



Calgary Medical Students Association

Bilby & Lump

Town Hall

Oct 20, 2022





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Introduction

The Bilby CMSA Council had their 2nd class town hall on Oct 20, 2022. There were many concerns brought up to the executive independently. However, we wanted to get a better idea of what was affecting the class as a whole. The town hall was hosted in Libin. A survey was distributed to the classes prior to the event. Approximately 30 students attended the town hall. The notes from the town hall are presented below excluding the confidential in-depth budget review. Student comments are in [grey](#). Questions from the survey are in “quotations”, before the discussion that occurred, for context.





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Academics: MPL and Fail Rates

“Fail rates of our class vs previous years (preferably before and after covid)”

- Hofstee compromise is how MPLs are calculated– takes into account past years’ marks and current marks
- Assume a 3% range of error when comparing self to MPL for past years, this is not an official recommendation from the UME but advised
- 2 standard deviations from the mean is recommended to use as a personal litmus test
- Fail rates are confidential for personal privacy (UME decision)
- Fail rate is likely significantly less than what students think

How do fail rates compare to other schools

- 4 year schools have the summers to for remediation so don’t good data
- Some other programs have had a 10% fail rate in a single year
- Specific schools have chosen to change their curriculum for courses when a higher than expected fail rate is observed.

What happens when you fail

- Dean meeting, mentoring
- Opportunity to meet with SAW, but SAW isn’t given the name (nothing mandatory just encouraged to)
- Through SAW can access mentoring as well

Academics: Class Numbers and Electives

“Number of students in our class vs Echidnas and Tanuki’s. I ask this because our clerkship electives filled up fast in areas they haven’t been in the past (family med and GIM). If there are more Bilbies, would it be possible to create more elective spots?”

- Not possible to create more spots

“Electives: (obviously this is not on you guys, just want to make sure this is being advocated for with UME) why is literally no one from UME helping with the disaster that has been electives? Apparently in past years GIM is where students went when they couldn't get an elective elsewhere and this year the majority of students didn't even get it if they wanted it. Do we have data on the number of spots available for U of C students during elective periods this year? Is it lower than previous years? What is UME going to do to support students who do not have electives”

- UME has tried to get departments to commit to spots but they prefer to self-manage rather than use the UME as a proxy for organization





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- UME made it so that our elective time is protected from other schools visiting during the first January to April period

“Official number of learners in each class (2023, 2024, 2025). If there are more Bilbies than usual, has this affected clerkship elective spots at all?”

- We do electives first so we don't overlap with the core rotations that the upper years are doing
- We know there are more people in the class. UME is aware of it and believe that it will not cause an issue for core block allocation

Is it concerning to the UME that more people are repeating the year

- A lot of people may have left for personal reasons
- UME views it as them being more accommodating to students during COVID
- Don't release data to protect students' privacy

Academics: Course 7 Final

“The C7 final was absolutely ridiculous with how vague the questions were. Is the MPL going to be as high as it was with the Echidnas?”

- Our MPL was lower than the Echidnas

Fostering a Positive Safe Learning Environment

“Many Spinies feel that the environment during lectures on certain topics is unpleasant, unwelcoming and borderline hostile. We all need to work together to create a positive space where people feel welcomed to share their thoughts and opinions, instead of constantly feeling fearful of attacks. Please be mindful of how you disagree with others. This includes Facebook group chats, especially when the topic of conversation is other classmates!!!!”

- Work for Spiny Lumpsucker Execs to do
- Student-Student mistreatment is reportable
 - through the Professionalism Committee (they have a web page for anon complaints or directly message them) or UME
 - Results when anon complaint is given to the Professionalism Committee depends on what the student wants: it's tracked in document, committee has meeting with SAW, committee speaks with the student etc.





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Outreach and Community Organizing

“What our medical school is doing to improve outreach efforts and connection to community organizations (e.g., Mustard Seed and others)”

- Local and Global Health Office says: Community Engaged Learning (CEL) in 1st year used to be in person and more involved by going to the community organization
- Advocacy symposium:
 - used to be that you did a poster for pop health that you could present
 - used to be keynote speakers
 - this year was more about networking through and Advocacy and Club Fair
 - Reach out to Rudra if you want to her to send you spreadsheet with the contact for all the organizations at the Fair
- Built into RIME with protected time to do it, but students can also take the initiative now
- Student Run Clinic exists

What will CEL look like in clerkship

- VP Academics only know what students know and will ask for more information

CMSA Transparency

Blocking off an amount of time to have people from the class to sit in on CMSA meetings especially for the new council.

- No reason not to have students sit on meetings while taking into consideration confidentiality
- Need to engage the class into coming to Town Hall sessions as this is their purpose





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ACTION ITEMS

VP Academics

- Will ask about what CEL looks like for clerkship



**For more information on topics discussed during the town hall
or any CMSA matters, email us at**

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**If you would like to contact a specific member of the CMSA,
the emails are listed below:**

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