

# NZMSA MEETING MINUTES

**Team Name:** NZMSA Exec & Team Meeting  
**Chairperson:** Indira Fernando  
**Date:** 07-03-24  
**Time:** 7:00pm  
**Scribe:** Ann Anson

AGENDA:					
1	Call to order, roll call, apologies, confirm minutes, conflicts of interest, action points	2	National Survey Results	3	ACE Update
4	Conference Update	5	Medical Leadership Forum	6	Other business
PRESENT:					
1	Indira Fernando	2	Jake Parsons	3	Andrew Xiao
4	Divyashri Thakkar	5	Eushin Kang	6	Julian Laking
7	Jackie Hazelhurst	8	Ann Anson	9	Thomas Hartono
10	Cam Young	11	Gracie Pickering	12	Alex Timmings
13	Shania Kumar	14	Sujean In	15	Nicola-Mary Geraghty
16	Y Mukish M Yelanchezian	17	Te Hira Doherty	18	Ocean-Jade Rhind
APOLOGIES:					
1	Timothy Royds	2	Rylee Dudley	3	Molly Elliott
ABSENT:					
1		2		3	
AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES					
N/A					
<p><b>Moved that minutes from previous meeting dated along with any amendments be accepted as a true and correct record:</b>  <b>Moved:</b> Indira  <b>Seconded:</b> Divyashri  <b>Carried</b></p>					
MATTERS ARISING					
Item #:	Agenda Item	Detail			
1	Call to order, roll call, apologies, confirm minutes, conflicts of interest, action points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Karakia</b> – Jake</li> <li>• <b>Apologies</b> – Timothy, Molly, Rylee</li> <li>• <b>Conflicts of interest</b> – none declared</li> <li>• <b>Two new Exec members introduced</b> – Gracie Pickering and Ocean-Jade Rhind</li> <li>• <b>Review of action points</b></li> </ul>			

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>All Representatives</i> – Please send Div details for International, Rural, Rainbow and Pacific Student Representatives – do this or let Div know if they are yet to be elected (and when they will be held)</li> <li>○ <i>Sujean</i> – Share letter which Maori students at UoA were thinking of sending             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <i>Sujean</i> – Still hasn't been sent the proposal from the students but will give them a nudge</li> <li>▪ <i>Indira</i> – If there is anything we can do to help, we can, but otherwise Te Oranga might also be a good place for advice; Sujean can continue the message to the Te Oranga representatives</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2	National Survey Results – <i>Divyashri</i>	<p><i>Div</i> – The 2023 National Survey Report has been made</p> <p>[<i>Div shares her screen</i>] The most important things:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Retention stats – discussed briefly at F2F             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ We realised the statistics are more horrendous now</li> <li>○ Most respondents were clinical students</li> <li>○ Stats showed only 31.6% had no intention to leave, 47% only will remain 1 – 5 years after graduation (this is a combination of pre-clinical and clinical students across both Universities)</li> <li>○ Statistics were pretty similar across Universities</li> <li>○ Difference between pre-clinical and clinical – it is concerning that so many clinical students have no intention to stay</li> <li>○ The issue is that the survey didn't give students an opportunity to say why they didn't want to stay – will include this option in the 2024 National Survey</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Div</i> – Also hoping to get the Survey done a little earlier – it will be ready for the entire Exec to discuss with Te Oranga at the hui we might be having at the end of June</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Div will be writing out the questions in the next few weeks or so</li> <li>● If anyone has any feedback or suggestions on what should be included in this year's questions or how it should be done, please contact Div</li> </ul> <p><i>Indira</i> – Can all of our representatives brainstorm how we could get the Survey out to our particular cohorts - each Representative is going to come back with what are the best ways for people to get involved, so we can discuss what's realistic, equitable, etc.</p> <p><i>Indira</i> – We released a media press statement on the data and presented it to the Council of Medical Colleges</p>

