Executive Board. In response to feedback from the Student Body and the Student Senate, the Senate Executive Board has been meeting with administrators to encourage more open lines of communication on issues facing students. The administration has responded positively by implementing the “News you can use” blog at http://blogs.law.columbia.edu/newsyoucanuse/, hosting a Town Hall meeting with Dean Schizer, and sending out e-mails from the Dean. We hope these new lines of communication will encourage students to express their views to the administration on any issues about which they are concerned.

In response to input from several Senators, certain procedures will be modified (e.g., greater use of unanimous consent) to ensure the efficient and orderly operation of Senate meetings. A re-examination of the By-Laws is underway. Several Senators have submitted suggestions that will be taken into consideration by the ad hoc Constitution & By-Laws Committee. The Committee expects to report later this semester.

Finally, the E-board is meeting with Tony Pallone, Director of Building Services on Tuesday. If you have anything you’d like us to discuss with Mr. Pallone, please e-mail us at senate@law.columbia.edu. Thank you and have a great week.

Budget Committee. Final draft funding requests will be due this Wednesday, February 4th. Student group leaders should now be in touch with their Committee liaison regarding their requests. If not, please contact David Peters. The Committee will meet during two marathon sessions next Saturday and Sunday to discuss all funding requests and to balance a shoestring budget that has far too many demands placed upon it. Contact: david.peters@law.columbia.edu, chair.

Community Action Committee. The Student Senate clothing drive is ongoing. Donation bins are set up at the back of the east JG hallway. Also, mark your calendars, Columbia Community Outreach (CCO) will be held on March 28, 2009. In this organized day of community volunteers will engage in pre-arranged service projects throughout New York and then will meet back on campus for a celebration. There will be a CCO "Study Break" on February 4th at 9p.m. in the Lerner Piano Lounge where you can learn more about pre-registration and ongoing volunteer opportunities. Contact: jessica.isokawa@law.columbia.edu

Recognition Committee. Three student groups petitioned the Committee for recognition this semester, including The Golf Club and Mentoring Youth through Legal Education (f/k/a Legal Outreach Student Association). The Committee recommended that the Senate recognize both organizations for the 2008-09 academic year. A third student group, Koleinu, having been previously recognized by the Senate within the last three semesters, was automatically re-recognized for the 2008-09 academic year. Contact: benjamin.brickner@law.columbia.edu.

Student Grading Committee. The Senate has representatives working with the Administration on developing a limited Pass-Fail grading option for students. This system would not resemble Harvard or Yale’s system, but would give upper level students a limited number of classes they could choose to take pass-fail. Contact: max.miller@law.columbia.edu

Graduation Committee. Graduation Committee hosted its first major event of the semester this past Thursday, with nearly 300 students in attendance at the "Around the World Party." Many more events are soon to come, including our private tour of the Met Museum on February 7 and our Sweet Treats Reception and Date Auction on February 12. For more information, email graduation@law.columbia.edu or watch your emails.
Student Senate Committee Reports

Social Committee. The Social Committee is throwing a Super Bowl Party this Sunday, featuring free beer and Dinosaur BBQ, at 5:30 in Lenfest. Also, the Committee is gearing up for Valentine's Day. On Thursday, Feb. 12th, we're teaming up with the Bar Czars for Valentine's Day Karaoke at 420 (81st and Amsterdam) and throwing a joint party at Touch (46th & 11th) with area law schools.

We'll also be running the Meet Sheet this year, enabling students to find their true CLS match, and giving all comers the chance to win free tickets to Barrister’s Ball. The Meet Sheet will be available next week.

Speaking of which, we're already prepping for Barrister’s Ball and are still soliciting suggestions from students--this holds true for all events, planned or potential. Please direct your questions/suggestions to Kahlil Williams, at kcw2124@columbia.edu.

Computers and Library Committee. The committee will be working this semester to evaluate different exam software programs that are compatible with Apple computers. Additionally, we will be working with IT to make the school more “Macintosh friendly” and hope to get some Apple machines installed in the law school this spring. Finally, the committee is continuing to work to establish a daily events email for the law school. Please direct all inquiries to Eric Wolkoff at eric.wolkoff@law.columbia.edu.

Housing and Facilities. The Housing and Facilities Committee is currently investigating the possibility of additional vending machines around the CLS public areas, including the Lenfast community area. We are also speaking with Housing to seek additional details on the Housing Selection system, to ensure a transparent process. Contact: Charles Wolf, cfw2110@columbia.edu
I. Attendance: 43 present, 41 voting

II. Officer Reports
   a. President’s Report
      i. Reflection on the events of last December and concern about e-board communication.
      ii. Positive progress with administrative communication
      iii. SJP/CPIL
      iv. Students will be involved in the hiring of a new career services dean
      v. Grading policy update
      vi. Stapler/Computer lab changes
   b. Vice President’s Report
      i. Superbowl Party 5:30 this Sunday in Lenfest.
      ii. Social committee meeting after the general meeting to discuss Barrister’s Ball plan.
      iii. Barrister’s Ball March 7.
   c. Secretary’s Report
      i. Community Action committee meeting in the next two weeks
      ii. Clothing Drive Ongoing
   d. Treasurer’s Report
      i. Budget requests submitted
   e. Palriamentarian’s Report
      i. Koleinu re-recognized.
      ii. Two other groups will be voted on later in the meeting.

