$2000 plus cost of exercise equipment.
- New Leather Couch as part of a large plan to update the DMS Hanover Lounge as planned by Garrett Davis
- Interest Groups:  
Christian Medical Association  
Emergency Medicine Interest Group

Family Medicine Interest Group  
Internal Medicine Interest Group (IMIG)  
Med-Peds Interest Group  
Medical Students for Choice  
Medical Students for Life  
Military Med Student Assoc - Dartmouth Chapter  
Neurology Interest Group  
Ob/Gyn Interest Group  
Orthopaedic and Musculoskeletal Interest Group  
Pediatric Interest Group  
Physicians for Human Rights (PHR)  
Psychiatry Interest Group  
qMD  
Rural Health Interest Group  
UAEM  
Wilderness Medicine Interest Group

- Numerous special events/organizations for students including:
  - Lifelines Literary Magazine (\$500)
  - Family Medicine Skills Night (\$400)
  - PHPAC funding (\$500)
  - Replace piano chair (\$200)
  - Burlington marathon sponsorship (\$15/runner)
  - Chadasaurus (\$100)
  - Piano tuning (\$80) Yearly line-item
  - First Year's Orientation at Mt. Moosilauke Lodge
  - Basketball nets, new gym ball
  - Traditional funding for Phone line for academic faxes, coffee supplies, copy machine
- Social Events: Halloween party, Match Night Party (annual line-item), CECS end of year party, 4<sup>th</sup> year end of year party
- Teaching Awards: Line-item for \$500 to be used for 2<sup>nd</sup> year students to cover their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year teaching awards and a ceremony.
- Student travel to academic conferences.

The 2005-2006 SG year ended with the elections for President and Vice-President in mid-May. These positions will be filled by Jamie Bessich and Kristen Yurkerwich, respectively.