Dear UW School of Medicine Students,

Today we are launching a new Intranet for UW School of Medicine students, faculty and staff. Please bookmark: https://education.uwmedicine.org.

Why a New Intranet Site?
If you’ve used the old Current Students site, then you already know why we created this new student/faculty/staff Intranet. 😊

As a UW Medicine entity, the UW School of Medicine’s website was created and has been managed by UW Medicine Strategic Marketing & Communications (SMC) for a number of years. In 2018 SMC was tasked with creating a new website for UW Medicine. Upon reviewing the many hundreds of pages associated with the School of Medicine, SMC determined that a significant portion of the content was being accessed by an internal audience—primarily students—and to create a better user experience the content should be divided into external and internal content and placed on two separate websites. (The UW School of Medicine public content can be found on the UW Medicine website at uwmedicine.org/school-of-medicine.)

Goals
In creating the UWSOM Intranet our goals were to include only content relevant to students, faculty and staff, remove redundancies in the content, and make the site simple to use and information easy to find. When the external and internal content were comingled on one website, it was extremely difficult to navigate. To make meaningful improvements we consulted with the subject matter experts, students, faculty, staff and others on how to organize the site for the best user experience, and although we feel it is much improved, our intention is for the site to continue to evolve for an improved user experience.

Navigating the Site
The boxes on the home page feature the content most frequently accessed by students. At the top of the page under the UWSOM logo is where you will find links to all content. In the top menu, the little triangles next to most of the links indicate drop down menus. Some of the content lives on the new site, and some content lives on blog pages linked to from the site depending on where the content lived previously. Attached to this email is a map of the sub, and sub-sub categories in the top navigation.

Of particular note: In the Student Affairs drop down menu you will see ‘Student Email Archive.’ This is where you will find important emails sent to you during the current academic year. Our hope is that this feature will help you to avoid searching through your very full inboxes for specific emails you may have missed.

Additionally of note: a redirect is in place so if you have content bookmarked on the old (SharePoint) site it will be redirected to that content on the new (WordPress) site.

We Want & Need Your Feedback
Because you are our most important audience, we would appreciate hearing from you if your experience on the site is less than optimal. As with all new ventures, you may experience a few hiccups and we thank you in advance for your patience.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to Mikayla Kiyokawa with questions, comments, and frustrations, and if there is something you particularly like about the site we would love to know that too. If you have questions about uwmedicine.org/school-of-medicine please contact Kim Blakeley.

Wishing you all the best,
Kim Blakeley, Communications Director, UW Medicine Strategic Marketing & Communications
Michael Campion, Director of Academic & Learning Technologies, UW School of Medicine, Academic Affairs
Mikayla Kiyokawa, Communications Specialist, UW School of Medicine, Academic Affairs