

SBA Meeting Minutes 11/18/07 Call to Order

Senators Present:

Michelle Cohen
Lindsey Savastano
Chris Meyer
Rachel Papeika
Melissa Keidrowicz
Josh Reubens
Adam Goldman
Ian Kirtman
Matt Givens
Omar Bradford
Brett Trembly
Levale Simpson
Luis Eatres

Exec Present

Preston Clark
Rebecca Lada
Allison Avent

Exec Reports

Tommy says Hi from Vegas

Lada: Please send pictures

Allison: ABA website is up, there are many scholarships available especially for BarBri

Motion to approve minutes
Michelle, 2nd Lindsey

Preston's Report:

Thank you to Chris Malek for organizing the Tailgate! Thanks to Dean V for helping secure the kegs

Dean Search
Nov 28th: open session in the student lounge to give feedback to search firm

Finals: Dean Stearns is working on organizing finals food/drink

Sign: have money to make an SBA sign: Kinkos

Keys to the Office:

Please go pick up keys in the library and use the office

BOWLING AWARDS:

Brett's Team: "The Donald Jones Legal Defense Project" (highest score)

Idea: Q&A with the Deans once or twice a semester, forum to address problems and general questions (\$5 gift certificates)

Team MVP: Matt Givens

The Dominators

Idea: Diversity day on campus celebrating diversity with food music and art, also fundraiser for individual orgs

Team Schnabes:

Idea: maximize use of student lounge, students get kicked out of lounge for set up a lot (almost daily), do set up closer to event time so students can use lounge more

Team Bonsai: Tommy's team (can't read it, so Tommy will share next time)

Dean's Meeting

1. Parking:

Repainting spots in law lot to be diagonal, will reduce by 25 or so spots

Will draft letter to facilities

2. Donald Jones

deans are not commenting, they support him

Tommy Wang is drafting letter which many Student Leaders will sign in support of Professor Jones, He is innocent until proven guilty

3. Book exchange

new carpet & pain, new lockers are coming next semester we hope (in negotiations)

Graduation Speech

Competition open to all the students. Submit speech and done in front of a small group of people

We need to add an SBA speaker (we are voted in by everyone)

Preston, Chris, Tommy, and Andy have spoken to Deans

Administration said ok, but only if we get rid of other speaker

Issue to have 2 speakers, nothing has been finalized

Historically it was the SBA president but when Magilligan was president as a 2L it didn't make sense and it switched to new system

Is there a way to revamp the committee so that it truly is representative of the graduating class

Is it a vote on the person or on the speech quality?

Is it possible to make a minimum qualification in terms of service to the school and involvement at the law school

Maybe add a resume component?

It should be more than a speech writing contest

Can we involve student leaders in the decision process?

Administration is concerned about the time

One speaker and a new process or 2 speakers: on in a competition and one SBA representative?

Two speakers gives more perspective

Graduations last a long time, one speaker is enough, we need a better process for selection

What if we just split the time in half? Same amount of time,
Two speakers will always take more time

This dialogue needs to be continued at the next meeting, please email your ideas and comments to Preston.

The system is broken and needs to be fixed

Pictures

Waiting on getting them back from Steve Schlackman

Shalala

Preston met with President Shalala, there's a gridlock. If we're moving downtown then there's not sense in putting money into our facilities, but it seems like it won't happen for several years and we need an update

DEAN'S CUP UPDATE

Brett: week long competition between us and the Med school in the spring, every athletic event known to man

In the past it hasn't been communicated well, so we want more publicity this year

1L liaisons for every section leading up to dean's cup

the 1L section that participates the most gets a free lunch at the rat

We've changed the time, we're starting on Friday and ending on Sat

This year we're including a bar night as well: beer pong, flip cup, pool and darts

We're also adding a community service project on the first Saturday, working with DL and HOPE so that there are more people involved

We've also added a hot dog eating contest
Tug of war will be the last event

Michelle: Miami News on Above the Law.com, spoken with Dean Stearns

Embarrassing things about our students being published

Coming up in interviews

Many students feel that the administration should address this, Dean Stearns had been unaware until Michelle brought it up

Possible reprimands for the students, their behavior is affecting our entire law school

Possible ways to address this

1. bring honor code violation actions against the students (questionable behavior)
2. Dean Stearns has power to talk to these students and discuss their behavior

How can we bring violations against them for things they did before law school

Honor Code seems to severe

But there should be a letter that goes out encouraging people to not bring negative attention to the university

Dean Stearns or Dean V should sit down with these students and discuss the situation

We can't kick them out for legal activities

This situation warrants a boiler plate letter to the student body reminding them to act appropriately and not spread this type of information

It should be addressed without further spreading the information further

Bring them in individually to discuss this

Also encourage people not to send this type of information to the attention of the media and the blogs

Please do not discuss this with your friends on the bricks and further spread this around

The SBA will back private meetings between these students and Dean Stearns

CONTACT INFO

Names and emails will be on website

A copy will be on record with the Dean's Office and the SBA

Allocation Bill AB 12B-0

Want to roll over the surplus tailgate money to cover the SBA retreat (so it's represented on the Budget)

Motion to Approve Rachel, 2nd Adam, unanimously approved

The Curve,

Our curve is dismally low, is there anything we can do to shift it or change it?
There's a Dean's meeting in January where this can be brought up

Those who will be here next year and the year after have a huge opportunity to change many of the items ingrained in our Law School because of the new Dean

Please run with all of this!

Adam: TV in the Subway lounge is broken

Omar:

Can we increase the Library hours? Ours closes at midnight, when Richter closes at 2am

Can we get another microwave for the lounge

If we get more revenue from locker sales, then we can appropriate the money

GOOD LUCK ON EXAMS

Motion to adjourn: unanimous