

Polity General Body Meeting Minutes - October 8th, 2019

1. **Call to Order/Determination of Quorum – 7:01 PM**
 - a. Meeting called to order
 - b. Quorum was matched (19 members)
2. **Reading and approval of the September 2019 meeting minutes – 7:02 PM**
 - a. Minutes were approved (17 votes)
3. **Officer Reports - 7:03 PM**
 - a. **President**
 - i. Chili Night October 22nd 6:00-7:30pm – sign up on the poll, as per email
 - ii. Beautify the Building Committee – first meeting on Thursday October 17th 1pm – they need student representatives to attend to talk about what you can to make the school more beautiful – anyone can help (M1-M4)
 1. Joseph Lesh (M1 Class Rep)
 2. Alexandra Marrone (M3 Class Rep)
 - iii. *Appeals Committee – they are looking for students to serve on the committee that evaluates a student's ability to continue on in school is question – they have a meeting coming up and are looking for anyone (M2-M4) – Jenna will present the number of interested students and Dr. Severin will select from that list.*
 1. Elizabeth Kaufman (M3 Class Rep)
 2. Nina Valenzuela (M2 Class Rep)
 3. Becca Luterman (M2 Class Rep)
 4. Emily Slominski (M3 Class Rep)
 5. Alexandra Marrone (M3 Class Rep)
 - iv. *Special Committee: Winter Formal Committee was made recently since the last Polity meeting. The committee is made up of 4 individuals: Maddy Sawyer (M2) and Bobby Finley (M2 Class Rep) and is supervised by the Polity Vice-President (Tyler Fulater) and Polity Secretary (Reema Panjwani). Committee made in light of what happened with the Polity Golf Tournament, responsibility of putting on Winter Formal will be shared by committee members.*
 - b. **Vice-President**
 - i. Refer to new business for VP's updates.
 - ii. Winter Formal Committee is in full swing.
 - c. **Treasurer**
 - i. Don't have tax exemption yet and still working on getting that – out of our hands, waiting on FSA to get it approved on a state and federal level. Carrie Woodrow, Director of Policy, Compliance, and Internal Controls (point contact for FSA) said she'll get back to us when they have more information.
 - d. **Secretary**

- i.* Fall Sweatshirt Sale is in its final leg of being approved. Proofs have been approved for the black soft-shell jacket seen in previous years and a gray crewneck sweater (new). Ticket sale online portal is being organized, samples will be picked up this week, and we expect the sale to go live next week.

4. Class Updates – 7:08 PM

- a.* Class of 2020
 - i.* Submitted ERAS, waiting to hear back on interviews, and scheduling, everyone's taken Step 2 CK and CS.
- b.* Class of 2021
 - i.* Date booked for Holiday party, Kohl's December 14 after the shelf
- c.* Class of 2022
 - i.* M2's are currently in Pulmonary
 - ii.* Post-pulmonary "treats" potentially at Soho
 - iii.* Ping-Pong tournament being planned – bring the pool tables out of the lounge into the atrium. Looking to involve faculty, especially Dr. Milling.
- d.* Class of 2023
 - i.* Finished Histology
 - ii.* Finishing Fundo 1 on Friday
 - iii.* Bail's tail-gate planning for October 20th

5. Committee Updates – 7:11 PM

***a.* Phase 1 and Phase 2**

- i.* Faculty only (of both Phase 1 and Phase 2) meeting was held recently where they discussed Step 1, people not going to classes, Reddit, applying to residencies. Prior to the faculty only meeting there was a focus group with students (that included representatives from Phase 1, Phase 2, and Curriculum Committee, to name a few). In the focus group, students discussed topics that are of some disconnect between faculty and students (USMLE and student loans). Both the focus group and the faculty only meeting were led by Dr. Meka and Tanya Biscardi.
- ii.* Shanique Bailey (M2 Class Rep – Phase 1 Rep) wants to start a program for Step 1 where first year professors review high yield step material from the first year with the second years in the spring semester. She's in contact with Dr. Meka and Dr. Milling about building this program again (it was held in the past but was dissolved for unknown reason).
- iii.* Stacey Gangloff is trying to schedule all of the Phase 1, Phase 2, and curriculum meetings on the same day to get more faculty attendance.

