

SBA MINUTES SEPTEMBER 4, 2008

Attendance:

Chris Malek
Michelle Cohen
Omar Bradford
Kim Salamone
Jana Blount

Senators:

Matt Givens
Chris Haan
Ian Kirtman
Adam Goldman
Julie Young
Sara Neugroschel
Patrick Sullivan
Mike Kuczynski
Sean Friedland
Brian Vidas
Ben Bean
Ashton Freedom

President's report - Chris

1. Bill of rights
 - a. trying to make it bigger than the SBA – two 3L senators, two 2L senators, 2 honor council, and people from outside
 - b. Want it done by December
 - c. Looking for volunteers
2. Spanish classes
 - a. dean verkuil is excited about starting a new program here to teach free Spanish to law and business law students
 - b. asked the SBA to take the lead
 - c. HLSA stepped up the other day to help out
 - d. idea is to provide some kind of business/conversational Spanish as well as cultural exposure
 - e. looking to get some professors to teach classes while SBA/HLSA would provide programming to cultural events/speakers
3. Pass/fail/honors
 - a. wants this done by next week
 - b. Kris Nelson is appointment to academic standards committee – he is working on getting pass/fail/honors for every pass/fail class
 - c. need to see that the SBA is behind them
 - d. need to pass a resolution before 9/17/08
 - e. need a senator, preferably a 3L
 - f. Sara neugroschel volunteered for this

VP's report

1. Committee chair meetings have begun
 - a. Had chance to meet w/ community service chair committee
 - b. Sara Neugroschel is also president of bar and gavel so we're linked in with community service
 - c. We'd like to start spearheading more community service activities
 - i. Great way for us to give back and give opportunities to our student body
 - d. Hurricane drive idea with B&G and HOPE
 - e. Canes Carnival is ours now
 - f. 10/12 is Res Judicata – money goes to charity
 - g. November – along the lines of thanksgiving – an opportunity there
 - h. If you come across any opportunities/ideas please speak w/ Omar/sara N.
2. Met w/ Ashton – survey committee
 - a. Great way to affect some positive change for all of us
3. Alumni office
 - a. Working closely w/ career development office
 - b. They're looking to create alumni relations in the various markets across the country
 - c. Need to increase awareness – so students know they have options outside OCI
4. Senator handbook
 - a. Want it taken care of prior to the 1L elections
 - b. Apologize for tone

Secretary's report

1. office cleanup this week
 - a. last chance to get your stuff out
2. Week of 9/29 are SBA pictures, so please make every effort to be there
3. ICC meeting was great
 - a. Encourage you all to come to the meetings – great opportunity

Historian

1. if you haven't gotten your awards from last year let her know
2. Send pictures

ABA

1. mental health initiative
 - a. stearns emailed jana re: doing something during wellness week
 - b. email janablount@gmail.com if you have any interest in getting involved

Old minute approval 8/14/08

Kirtman – 1st

2nd - Ashton

Old minute approval 8/31/08

Kirtman – 1st
Chris Haan – 2nd

New Business

1. Supreme Court Nominations and Voting
 - a. Urgent to get it done today – there are 5 vacancies
 - b. Chris will introduce candidate, senators ask questions that they need to ask
 - c. Secret ballot, write yes or no
 - d. Andy Lowenstein – introduction by Chris Malek
 - i. Has been on SBA since 1L year
 - ii. Only student at UM law to have litigated a judicial issue his 1L year
 - iii. Has more than enough experience as far as the inner workings of the supreme court go
 - iv. Sean Friedlan – what is the basis of your litigation?
 1. Answer from Andy – there was a failure in the election, after posting the winning candidates they pulled them down and said that they had to be completely revoked – appealed the decision – he wrote a 15 page appellate brief – ironically enough cert was denied – which was rather improper, it was that court’s way of saying that they didn’t want to hear the issues
 - v. Ben bean – why do you want to be on supreme court?
 1. Answer – I’ve been on SBA for a long time and I love it – supreme court hasn’t done much – it can do more – it can work with the senate to make suggestions about revising the constitution – it can be a more useful arm of the SBA
 - vi. Ashton – you were senator, what do you see as being the difference in the effect that you will have as a member of the supreme court vs. your role on SBA
 1. Answer – I have been a senator and executive on SBA – this is a complete circle of the SBA – having had those prior experience will help me be fair
 - e. Ian Kirtman – I’m confused about the procedure
 - i. Matt – Chris appoints and the senate has to approve them
 - f. Tommy Wang
 - i. Intro by Chris Malek
 1. He’s a jd/mba here
 2. Great guy
 - ii. Michelle – can you be unbiased?
 1. Answer by Tommy – bias is what you feel psychologically, no one can say subconsciously that they won’t be unbiased but I can actively be unbiased
 - iii. Ashton – you are a jd/mba, will that hinder your judgment being on the supreme court?
 1. I don’t see how my time spent on campus will affect that