		<p><i>Indira</i> – We are currently trying to find the funds for the Te Oranga/NZMSA hui – only will be the Exec branch of NZMSA (Indira + Directors) meeting with all of TO's Exec, but we are hoping to get more funds for everyone to come</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Will keep everyone posted</li> </ul>
3	ACE Update – <i>Andrew</i>	<p><i>Andrew</i> – ACE runs employment; they have been a little behind the ball on the job-seeking process – applications open in the upcoming Monday</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We only know the dates for the year; we have no updated resources – they are extremely behind</li> <li>• Unfortunately Andrew has little updates</li> <li>• Div and Indira and met up with Te Whatu Ora yesterday – currently ACE is working on future-proofing their process</li> <li>• Our medical cohort is expanding – hospitals need to find space and jobs for more graduates</li> <li>• ACE believes the current number is smaller than 50 but by 2029 the full number will be in full swing they predict</li> <li>• They are thinking of creating a pathway directly into primary care – likely not in the nearby future <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It is still hospital time, but will have more emphasis on community</li> </ul> </li> <li>• They are also trying to encourage more space for people to go into rural hospitals and looking at expanding funding for spots across the board to match all our graduates</li> <li>• We are working behind the scenes with ACE to set the timeline, and will keep everyone updated</li> </ul> <p><i>Indira</i> – What is your planned date for Guide to Grad?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Andrew</i> – Planned date was week following applications following i.e. Week of the 18<sup>th</sup> of March – we are still waiting for some sponsors to get back to us, otherwise everything is good to go to our designer for the graphics</li> </ul>
4	Conference Update – <i>Jake</i>	<p><i>Jake</i> – As a refresher, the NZMSA conference is our annual conference run by the NZMSA Conference Team (separate team)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dates:</b> 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> of June</li> <li>• <b>Location:</b> Parliament, Wellington</li> <li>• Promotional week is happening right now with details on social media</li> <li>• There is a FB event page and posts are being shared through NZMSA channels as well</li> <li>• If anyone sees any content you like, feel free to share to class pages – great to see the engagement being kept up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Applications open this Saturday – open for a week or two weeks</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If you can, share on more private pages for each of your cohorts</li> </ul> <p><i>Indira</i> – If all of our reps could please over the next week liaise with regional MSAs to promote the Conference event page at least, as well as on the class pages</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Jake</i> – Happy to give a visual of the dates and event link, which Sujean created</li> </ul> <p><i>Jake</i> – As an expectation, there will be a good number of Exec that go; if you go, we ask that you help out with some things behind the scenes e.g. organising buses, the Amazing Race – just a bit of a team effort to help the Conference team</p>
5	<p>Medical Leadership Forum – <i>Jake</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Dates:</b> 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>● <b>Location:</b> Nelson</li> </ul> <p><i>Jake</i> – Regarding progress, it is coming together well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● We have accommodation</li> <li>● Alex has lined a venue at Nelson Hospital</li> <li>● It is good to ground it in the healthcare side of things and connect to the local community</li> <li>● We are lining up volunteering opportunities and confirming speakers, workshops, etc.</li> <li>● We might be taking some NZMSA reserves for funds as there have been less sponsors this year</li> </ul> <p><i>Jake</i> - Because of the Conference application period, which we wanted to give space for, we won't be promoting the Medical Leadership Forum for about another week, but we will be going hard on promoting it afterwards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It will be a good event – would appreciate as much publicity as possible</li> <li>● Aiming to get the word out mid-March</li> </ul>
6	<p>Other business</p>	<p><i>Indira</i> – Is going to Australia for the reaccreditation workshop for all Australasian Medical Schools – does anyone have any other feedback? What issues do people think are at the forefront? They primarily want to know about student wellbeing. What are the issues Indira needs to be aware of?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Cam</i> – The UoA Director of ELM is going to take a new approach to student welfare which focuses on sensitivity rather than specificity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ He said that this is in an effort to respond quickly to student needs, but not to their specific needs</li> <li>○ Part of what he has changed in the curriculum is that he has reduced the amount of time we are allowed to skip classes from 25% to 15% classes missed – they are coming down on people who</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>can't make classes; hard on people who have families, kids, jobs, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Indira</i> – That is a good point; this feeds into wider issue of not taking into account individual student needs and understanding that people going into medicine are in all stages of life</li> <li>● <i>Alex</i> – Echoes Cam's perspective <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Leave policy feels ill-fitting in terms of the intensity of what we do; we as TIs work 40+ hours a week at times with long stretches of not having a break</li> <li>○ Maybe advocating for a medical school specific slant on the break that is understanding of the work intensity e.g. having more accommodating sick leave during learning</li> <li>○ <i>Indira</i> – The medical schools account for contact hours at our placement base but they don't seem to take into account hours of rest, sleep, life, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Thomas</i> – Wellington has a very similar issue being strict on taking leave; we had a lecture by staff about medical students taking more leave – they were taking more leave for the jobs they are working <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ This year they are being less lenient about this and more hard on students for not making it to specific appointments</li> <li>○ The more specific issue with Wellington is that we don't know how to access welfare support – this is the biggest issue over there</li> <li>○ <i>Indira</i> – So is this about transparency around leave processes and wellbeing processes? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <i>Julian</i> – Was talking to someone about the leave application form; they were sick for a week – they needed a medical certificate from a GP but it takes 2 – 3 weeks to get an appointment, but by then the person would be well, so would the GP give a medical certificate?</li> <li>■ <i>Indira</i> – Very good point, plus some students can't afford to access after-hours appointments, which can cost \$100+</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Shania</i> – A huge problem pre-clinical students have is financial insecurity, especially those flatting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Not sure if a nation-wide organisation can produce subsidised things for pre-clinical students</li> <li>○ Student support teams are doing free breakfasts on Thursdays but they don't help for students who have classes in the morning</li> <li>○ Medical leave is difficult to gain – a doctor's certificate is required for justified absence but this is not practical</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Sujean</i> – Echoes Shania's thoughts but also:</li> </ul>
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- UoA students don't have much of say on their timetable i.e. looking at understanding student schedules, lives and jobs
- Also wanted to mention that there is a bit of a problem at UoA with pre-clin students especially, which is knowledge inequality
  - Students who have family members in medicine, know people in the medical field already
  - UoA has policy of no past exams – there are students with good networks, who have done the course before; there is a big inequality here
  - Unfair access to resources that some students have and other students don't
- *Mukish* – Amongst Auckland clinical students, the most important/serious concern is the complete inability to work; medical programme will not accept “I have to work” as a reason for anything, which is fair in some regards but also not in other situations
  - Has his speciality run is in two weeks – no idea what his timetable/rotation looks like so it is harder to schedule work and life
  - *Indira* – They can't expect us to be timely if they are not; the expectation should go both ways
- *Cam* – Reminded of F2F meeting, where someone talked about how their friend was applying for PGY1 job, and their mental health discussions with Student Support became a barrier to the job
  - Confidentiality to medical health services should be a concern
- *Te Hira* – It is interesting that in medical school we are told a lot about burnout, but we are still expected to be subjected to the toxic culture around being a doctor
  - When we started 2<sup>nd</sup> year, they told you medical school will be your whole life
  - You are expecting us to change a culture but also subscribe to a toxic culture
  - *Indira* – Thinks this applies to a bunch of stuff; we are expected as a new generation to fix racism, sexism, cultural safety, burnout, hierarchy, etc. but there is no onus on them to help us with that
- *Jackie* – Fitness to Practice having clear student representation at the committee
  - *Indira* – Spoke to Medical Council about this; they were unhelpful as they had no real solutions to this; this will be discussed at the next Steering Committee meeting; action might be to bring this up with the Universities
  - *Indira* – Will discuss with Aussie counterpart about what their equivalent FPT process is and if