***b.* Curriculum Committee**

- i.* Curriculum Retreat was on September 29 – members of the faculty, community, and student representatives attended – an opportunity to brainstorm – head of AAMC who's helped walked through other curricular redesigns spoke on guiding the curriculum redesign.
- ii.* Trying to change the curriculum – class of 2026 will benefit from it when they're entering.

- iii. CC and OSR are planning an event on either Nov 5 and 6 for M1 and M2 about research and how competitive specific residency programs are and what research expectations they have from the applicants. Waiting to hear back from interns and surveying program directors in the area on what they're looking for in a residency applicant.
 - iv. Reviewing applications for M1
 - c. **OSR**
 - i. Reviewing applications for M1 position.
 - ii. Going to Phoenix in November for AAMC conference.
 - iii. Second year rep working with Dr. Meka for better interview support.
 - d. **Parent's Council**
 - i. Chili Night
 - ii. Bagel Drop in November
 - iii. Flu Shot Clinic this past October 4 was successful.
 - e. **Webmaster** – excused absence.
 - f. **FSA**
 - i. Refer to Treasurer's updates.
 - g. **Winter Formal Planning Committee – 7:19 PM**
 - i. Last year at Shea's
 - ii. This year: Looking at Atrium at Rich's
 - 1. Looking to have about 400 people
 - 2. Want to make sure everyone can go
 - iii. Just requested a contract, moving along quite quickly
 - iv. Hopefully in the next week or so, should be able to sell tickets, prices same as last time – guests \$55 (limited 75 tickets) 325 student tickets.
 - v. Date should be Nov 15
 - 1. 4 hour open bar – 1 hour of cocktails, seated dinner and dessert, 3 hour open bar and dance floor afterwards.
 - vi. "Why was the committee put together?" – M4 Class Rep
 - 1. *"Within presidential powers, as defined by By-Laws of the Medical Student Polity, to put together a committee. The student body very much wanted a golf tournament, but because that never got off the ground, and in fear of that occurring for the next event, the committee was put together for the Winter Formal. Both Maddy and Bobby are experienced in putting events on."* – President
 - 2. *"Golf tournament and formal fall under purvey of the VP and shouldn't fall on class reps. Class reps have their own class-related activities and events to plan."* – M4 Class Rep
 - 3. *"Tyler is supervising the committee – he does get the final say."* – President
 - 4. *"Their [Maddy and Bobby] expertise has been super helpful. But in 'supervising', I am right there with them picking venues, looking at venues, deciding factors. I am leading that committee. While there is an extra committee, I'm right there with them."* – VP

5. "Tyler was elected by the student body. I agree with that there shouldn't be extra people to do the work – they can help with input, but the constitution is clear. While putting together formal is a lot of work, it's not impossible work." – M3 Class Rep
6. "Concern echoed – while I understand that the golf tournament might not pick up the steam that it needed, it's concerning that Tyler will be leading that committee" – M4 Class Rep
7. "If we're discussing committee's for student wide events – members of every class of the student body should be notified." – M3 Class Rep
8. "Are there going to be committee's for every events?" – M4
9. "What are the roles of everyone on the committee?" – M2
10. President's Response to Series of 3 Questions: "We as a team have a lot to discuss going forward. Golf tournament not happening was scary – I put this committee together to get things going quickly. This committee isn't just 2 M2's planning it. We all decided that this is a committee that we want to put together, it wasn't just Tyler or me. Tyler is going to all the venues, Tyler and Reema are supervising, Daniel has attended the meetings, we're working closely with Maddy and Bobby, and are glad we have their opinion"
11. "Having too many cooks in the kitchen can be a problem. Eboard last year was super involved in helping with decisions, you can have advisors, but the constitution is clear about who's role this is." – M3 Class Rep.
12. "Tyler at the end of the day is the one signing the contracts, the final decision rests with him. Maddy and Bobby's assistance has only helped." -Secretary.
13. *Reading of By-Laws by the Medical Student Polity – Article 1: Section I, II, and III by M4 Class Rep:*
 - a. *Ad Hoc Committees may be appointed by the President when he or she deems it necessary. The purpose of an Ad Hoc Committee is to study and report on special matters as they arise. The Committee may consist of any number of members from the student body (Section 1).*
 - b. *Appointed Committee members shall agree upon a first meeting date, at which they shall elect a Chairperson by simple majority. After that, the Committee shall meet as they see fit (Section 2).*
 - c. *At the conclusion of their business, the Chairperson shall present a final report on the matter under study at the next available general session. Following this report, the Ad Hoc Committee shall be automatically dissolved (Section 3).*