- iv. Michelle – I thought you spend your 3rd year at the business school and your 4th at the law school
 - 1. Answer – I spend a lot of time at UM in general – it’s not 50-50
- v. Omar – have you had any contact with the supreme court?
 - 1. Answer – I know the past justices – the complaint circulated by Andy
- g. Danielle Golino
 - i. Intro by Chris
 - 1. Involved in the school
 - 2. Hasn’t been on SBA – good thing – have a different perspective on how these things are run
 - 3. Nobody I’d rather have than Danielle
 - ii. Adam – why do you want to be on the supreme court
 - 1. Answer – Chris asked me to serve – moot court and law review have faded out b/c I’m a 3L – I did well in Con law 1 and 2 – would be happy to serve
 - iii. Chris Haan – do you agree that your lack of SBA experience gives you distinction amongst other supreme court justices?
 - 1. Answer – it aids impartiality of the bench – if you bring me the law, I’ll be able to interpret it – I don’t have any experience with the scandals
 - iv. Ashton – why your 3rd year?
 - 1. Answer – I was busy my first 2 years – now I have the time to do it – It would be nice to get involved and serve
- h. Allison Freidin
 - i. Intro by chris
 - 1. She’s a 2L
 - 2. Extremely involved in the community
 - 3. Was an orientation leader
 - 4. Has good attention to details – you need a meticulous nature
 - 5. I think that each of these candidates has a unique strength and can contribute something different
 - 6. She’s a workhorse
 - 7. Will field questions on her behalf
 - ii. Chris – wants to give the senate the opportunity to vote and decide who the chief justice will be – trying to do it by the book this time
- i. Michael Hanna
 - i. Intro by chris
 - 1. He has a very different background and experience than any of the other candidates
 - 2. He went to medical school and then decided to go to law school instead – has a maturity about him
 - 3. Extremely qualified
 - 4. He’s a brilliant person

5. Smart and motivated
 6. Brings a completely different perspective
 7. He would tie this entire group together
 - ii. Sara – did any of the candidates seek out Chris for this position?
 1. Chris – I approached all 5 – I had an idea about some of them that they wanted to be involved in some capacity
 - a. Some approached for committee appointments and some I appointed to committees and some I thought would be better on the supreme court
 - iii. Ben Bean – do you know why he quit medical school?
 1. Chris – as far as I know he just felt like medical school wasn't going to lead him where he wanted to go with his life – didn't really get into them
 - iv. Jana – can you tell us why they didn't come?
 1. Chris – Allison couldn't make it because she was called into work
 2. Omar – we didn't give them sufficient notice so that they could be there
 3. Chris – this was an emergency to get these vacancies filled
 - v. Patrick – if Allison/Michael aren't passed then can they come in front of us in the future and speak to us?
 1. Chris – that's an option
 - vi. Ben Bean – where does Allison work?
 1. Chris – has been working and helping out a family friend who is a lawyer in Miami
 2. Sean – Allison works for deporter and he's got a speech soon, so I imagine that she's helping out with that
 - vii. Ben Bean – motion to postpone vote
 - viii. Brian Vidas – we should
 - ix. Ashton – move to table Michael Hanna and rescind Allison
 1. Kirtman – 2nd
 2. In favor – 7
 3. Opposed – 4
 4. Matt – motion passes
 - j. Results
 - i. Tommy Wang, Danielle Golino, Andy Lowenstein were all approved
2. Election Committee Chairs
 - a. Commissioner as Jordana Dobski-Cohen and deputy as George Williamson
 - b. Chris
 - i. All of you ran in elections
 - ii. The election committee is a thankless and very difficult job
 - iii. These guys are taking on a lot of responsibility and I want to thank them in advance for even volunteering
 - c. Jordana

