

## **Maddy Banerjee - Candidate for Speaker**

*Begin recording.*

**Rijul Asri (Vice Speaker):** On behalf of your Governing Council, your Speakers would like to present Maddy Banerjee as a candidate for the position of Speaker for consideration to the MSS. We would like to thank the candidate for their time.

**Jay Llaniguez (Speaker) :** We would now like to invite Maddy Banerjee to deliver up to a three-minute speech addressing the MSS assembly, herein represented by members of your Governing Council. Your time will begin when you begin speaking. We will provide a visual cue when 30 seconds are remaining, and then a verbal-visual cue when ten seconds are remaining. You may begin whenever you are ready.

### **Maddy Banerjee:**

Thank you Mr. Speaker. Hello, MSS members. I have to admit, this certainly is not how I envisioned this speech being delivered, as I'm sure this is not how you imagined hearing it. For many of you, this may be your first national AMA meeting and I sincerely hope that you come back to see how we function in real life ... with all the bells and whistles, with our intense passion for policy, advocacy, but most importantly our patients and our future as physicians.

To be quite frank, a lot of positions I've held in the MSS, I've serendipitously fallen into. For example, when I started attending AMA meetings, I had never dreamt of becoming a member of our House Coordinating Committee, the group that reviews all medical student resolutions. But apparently somewhere in my application, something spoke to the current chairs of HCC so that's where I landed. I became part of the machine that is HCC and learned an incredible amount about good policy, strong language, and the seemingly esoteric "political capital" everyone is always talking about.

I later applied to be HCC chair ... and even though it was one of rigorous positions I've held, I got to work with my amazing co-chairs, and all the HCC members in a brand new capacity. It honed my leadership skills, forced me to become an organizational Excel wizard, and pushed me to take strong and decisive actions when necessary.

As a part of Region 1 leadership, I've run meetings on a smaller scale using parliamentary procedure, the language of the AMA. I assisted in strategizing R1s policy approach at business meetings, a skill that will help me amplify your voice on the floor of MSS assembly.

But the one thing I have wanted the most in the MSS, is to be Speaker. Even from my very first meeting, I remember sitting where all of you are sitting, well ... would have hypothetically have been sitting today, and watching in awe as the Speaker and her Vice Speaker would just run the meeting, and know what to say at the right time. To me that was

coolest thing ever. I've always loved our MSS and that's why I'm here- to do my part to help us grow and become stronger as a unit. I want to give back to the community that has fostered my interests and pushed me to grow and made me the passionate, well spoken young woman I am today.

As Speaker, I want to empower you to say your piece when you step up to the microphone. I want you to feel comfortable in our house. I want you to know you can reach out to me if you ever have any issues and I will do my best to help however I can. Because this job is more than just sitting at the front of our meetings and conducting business ... it's about fueling the engine that is our medical student section.

Thank you for your time and consideration for the position of Speaker. I look forward to meeting you all in the future

**Rijul Asri (Vice Speaker):** Thank you, Maddy. As per our IOPs and A-20 Speakers' Ruling, we will now ask you two questions, and you will have one minute to respond to each of them. Your time will begin when you begin speaking, or ten seconds after the question is read. We will provide a visual cue when 20 seconds are remaining, and then a verbal-visual cue when ten seconds are remaining.

**Jay Llaniguez (Speaker) :** Your first question is:

This upcoming special meeting is truly unprecedented for the MSS, and has pointed out a lot of our strengths and weaknesses as a section. In particular, it has highlighted the need for technological innovation to maintain MSS activities. What ideas do you have to improve how we conduct MSS business virtually?

**Maddy Banerjee:** So to be quite honest, tech is not necessarily my strong suit. That being said, I think it's important to take ideas that I have and then link up with people who would be better suited to shape those visions into something that could come to fruition in reality in this virtual world. For example, I would like to have some sort of format where people can actually interact with each other on the fly like we do at the real meetings when it comes down to business and speaking at the mic. What platform that might be, I'm not entirely sure, but I think that trying to capture the essence of what are as best we can in a virtual capacity is the only way to kind of give individuals a sense of what are meetings are really like especially if this is their first meeting and they haven't had the opportunity to, you know, drink the Kool-Aid so to speak because at the end of the day, the goal is to get people to want to come back and that's really what I want for us.

**Jay Llaniguez (Speaker):** Thank you. Second question:

The volume of resolutions at MSS meetings can vary, but is usually very high. Through the parliamentary process, the role of the Speaker is to empower the introduction of new ideas while also ensuring a substantive discussion for each item of business. How would you approach better achieving this balance?

**Maddy Banerjee:** I'm sorry, can you just repeat the actual question?

**Jay Llaniguez (Speaker):** So how would you approach, er, how would you achieve the balance of introducing new ideas and having substantial discussion.

**Maddy Banerjee:** Hmm, so, anytime you try a new idea, it could go well or it could not go well. I think it's important to take any ideas and kind of vet them, ideally first with both you and with Rijul, having held the position of Speaker and Vice Speaker, but also from other members of the GC. We have a lot of talent who are applying for other positions on our GC like our Section Delegate and Alternate Delegate who are currently running. Both have really strong and great ideas and give a lot of good feedback, so I think it is important to try out new ideas because like you said, this upcoming meeting, well Interim, if we do get an Interim, it's going to be a lot of business. Umm.. and making sure that we have our ideas and that they are kind of vetted and tried out as best we can so that we can implement them and we can get through as much business as possible is going to be the end goal.

**Rijul Asri (Vice Speaker):** Thank you, Maddy. With this, we would like to conclude this candidate interview for the position of Speaker. We would like to thank the candidate for their time and dedication, and wish them the best of luck with the remainder of the campaign process.

*Stop Recording.*