14. *"The purpose of an ad hoc committee is for special reports and special investigations – not the work of elected officials, therefore the formation of this committee is for an inappropriate use."* – M4 Class Rep.
 - a. *"Jenna's purpose for putting together the committee was to benefit the student body – not to abuse the power."* – Secretary.
 - b. *"Why do you think it's inappropriate?"* – M1 Class Rep
 - i. *"The by-law is designed to look into something specific, not to do something that's already to be done by another elected official"* – M4 class rep
 - ii. *"Is there a specific reason why this scenario wouldn't fall under the special circumstance? It just says the committee may be appointed as deemed necessary – the vagueness of this makes it seem that this wasn't an inappropriate use of the by-law"* – M1 Class Rep
 - iii. *"In the body of the constitution, it's laid out each position's responsibility."* – M4 Class Rep
 - iv. *"Is there anything that says that a committee can't help with that process?"* – M1 Class Rep
 - v. *"Not specifically"* -M4 Class Rep
15. *"Are there going to be committees for every event?"* -MD/PhD Rep
 - a. *"No, that is not the plan."* – President
16. *"This committee will be dissolved after Winter Formal?"*
 - a. *"Yes"* - Secretary
17. *"We haven't actually discussed what's happened with the golf tournament, maybe we should talk about that"* -M3 Class Rep
 - a. *"Next piece of business, but before we move on, any final questions about Winter Formal?"* -Secretary
- vii. *"Does depend on how you look at it, these events are explicitly outlined in the constitution, why didn't the golf tournament not happen, maybe we should know more about that"* – M3 Class Rep
- viii. *"The committee is not planning the event; they're helping Tyler plan the event. The special circumstance is that the Polity Golf Tournament did not happen – that is the special circumstance. Tyler is leading the meeting. You've given me a lot to think about – I will definitely think twice before putting together another committee."* - President
 1. *"I'm glad the President put this committee together – I'm happy to know that the formal is being planned."* – M2
- ix. M4 Class Rep motioned to move onto to New Business. Motion seconded and approved by majority of voting members.

6. New Business

a. Golf Tournament – 7:39 PM

i. Vice-President:

1. *In charge of events (Housing Weekend, Golf Tournament, Winter and Spring Formals)*
2. *Did not complete planning golf tournament*
3. *Many reasons*
 - a. *FSA took up the summer and the planning and messed with sponsorships – went downhill from there*
 - b. *FSA didn't kick in until August 1, making it difficult to make contracts or get funding*
4. *There are other ideas for another fun social event – another mid-year social event that will also be fun.*
5. *Other concerns were:*
 - a. *Past professional behavior*
 - i. *Therefore, another venue and event were thought about*

