

## MINUTES 10/16/08

### Senators

Ben Bean  
Patrick Sullivan  
Brian Vidas  
Julie Young  
Chris Hahn  
Adam Goldman  
Ian Kirtman  
Mike Kuczynski  
Sean Friedland  
Sara Neugroschel  
Hagen Brody  
Nicole Martinez  
Asin  
Cesar  
Theo  
Bridget  
Larry Green  
Pushkar

### Eboard

Kim Salamone  
Jana Blount  
Michelle Cohen  
Matthew Givens  
Chris Malek  
Omar Bradford  
Jenn Pratt

- I. Call to Order
  - a. Introductions
    - i. All senators and Eboard members introduced themselves
  - b. Swearing in new senators
- II. Executive reports
  - a. President
    - i. HOPE Auction
      1. It's tonight
      2. Cut the line at the Rat pass
      3. Cycling/Yoga lessons at the Wellness Center
      4. 6pm at the Lowe Art Museum on Campus
    - ii. Student Lounge in the Library – 2<sup>nd</sup> floor quiet room
      1. All new furniture
      2. Should be done by Thursday/Friday of next week
      3. Will be for students only w/ swipe cards
    - iii. Office hours on the bricks

1. All Eboard members
2. Part of our initiative to be accessible to the students
- iv. Student survey for Spanish classes
  1. About 300 or so people have responded
  2. People are really excited about it
- v. Pass-Fail/Honors
  1. If you get an A you get the 4.0 factored into your GPA
  2. Almost 1/3 of 3Ls got As in classes and weren't getting credit b/c they has pass-failed the class
  3. Took this to a committee on academic standards – passed unanimously
  4. Final step was the faculty
    - a. Those meetings are all closed doors and there are no minutes kept
    - b. Resolution split into two parts
      - i. First decided on pass-fail/honors
      - ii. Then they decided when it should be implemented – they decided to apply it this semester retroactively
      - iii. Did not allow the provision from the SBA resolution that allowed people to resign up for pass/fail if they hadn't already done so
  5. Disappointed that the faculty would split this resolution this way
  6. It has been made fairly clear that any re-resolution would be met with strong opposition
- b. Vice-President
  - i. Committees – all new 1Ls will be placed on a committee
  - ii. Community service is important
  - iii. Copy cards for 1Ls through dean of students office
  - iv. We are looking for practical changes
- c. Speaker of the Senate
  - i. HOPE gift was passed through the emails
  - ii. Spoken with the Eboard to change the polling hours and timing for turning in candidacy forms
    1. Please let Matt know if you're interested
  - iii. Change the bylaws to allow for online voting
- d. Secretary
  - i. Fruit initiative went over well in the ICC meeting
    1. The idea I came up with a few weeks ago
- e. Treasurer
  - i. If you have anything that would require additional funding please have requests in to Jenn in writing
  - ii. HOPE Auction SBA gift is \$150 to Yoga classes
  - iii. Reimbursements need to be signed by the treasurer
- f. Historian

- i. New pictures on the website
  - ii. Please email pictures to her
- g. ABA Representative
  - i. Mental Health Awareness Week is next week
    - 1. Event on campus next Wednesday sponsored by SBA
  - ii. ABA Initiative
    - 1. Helping veterans
    - 2. Any ideas that you may have would be helpful

### III. Senator questions

- a. Friedland – fruit initiative
  - i. Why are we buying the fruit for other organizations?
  - ii. Michelle – we wouldn't have to staff it, we want to help other groups raise money
  - iii. Omar – Jenn is associated with a fruit vendor
  - iv. Jenn – this isn't for profit
- b. Kirtman – subway lease isn't being renewed
  - i. Jenn – It would be up to the Senate to handle that
  - ii. Ian – will we be able to vote on renewal, do we have a say on what goes in there next?
  - iii. Dean Stearns – University has been eager to get rid of Subway, it's the only vendor on the campus that's not controlled by Chartwells (which is our university's vendor)
    - 1. A resolution could be presented to the dean, which would then be forwarded to the university as a preference, but not sure it's ultimately our call
  - iv. Jenn – This is in our building and would significantly effect us, but would encourage all senators to get involved to see if we have a say
- c. Patrick – what kind of fruit will this be?
  - i. Omar – apples are expensive, but we can get creative
- d. Larry Green – how is the fruit going to be divided up? If you divide it up it doesn't promote unity
  - i. Michelle – the idea is really to just get healthier food
  - ii. Larry – is there any input on the kind of fruit?
  - iii. Michelle – it's not mean to replace your meal

### IV. Old Business

- a. Ben Bean – approval of old minutes
- b. Brian vidas – second
- c. Minutes approved unanimously

### V. New Business

- a. Dean Stearns – Online Faculty/Course Evaluation
  - i. Easier to administer online evals
  - ii. People are using new types of online resources
  - iii. Last semester we tested this in 3 classes

