

SBA Meeting Feb 3rd Call to Order:

Senators Present:

Chris Meyer
Brett Trembly
Michelle Cohen
Mike Marshall
Lindsey Savastano
Alyssa Huffer
Rachel Papeika
Josh Rubens
Adam Goldman
Ian Kirtman
Luis Eatres
Levale Simpson
Matt Givens
Omar Bradford
Kim Salamone
Jennifer Pratt

Exec Members Present:

Preston Clark
Serena Joesphs
Allison Avent
Andy Lowenstein

Tammy:

Elections: Need people to help man the polls, last semester Tammy & Jackie had to skip a lot of class, so please help out.

Cannot man the polls if you're running

Please sign up: especially 3Ls who cannot run

This coming week Tues & Wed during lunch: info session for those people who are running next year

Exec Update:

Diversity Week: Feb 11th new event for SBA please help spread the word

Business Cards: Dean Lynch and Coker agree that business cards should be made available but we cannot use the UM logo, so SBA needs to come up with a logo

Graduation Speech: will be discussed at length later in the meeting

Activity fee increase: hasn't been increased in over 10 years: LAFAC has voted to support an \$11 increase in the activity fee

Super Bowl party at Preston's

Secretary Report:

ICC meeting on Monday 12:30 in rm 309: everyone is invited
Introducing new communications director of the law school

ICC needs \$250 to fund lunch for the semester from the exec discretionary fund

Treasurer Report:

We've scheduled 7-8 beer at the rat's

If you're in charge of a line item, please call Andy if you have questions

Book exchange is doing great: new carpet, new painting and new furniture from the old faculty lounge

Transformed the book exchange into a very cool place to hang out and a great service to the law school

Hopefully there will be new lockers coming in soon so we can accommodate all the 1Ls next year

Activity fees are unpopular, but this is necessary → SBA will get an extra \$8,000-\$10,000 from the fee increase

Have \$ to pay for ICC lunches next meeting we will approve it in the actual budget

Elections: there should be coordination so that people who have been involved can stay involved

Social budget: \$2000 left or so

ABA Rep:

Diversity week: sign up sheets are going around right now for sub committees

Strong support from the other student organizations

Please sign up to help out

SBA comments:

Microwave is broken in the lounge, large demand, SBA could maybe purchase 2

Talk to the dean's office we get discounts with the vendors

The TV in the subway lounge also needs replacing

Need to find out who is in charge of the TV

More recycling bins are around campus

Old minutes: motion to approve Marshal, 2nd
Unanimously approved

NEW BUSINESS

2 issues: grad speech and activity fee increase

Activity fee

\$11 increase: \$3 to SBA, \$2 to yearbook, rest to LAFAC

increase from \$41 to \$52

Dean V can't even remember last increase, after this increase we'll put in a percentage increase policy for the future

Michelle: concern that we sent so many students to conferences and then there's no benefit for the rest of the law school

We need to be accountable for what we give out

Perhaps make a requirement of a presentation after they come back for the rest of the school

New Restrictions: 3 ppl total to a conference

Symposium: can only pay for 5 ppl max to speak

Michelle: motion to approve, approved

Y: 14, N: 0, A:2

Graduation Speech

3 options:

historically: administration selects

many times there are people that haven't been involved at all that get to speak
we want someone who will represent the graduating class

Brett: we want to take this out of the hands of the administration: we assume full responsibility for it

then we decide who will be on the committee & how to execute it

Michelle: the administration may be reluctant to give it away

Preston: Dean V wants us to take this on, the administration is happy to give this over to us

It's our graduation

Mike: makes sense to have it be the SBA president: continuity and the SBA president is the elected voice of the student body

Brett: motion for SBA to take on full responsibility of selecting the speaker, 2nd Michelle
Unanimously approved

Dean Stearns:

Student activity fee

Not enough money to support all the activity on this campus, and the fee hasn't been increased in the past 8 years,

The undergrad fee is more than double our fee

It will go to the ICC, and back to LAFAC on Tuesday

Dean Lynch will make a final announcement & decision

Ugrad activity fee have some earmarks

Law ear marks

Some goes to university speakers, can't negotiate or change that
LAFAC, SBA, & Yearbook

Perhaps there are other earmarks we want to consider: the beginning of next year

Need to put it to a referendum to the whole student body

Dean's cup is going to ask for money next week, there may not be enough money left

Dean's cup is about \$2/year → could just make it an ear mark

Perhaps: Barristers, Res Ipsa, ICC

Slate it for vote in the Fall/1L elections next year

Progress on a few issues the SBA brought up this past year

Grade submissions:

Contentious issue last year

There's only one professor right now who hasn't submitted: Fajer's elements
(he taught 2 large 1L sections this last semester)

Last year there were many outstanding grades

Dean Coker and the registrar have been fantastic about implementing this

Submitted letter for all those students to submit to potential summer jobs

Why can't all of our grades be in over winter break like so many other law schools?

1. not everyone tests on the same day (special exceptions: conflicts, joint degrees, medical emergencies, etc) → professors may not get all the exams right after they're taken

2. teachers involved in other activities: dean search, hiring faculty, etc

3. national law teacher's conference the week after Christmas, some speak etc

4. short deadline will incentivise multiple choice exams and less care in grading

Serena Josephs & Todd Allison: student reps on the committee

Michelle: thank you for making these changes it's much better than last year

You want the professor to sit down and really read and go through it, you took the time to study and take the exam

Don't want a faculty shortage

Alyssa:

The administration has been really great about helping with this issue

Maybe we need an out of the box solution

Why do other committees & commitments go on throughout the break

Can't they be put on hold during exams?

Decrease other obligations during this time

We want the students to be happy and we want to be a

Hiring new faculty: Very short timeline that actually increases over vacation

Provost required December deadline for strategic planning

There is a budget to hire new faculty, those slots haven't been filled

Looking aggressively to fill the positions with high caliber candidates

Adjunct curve:

SBA resolution fall 06

Academic standards committee voted to raise the adjunct curve for seminars and workshops to upper bound 3.5

Confirm the effective date, there will be an email to all the students

Perception in the faculty committee was that regular faculty will make the students go through many drafts until they get the A, and adjuncts will not want to invest that much time

Faculty not comfortable with adjuncts teaching core classes, want to have adjunct teach specialized upper level courses

Other graduation matters

Much discussion in recent years about December graduation
Handbook says we have commencement in May
Student can graduate in May, August, and December

We've also have a December ceremony which made more sense when we had a part time program which was abolished when FIU opened as a law school, but the December ceremony has continues for 20-25 students;

Dean Lynch: There will be no more ceremony but there will be a graduation event:

3 options:

1. walk early in May, 2. walk next may or 3. walk in the University wide ceremony in December

would SBA be interested in helping form what this event will be

Happy Superbowl Sunday!

Congratz: Josh & Mike on running the marathon last weekend!

Thanks Serena for being in charge of Community service day

Dean's Cup t-shirts:

Can we sell them for \$2 (some subsidy)?

Don't think this will be a problem

Beer at the Rat Thursday before Dean's Cup

Maybe a beer on the bricks

March 1st: pub crawl in the grove: crawl for cancer

\$600 per team: t-shirt, 3 hrs of pub crawl & 3 hrs after
crawlforcancer.org/Miami

Feb 29th: Friday afternoon: Canes Carnival bring kids to the bricks and put on a student run carnival 3:30 -5:15

Jennifer: Law School talent show: possibly SBA sponsored near or around spring break

Omar:

UM law improvement committee, want to improve UM's national rank

Motion to adjourn

Adjourn: 12:41