ii. Questions

1. *"Why did these factors affect your ability to plan this event?" -M4*
 - a. *"Transition into FSA took a lot – August 1st*
 - b. *Couldn't make contracts or get fundraising over the summer*
 - c. *We lost tax-exempt and we voted on a decrease in budget in May – would have to find more sponsorship or increase ticket prices.*
 - d. *In the past Alumni have been invited, and they generally don't come" - VP*
2. *"Why didn't you try the other solutions - Why didn't you charge us more?" – M4*
 - a. *"Mostly wanted to keep the event as reasonably priced so everyone could come and other factors of past professional behavior" -VP*
3. *"Inappropriate actions are being discussed – did you talk to management at Arrowhead?" -M3 Class Rep*
 - a. *"I spoke to a contact person; I can get you the name" – VP*
 - b. *"I spoke to management directly at Arrowhead, where we had the tournament last year, and they asked me if we were going to have an event last year." – M3 Class Rep*
 - c. *"I'm just telling you what I did at best, and obviously, no names were given" -VP*
 - d. *"Rothland really wanted us back last year and they were disappointed when we were switching spots – they would have been happy to have us back" – M3 Class Rep*
4. *"There's about 5k set aside for this event from a variety of funding sources: Wendel Foundation, UB, Independent Health – that's a lot*

- of money. We made \$1200-\$1500 from the fundraiser, not that much, but still money” -M3 Class Rep
- a. “Wendel Foundation has to be in a specific area for the funding to count. Last year we named the event after the Wendel family, someone who left the money after them. This is disrespectful to the Foundation” -M3 Class Rep
5. “Problem with FSA changes
- a. FSA is primarily treasurer responsibility, even though the e-board shares some of that responsibility
 - b. Additional money lost and we’re not tax exempt but now we have a lot more available funds for that used to be paid for unused services with SBI
 - c. If funding was a problem, it should have been voted on, for an event that’s a tradition.
 - i. Requesting more funding could be a formal request, it can be done.” – M4 Class Rep
 - d. “Can’t freely move money around, have to have a formal vote on realigning the budget” - Treasurer
 - i. “Yes, but it should have been brought up with the rest of the e-board”
6. “Why were no concerns brought up before, never in the meeting minutes. This is our longest tradition in the school with the exception of the M1 Anatomy party. It’s sad that this is the first time we’re hearing about it, now, rather than a month ago.” – M4 Class Rep
7. M3 Class Rep: “I contacted multiple courses, all got back to me, I started this on Friday (on OB/GYN rotation – don’t have time, but still able to do this). This is a lack of commitment by Polity that it was not done.
- a. I’m planning an event - Rothland where it was 2 years ago – October 19 – tee time of noon. Outside of polity, no funding from polity, not affiliated with polity. There will be dinner to follow between 45-50 dollars, BYOB (discussed with the course, have to pay corkage fee – you’ll pay at the clubhouse)
 - b. Can’t wrap my head around how I was able to plan this – that’s the thing with leadership, this isn’t just on Tyler, but the whole leadership”
8. “You’re contradicting yourself by saying it’s on Tyler earlier, and now you’re saying its on the entire board – we should focus on what we CAN do” – M1 Class Rep
9. “Is it not possible to not do it the spring?” – M1 Class Rep
- a. “M2’s have Step 1 and M4s will be gone” -M3 Class Rep.

10. *"It's admirable that you got all that done in 48 hours but we're not addressing the fact that the VP has mentioned that there's a lot of redlining – there's a lot of redlining that comes with having to do an event with the University. Redlining with not having tax-exemption. Maybe the Treasurer can speak to this. I don't have any affiliations with anyone in this room, but I just want to make sure we're addressing the point instead of blaming."* – M1 Class Rep
11. *"One of the big reasons this might not happen is because of FSA. Treasurer, could this event still have happened?"* – M2
 - a. *"In my honest opinion, yes, it might not have had been as big, but there could have been things done with the budget"* – Treasurer
12. *"There is red tape, but for 17 years, 17 VP's have a transition, by August 1 a lot of that was taken care of, there's no reason this couldn't have been worked out with the sponsor. Not a legitimate excuse. There was no transparency to the student body until I emailed the secretary and told that the tournament was going to happen."* – M3
 - a. *"I never said it was going to happen, 'I said yeah for sure in response to "it's a great event" – Secretary.*
 - b. *"It's October 8th and this is the first time we're hearing about it – this is just disrespectful."* – M3
13. *"Money for this event by sponsors is sitting waiting for us - \$1500"* – M3 Class Rep
14. *"Why weren't we made aware of these issues aware, why we only found out from Facebook?"* -M2
 - a. *"I know you're all disappointed – I am disappointed. I know this is a beloved tradition. Wish that we got it going, that I got it going. Transparency is a problem; I need to work on that. I saw my reasoning and thought another mid-year event could be planned – did not occur to me to ask the student body that other minor changes might affect larger things. Mostly I wanted to address the question on Facebook, I had intended to officially speak about it at the next Polity meeting – I did not expect Facebook to blow up into a response."* – VP
 - b. *"I don't know if the golf tournament is minor."* -M2
 - c. *"I was alluding to the factors surrounding the roadblocks for the golf tournament as minor".* -VP
15. *"Can we not just use the non-Polity Golf Tournament and make it the Polity Golf Tournament?"* -M4
 - a. *"If I thought that could be done, I would have. My intention was not to go rogue here, but there's no way with the event on the 19th we'd be able to set up sponsors and ticket sales,*