1. The problem was that the participation rate of the students was very low – somewhere between 35-50% participation rate
- iv. Evaluations are important for untenured faculty and visiting faculty as well as for tenured faculty for raise purposes
- v. Evaluation season is about to begin – trying to find a few classes that we can pilot online
- b. Retreat with new senators – Ian Kirtman
  - i. Unrealistic idea to go to the beach
  - ii. Idea behind the retreat
  - iii. Bowling option
  - iv. Givens – having a retreat for next spring
- c. Survey proposal – Freeman
  - i. Thank you to the committee
  - ii. Look at the breakdown for the cost of posting the survey online
  - iii. Target gift cards
  - iv. Going to need help marketing the survey
  - v. Request for \$150
  - vi. Michelle – friendly amendment to change #20 to CDO instead of CPC
  - vii. Ben Bean – would have more of an incentive to get a \$150 gift card to a nicer place instead of 5 separate gift cards
  - viii. Freedman – going to market it as something that’s for the students, the survey itself is for the students, the gift cards are just a little extra
  - ix. Friedland – is this reversed? Should #1 be strongly disagree and #5 be strongly agree?
  - x. Freedman – accept the friendly change to reverse the numbers on the student survey
  - xi. Jenn - #18 on the clinics – shouldn’t there be a more substantive question on the clinics?
  - xii. Freedman – decided that the concept of the clinics was outside of the scope of the clinics – there’s going to be a separate team that will deal solely with the clinics
  - xiii. Pushkar – can we add a question about the clinics
  - xiv. Kim Salamone – the faculty didn’t think that this was the right forum to address the clinic problems – the faculty wants very specific and detailed questions, which is why it’s not on there
  - xv. Givens – Kim was part of the survey committee and has been working with Alfieri as well – there is progress on getting more word on it
- d. Larry Green – motion to extend time
  - i. Nicole – second
  - ii. Time extended
- e. Survey proposals
  - i. Larry Green – is there a way to include a link on certain things?

- ii. Freeman – don't want to overcomplicate things here – which is part of the reason why the clinic questions were kept out of the survey
  - iii. Patrick Sullivan – more of a question about student interest
  - iv. Sara Neugroschel – either leave that question and add one more about whether there are enough clinical opportunities for students
  - v. Freeman – strike the question about clinics instead – this could be tabled until the next meeting
  - vi. Friedland – motion to table the vote on the survey until next meeting
    - 1. Ben Bean – second
    - 2. Unanimously approved – tabled until next meeting
- f. Pass/Fail Honors discussion
- i. Matt Tannenbaum – why did the faculty committee excise the reopening of pass/fail signup
    - 1. Chris Malek – we don't know the actual reason b/c we don't have any minutes and there's no student representation in that meeting – from what Chris understands, there was enough support to have this go into effect but there wasn't enough support to have this open up – so those who wanted this to go into effect divided this into two issues because it's possible that if it hadn't been split then the opening the window would have been a deal breaker and we would have lost everything
    - 2. Matt Tannenbaum – where is there to go from here?
      - a. Chris Malek – Could go to Dean Verkuil's office, Academic Ombudsman, Provost, Shalala's office
  - ii. Ben Bean – No one had any idea of the process that was going to happen here – if we'd known that the faculty wasn't going to allow us to reopen the pass/fail signup – why does the buck stop with the faculty?
    - 1. Chris Malek – there needs to be more transparency with the faculty and what they do with issues concerning student proposals – our tuition writes their checks – they do need some kind of confidentiality in these meetings so that they can speak freely
      - a. Perhaps a resolution where minutes should be provided when a student proposal is on the table
      - b. Faculty committee is created by Dean Coker's office – there are 12 different committees – would be nice to think that you get an accurate view of the faculty pulse in these meetings but that's unlikely – it's meant to be an intermediary step so you don't end up wasting time on things that are going to get shot down

- c. Was passed unanimously by the faculty committee but the entire faculty
- iii. Sara Neugroschel – there should be a student in the general faculty meeting – perhaps that’s our next step – they’re not going to publish the minutes from that meeting – we need someone there to see what goes on
- iv. Mike Kuczynski – the faculty members need to remember that they’re here for our benefit, to enrich our lives and our education – this could have gone a long way towards demonstrating good will – when you do things like this and anger a lot of people, it goes to make those people want to refuse to continue and help in the long-run – the faculty needs to be reminded of this
- v. Kris Nelson – sits on the academic standards committee – was there when it was voted unanimously – there were several faculty members who fought hard to pass this as the SBA/faculty committee passed it – there may have been a discussion about having a student in the general faculty meeting
  - 1. The change that happened here is just like real life legislation
  - 2. This is like a glass is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full or empty situation, we have it now, it’s effective now – you have the ability to benefit next semester
  - 3. It’s not the most fair, but it’s pretty fair considering how we had it before
- vi. Chris Jallo – Making it effective immediately gives the benefit to students who took a P/F and intended to do no work – you take away from other people who didn’t sign up for P/F because they wanted an A
  - 1. Chris Malek – thrown the idea to have it start to apply only in the spring – there are 78 people who are signed up for P/F this semester and they’d be disadvantaged because they’d only have one class to take pass/fail next semester
    - a. Passing resolutions doesn’t mean you’re going to get what you want
    - b. Talking about adding a B- to the grading scale in the spring
    - c. Pick your battles, do we want to end up losing the B- in the future?
- vii. Larry Green – we don’t know what argument to make for not allowing that one portion – can see why they wouldn’t want a student in there – maybe we say they have to provide the rationale and the relative amount of support for that rationale
- viii. Friedland – thanks to Kris Nelson and should be proud of what we did accomplish
  - 1. There are 3 branches that check each other

2. Here there are the students who write bills and then it's up to the ultimate discretion of the faculty
3. We should be able to correspond in a friendly manner
4. There needs to be a third branch
5. The administration hasn't stepped in and done anything at all – the faculty has final say

ix. Brian Vidas – motion to extend time

- g. Matt Givens – it's our job to keep a positive outlook, we can't allow the whole student body to get upset

#### VI. Student body questions

a. Todd Sussman – Barbri representative

i. Global emails are to be used for student organizations

ii. Michelle – this is an ICC bylaws – the discretion falls solely to Chris and I

iii. Chris – it's a tradition not to promote outside advertising – it's also Lexis and Westlaw that try to promote things – we do not allow advertising through the SBA account – if you have a speaker series, please speak to us

#### VII. Sean Friedland – motion to adjourn

a. Mike K – 2<sup>nd</sup>

b. Unanimous