		<p>similar issues exist, they could bring it up, otherwise we can see how their system is better</p> <p><i>Indira</i> – Has been doing some thinking about something from F2F, specifically engaging students in policy making, especially in encouraging ELM students to consider themselves student leaders and advocates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Before she puts energy into this and consider students policy-makers, she would like to see how many people would be interested to see the scope</li> <li>• <i>Indira</i> – Going to send to all pre-clinical reps an Excel spreadsheet; some time before our next meeting, disseminate it to all 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years so they can sign up and give an EoI <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ One less thing to loudly advertise – we can get their email addresses</li> <li>○ We can also send out to their emails NZMSA election information</li> <li>○ <i>Indira</i> had quite a few emails from students after O-Week asking how to get involved</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Indira</i> – if you don't get to her by next Wednesday, remind her</li> </ul> <p><i>Div</i> – Closing karakia</p>
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**ACTION POINTS**

- Representatives – Send Div details for International Student Reps/Rural/Rainbow/Pacific student reps, or let Div know if they are yet to be elected (and when this will be held)
- Sujean – Reach out for the letter from the UoA Maori medical students group, and share the letter with the Te Oranga representatives
- Representatives – Brainstorm how we could get the National Survey out to our various cohorts; each Representative is expected to come back with what are the best ways for people to get involved, so we can discuss what's realistic, equitable, etc.
- Representatives – Liaise with regional MSAs to promote the NZMSA Conference event page, as well as share on the class pages if possible
- Indira - Send to all pre-clinical reps an Excel spreadsheet, to disseminate to all 2nd and 3rd years so they can sign up and give an EoI towards policy making

<b>Meeting Finished:</b>	7:45pm
<b>Date of Next Meeting:</b>	28-03-24
<b>Chairperson:</b>	Indira Fernando