like we have in the past. The treasurer and I discussed yesterday, if it was possible to make it a Polity event, and at this point that seems impossible” – M3 Class Rep

16. *Secretary in Response to Previous Comment about it being the responsibility of the Entire Board: “It wasn’t completely said, but in light of the Winter Formal Planning Committee having to be formed, the four of us were cognizant of the delay that was occurring with the golf tournament. The rest of us tried to work on it and offered support in the best way possible, without explicitly planning the event. Obviously, other events were planned – Housing Weekend occurred. We didn’t take complete control of the golf tournament and it was perhaps too late, when we realized the status – it was impossible for us to put on the event with university-event restrictions before the snow started falling, as the previous M3 Class Rep has mentioned. We took control of the situation when we could on matters that we could control – therefore the Winter Formal Committee was formed.”*
17. *To VP: “Why didn’t you reach out to previous VP’s?” -M3*
 - a. *“I was naively optimistic about what I could get done by myself – I understand that I let down a lot of the student body in doing this.*
 - b. *All of other events hereon will be superb – look forward to the mid-year event.” -VP*
- iii. *“What is the mid-year event?” -M3 Class Rep*
 1. *“A few ideas that are still in the planning phase, don’t want to make any drastic changes without the student body.*
 - a. *A change of venue*
 - i. *Type of socialization is better*
 1. *Lasertron*
 - a. *Overnight events*
 - b. *Unlimited laser tag and cyber sport*
 - c. *They have a bar*
 2. *Buffalo Riverworks*
 - a. *Rent out a space for winter sports*
 3. *Drink Socialization Events at Soho*
 4. *Tube and sledding day” - VP*
- iv. *“Want to be clear with the Wendel Foundation that majority of the money has to be used for a sport day, the other events might not work, if they’re not sport related” -M3 Class Rep*
- v. *“Was it ever explicitly told to you by FSA or the Treasurer that the event would not happen? And to the rest of the E-board, when did you realize that this wasn’t happening?” – M2*
 1. *“Never told by FSA or Daniel, something that I came up with on my own” -VP*