III. Committee Reports
   a. Graduation Committee
      i. Underground Keg program ongoing.
      iii. Around the World party
      iv. Sweet Treats Date Night Auction
      v. Senior Superlatives awarded in March (“Most likely to be run out of office” etc.)
      vi. Graduate Awards
      vii. Atlantic City trip in March
      viii. Field day with Social Committee and Intra Vivos in April
      ix. Goodbye Morningside Heights bar crawlz
      x. Grad Ball at Capitale
      xi. Valentine’s Karaoke night will follow the Sweet Treats Date Night
   b. Newsletter Committee
      i. First issue out next week
   c. IT Committee – nothing to report
   d. Housing committee
      i. Online rent payment system shot down. Under NY law, people need to pay by check.
      ii. Housing Committee has been working to get individual housing problems fixed
   e. Advisory Committee
      i. Met with Professor Persily and had a general discussion. He’s the point person on the grade reform.
IV. Recognition
   a. Three groups this semester, one was automatically re-recognized (Koleinu)
   b. Golf Club
      i. Mission statement read
      ii. Requisite number of members, they drafted a constitution, and currently there is no golf club
      iii. Unanimous recognition committee approval.
      iv. Question & Answer Period
      v. Debate
      vi. Vote: 42-0-1
   c. Mentoring Youth through Legal Education (formerly “Legal Outreach Students Association”)
      i. Purpose of the group as presented in the Constitution
      ii. Issues that came up with the committee:
      iii. Presentation by group organizer, Laura Swanson
      iv. Question & Answer
      v. Debate
      vi. Vote: Call for consent, no objections, MYLE recognized.

V. E-Board Communication Discussion
   a. Rules suspended to allow for more informal discussion
   b. President: Recognizes that there were some difficulties at the end of last year, but the e-board hopes to be responsive and receptive to maximize the Senate’s effectiveness.
   c. Call for dialogue:
      i. Preference expressed that committee chairs be more flexible with time options for committee meetings.
      ii. The Senate should be briefed when the e-board meets with the administration about what the administration says. The e-board should inform people even when they can’t detail the specifics.
      iii. Appreciation for the extraordinary job the e-board is doing and the time they commit because a lot of time goes into every decision and email.
      iv. Objection to having meetings when there isn’t deliberative business (Jason Lear)
      v. Call for ideas on how to address more substantive issues. The executive board sees its role as important to executing the ideas of the Senate. The e-board needs to know what the body actually wants done.
      vi. Can meetings be held earlier in the day?
      vii. Suggestion that Basecamp should replace meetings.
      viii. Perhaps there should be no laptops during the meetings.
      ix. Suggestion that committee reports be included in the agenda.

VI. New Business
   a. Parliamentarian delivers a clarification about the purpose of “New Business” agenda item
   b. Jason Lear: suggests that there should be a resolution eliminating the requirement of mandatory meetings.
      i. The Constitution currently requires the Senate to meet twice a week.
      ii. Procedurally, a constitutional revision, requires another special meeting and the submission of specific language.
   c. Dan Shin: Suggestion for an overhaul of the Legal Practice Workshop.
      i. Could take resolution form at first.
      ii. Requires some brainstorming first
   d. Brittany Schoepp: Fridge
      i. Request to include this as an agenda item at the next meeting.

VII. Announcements

VIII. Adjourn, 10:20 p.m.

These minutes are abridged. Full meeting minutes can be accessed online at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/meetings.html
Events Calendar, February 2-9, 2009

Monday, February 2

- “Orrick Asia Lunch & Panel for 2010 Summer Associate Opportunities.” 12:00 - 1:00 PM; JG Annex. Box lunch.
- SJP: Social Justice Program Debut Party. 5:00 - 7:00 PM; JG Annex.

Tuesday, February 3

- Legal Theory Workshop: Robin West, Georgetown Law School. 12:00 - 01:30 PM; JG Case Lounge. Lunch served.
- “Milbank - Law Practice in Asia.” 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG Annex. Box lunch.
- CRELS: “So you want to be a Real Estate Attorney?” 12:15 - 1:00 PM; JG 107. Lunch served.
- IP Colloquium: Bhaven Sampat, Columbia Department of Health Policy. 4:10 - 6:00 PM; JG Annex.
- “Legal Clinic for the Homeless Training.” 5:30 - 8:00 PM; JG 101. Dinner served.
- 22nd Annual Horace Manges Lecture: David O. Carson, General Counsel of the United States Copyright Office, “Making the Making Available Right Available.” 6:00 PM; JG 103. Reception to follow.

Wednesday, February 4

- “Picking Up the Pieces from Wall Street's Collapse — A Guide for Law Students.” 12:05 - 1:00 PM; JG 101.

Thursday, February 5

- ELS/CalSoc: National Teach-in on Global Warming. 5:00 - 7:00 PM; JG 103. Dinner served.
- “Strength of a Woman Film Premiere.” 6:00 - 9:00 PM; JG 106. Panel discussion and reception to follow in JG Annex.
- Fun: UNDERGRGOUND KEG, 7:00-9:00 PM, JG Lobby

Monday, February 9

- CGLP: Christian Barry & Sanjay G. Reddy, “World Trade as if People Matter.” 12:00 - 1:00 PM; WJW 103. Pizza.
- “Constitutionalism by other Means? The Rebuilding of the Legislative Leviathan in China.” 12:10 - 1:10 PM; location TBA.

Event information is taken from the Advisor, a Student Services e-publication. To have your event listed, follow the link below and submit the on-line form. These must be submitted by 10am on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event.

Contact e-mail: senate@law.columbia.edu