INTENTIONAL ADVOCACY

Questions to Contemplate Before Wearing your Pritzker White Coat to Actions, Protests, Media Events and Conferences

- What does it mean for me to wear my white coat to this event?

- During advocacy and activism, do I feel the need to distinguish between my role as a healthcare professional versus as a concerned citizen?
  - If not, how do I see my role as a future physician shaping my role as a citizen?
  - If so, what distinguishes events where I feel comfortable attending as a future physician versus attending as a layperson?

- Could I encounter any of my present or future patients at this event? Could it have an impact - positive or negative - on my doctor-patient relationship?

- Others may perceive that I am representing the University of Chicago and the Medical Center at this event. Do I feel I need to take steps, through my actions and words, to clarify my role as an individual medical student versus a representative of these institutions?

- Is there going to be a media presence or law enforcement at this event? If photos or video are taken of me wearing my white coat, will I be comfortable with any response from my school and my classmates? How could my actions at this event affect my future prospects such as residency applications?

- Who can I reach out to - classmates or faculty advisors - if I want advice about wearing my white coat for this event or cause?

These questions were crafted by the 2016-2017 Dean’s Council to foster dialogue around intentional advocacy and to support Pritzker’s future physicians as they navigate in and between their identities as students and citizens.

The Dean’s Council White Coat Subcommittee consisted of:

Keith Ameyaw, MS20
Maura Clement, MS20
Nicole Dussault, MS20
John Hawkins, MS20
Najib Jai, MS20
Nzuekoh Nchinda, MS20
Victoria Thomas, MS17