2. *President's Response to When Did the E-Board Realize that the Golf Tournament isn't Happening: "I found out like the rest of you all on Facebook, as of last meeting I thought it [Golf Tournament] was still happening. Had an inclining because work needed to be started earlier, but I can't stress enough the amount of time that FSA absorbs out of the executive board – we have to sign as a government legal documents and we need a legal aide. I understand where the Vice-President is coming from – but this summer was overwhelming. Made it difficult to even stay on top of our own positions over the summer. Tyler has admitted that this got under him and has acknowledged that he doesn't plan on letting that happen in the future – he's said that he's going to be more transparent."*
- vi. *"Do you plan on having a poll for these different mid-year events?" -M2*
 1. *"Yes, for sure, I'd love to have a poll. I have a few places in mind and need to look into the requirements of the Wendel Foundation – but I'd love to have a poll. If people have an idea for a fundraising event, I'm all ears." -VP*
- vii. *"Were courses contacted, and if so, how many? Can you clarify by a better type of socialization than the golf tournament?" – MD/PhD Class Rep*
 1. *"Golf courses were contacted (the ones from the past two years were contacted, Arrowhead and Rothland). Another form of socialization means an environment where complaints were made in the past so not to seem unprofessional" -VP. [VP has a complete list if you're interested].*
- viii. *Motion made by M4 Class Rep to move onto the next order of business. Motion seconded and approved by 11 votes.*
- b. UB Association of Women Surgeons – Fundraising Opportunities – 8:16 PM**
 - i. *Hosting a fundraiser gala to support Haven House – a charity in Buffalo that works to support victims of domestic violence in the Buffalo area.*
 - ii. *As future physicians we should support our patients even when they're at their most vulnerable – when situations allow*
 - iii. *Astonished and disappointed at the number of times people have said no to being safe – trying to spearhead this Fundraiser.*
 - iv. *Coming to Polity as a medical student and a future healthcare provider for support of this gala.*
 - v. *Get involved with polity? Promoting the fundraiser on the website.*
 1. *November 7 – there are student tickets available – there will be an open bar*
 2. *Asking for \$3,000 (gold+ speech + logo on the red-carpet backdrop + promotion of the event + logo on the table + 4 tickets*
 - a. *\$2000 (everything but red-carpet logo),*
 - b. *\$1000,*
 - c. *\$750*

- d. \$500
 - e. \$250
 - 3. *When is the donation required? A week prior to the event. [The next polity meeting will be on November 12, after the event].*
 - vi. *If we were to fund them – we would need to pay a vendor, or a national organization, whether that be a student. That would be the UB Association of Women Surgeons.*
 - vii. *Can Polity give a donation to something that's necessarily not a club?*
 - 1. *It's definitely been done in the past.*
 - a. *Haven House is a 501/3c – UB Association of Women Surgeons*
 - i. *Polity can make a donation to charitable organization,*
 - 2. *There are a number of medical student volunteers helping with the event and in the past Polity has made charitable donations to non-Polity clubs that are run by our medical students.*
 - viii. *We don't always know what our patients are going through – there's a unique opportunity for us to support them.*
 - 1. *Noble cause for our representative body to represent*
 - 2. *Where would the money come from?*
 - a. *Net appropriate assets – dwindled quite “dramatically” compared to previous years, certain funds that*
 - b. *Other places it would come from is student activities – a week ago or so it was made aware to us that we have over \$19,000 that wasn't accounted for in May (our total is \$136,000 but because we've only used \$116,000, we now have over \$19,000).*
 - ix. *In the past, Polity does donate, and, historically money is drawn from other surpluses, and another budget.*
 - x. *Motion to donate \$500 to the UB Association of Women Surgeons \$500 for the Haven House Fundraiser Gala. Motion seconded. Silent ballot conducted. Counted by Secretary and recounted by M4 Class Rep appointed by President.*
 - 1. *16 yay, 2 abstain, 1 nay*
 - 2. *Motion approved.*
- c. *OUTpatient Club Additional Funding Request for National Transgender Day of Visibility – 8:41 PM***
- i. *March is 21st National Transgender Day of Visibility and want to hand out buttons as people walk into the school*
 - ii. *Looking to buy 275 total buttons, because there's about 180 people per class but not everyone comes to school, 125 of each he/him/his buttons and she/her/hers, and 25 of they/them/theirs buttons.*
 - iii. *Encourage pronoun usage*
 - iv. *Requesting \$102.61*

- v. *Motion made to approve this funding request. Seconded and approved by 18. Silent ballot initially counted by Secretary and second count confirming numbers by M4 Class Rep (appointed by the President).*
- d. *Concern brought up by M4 Curriculum Committee Representative – Shouldn't the clubs know who voted how, and to who to turn to with concerns?*
 - i. *Our representatives should be held accountable for the people that they're representing and for their opinions.*
 - ii. *The silent ballot was enacted by the President as per Article IX, Section II – to reduce bias of clubs while voting.*
 - iii. *We should work on developing a google vote via Google Forms so that way if someone is interested in speaking to someone, that information can be made available and would also save time.*

7. Adjournment – 8:53 PM

- a. *Motion, seconded, and approved by majority.*