- i. I'm here for the supervisory position
 - d. George Williamson
 - i. 2L
 - ii. appointed deputy
 - e. Brian Vidas – why do you want to be on this committee?
 - i. Jordana – the girls who did it last year worked very hard and they are willing to help guide me – I wanted to be involved in the SBA – I ran my 1L year and didn't get on the SBA – I think this is a job that needs to be done well – I ran recruitment for sororities in undergrad
 - ii. George – I ran for honor council last year and wasn't elected – I'd like to give back
 - f. Chris Haan – situation with last years senators not showing up, was that handled well?
 - i. Jordana – not familiar with the situation
 - g. Sara – motion to appoint both people
 - h. Adam – 2nd
 - i. In favor – unanimous approval of both people
 - j. Chris – congratulations to our two new chairs
 - i. While we will try to have purely online elections, there will be computers in the room
- 3. Survey committee
 - a. Ashton
 - i. This isn't about academics
 - ii. Chris wanted to ask questions about what the SBA is doing now – if that's what we do SBA members cant do the survey
 - iii. Marketing for the survey – that's something that the sba is going to have to agree on
 - iv. Shooting for the month of October – have it online all month
 - v. Adam – sent questions regarding lrw
 - b. Michelle – the response rate isn't high on surveys that go out
 - i. Ashton – it's not something that came up – but we talked about marketing in terms of letting students know that this is something that's for you
 - c. Jana – why cant you get this going?
 - i. Ashton – I just have to setup an official ad-hoc committee
 - ii. Jana – but we didn't approve that, so you don't have to go through that
- 4. Julie – motion to rescind motion tot able Michael Hanna
 - a. Ashton – 2nd
 - b. All in favor – 8
 - c. Opposed – 4
- 5. Sean – is there going to be bias against Allison next week
 - a. Chris – no
- 6. Matt – we need volunteers who want to get involved with Omar on the handbook
 - a. Julie young and Ian Kirtman

Student Body questions

NONE

Jana – can we put up signs on the door?

Matt – it would be a good idea to send out a global email to students

Michelle – we can't put signs up on windows or doors

Jana – it doesn't have to be a sign

Chris – I'll send out a global email

Matt – Michael Hanna is here

1. Michael hanna
 - a. I'm a 2L now
 - b. I was in medical school before and now I'm in law school
 - c. Excited to be involved in the SBA and help out in any capacity
2. Matt – floor open for questions
 - a. Ashton – why didn't you finish medical school?
 - i. Michael – I was premed and had a lot of family in medicine – once I was in it wasn't my passion – took my time in considering law – I had no legal background at all – I fell in love with law school
 - b. Omar – what kind of law are you looking to get into now?
 - i. Michael – I thought I was going to do criminal defense and then I started doing real estate and now im taking commercial litigation classes – I have an interview with an international law firm coming up – I'm keeping my options open at this point
 - c. Mike K – some of these questions are treading more towards the personal – why do you want to get involved in the supreme court specifically?
 - i. Michael – there is a lot of opportunity in the supreme court – I'd be good in that capacity – I'm compassionate and reasonable – I have a lot of life experience before coming to law school
 - d. Matt – floor closed for questions
3. Matt – he was confirmed

Ashton – motion to adjourn

Ian Kirtman – 2nd