CORRECTION: Spectator Gets It Wrong on the New LRAP

Dean Alice Rigas, head of Registration Services, writes regarding our piece in last week’s issue “about the Law School’s recently-announced enhanced Loan Repayment Assistance Program (LRAP) beginning with the May 2008 JD graduating class,” specifically to warn readers against following the link we provided to the story in the February 22nd Columbia Daily Spectator “since it contained several errors that can be very misleading to prospective LRAP participants. For instance, LRAP does not forgive student educational debt, but rather provides assistance in the form of post-graduation Columbia Law School loans to assist eligible graduates in making their regular loan payments; the Law School then forgives these LRAP loans for participants who remain in eligible employment for 3 or more years. There are many more nuances to the program than can be explained in a quick article, and certainly the Spectator article did not accurately reflect the information the author was given by Dean Harlene Katzman of our Center for Public Interest Law.”

Dean Rigas instead urges perusal of the full program description at http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/financial_aid/LRAP. “Students who are considering law careers in public interest or public service work are advised to read the full program description carefully and to make an appointment with one of the members of our Financial Aid Office if they have questions about how the program might assist them. LRAP also covers graduates during clerkship years, so it is designed to provide benefits to a significant number of CLS graduates.”
Your 2007-2008 Student Senate

Please contact us with questions or concerns! We are working hard to represent you.

E-mail us at senate@law.columbia.edu, and visit us at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/.

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Dan Y. Shin, Vice President
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David Scott
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* University Senator
** ABA Representative

Senate Committees
www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/committees.html

Budget.
Max Miller, chair.

Community Action.
Gabriel Gershowitz, chair

Computers, IT, & Library.
Benjamin Brickner & David Peters, co-chairs

Graduation.
Shawndra Jones & Devora Whitman, co-chairs

Housing & Facilities.
Ryan Russell, chair.

Recognition.
Kathrin Schwesinger, chair

Student Issues & Academic Affairs.
Tope Yusuf, chair

Student Life & Social Activities.
Dan Y. Shin, chair

Senate Business

The full Student Senate typically meets every other Monday at 9:10 PM in JGH 105. Meetings are generally open to the entire student body. Our next meeting will take place Monday, March 10, 2008. Once finalized, the agenda for the meeting will be available at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/meetings/031008/.

Our most recent meeting took place at 9:10 pm on February 25. Two resolutions were passed (see full text on p. 4).

February 25, 2008, Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order at 9:10 P.M. II. Roll Call. III. Officer Reports. a. President. i. Met with Dean MGK and Marta Ricardo last week. We were told there is money available for travel to national events. Speak to Marta about this if interested. Please spread the word if students ask you. We also spoke about upgrades to school facilities, including: 1. JG Annex – over spring break will change décor and during the summer will change lighting. 2. JG 304 – will add drapes and paint the walls. 3. Individual mail folders to return during the summer. ii. We are meeting this Wednesday to cover other agenda items that we did not finish last week. iii. Tope attended provost advisory council meeting dealing with Manhattanville: 1. They are on Phase I of construction, hoping to break down by the end of this year. There is a 5-6 year outlook for opening the buildings there. 2. Columbia has an agreement with the local development corporation, an entity that is responsible for negotiating benefits on behalf of the community. 3. Eminent domain issues have arisen; 3 landowners refuse to sell, they are not residential buildings. Eminent domain is necessary for building underground. 4. Athletic facilities: University is mainly planning to expand Baker Field, uptown to relieve pressures on Dodge facilities, rather than in Manhattanville. iv. Last meeting, E-Board was asked to e-mail the student body regarding the gym closure. But Tope researched the issue and found that only the Levien basketball court will be closed, which does not warrant an e-mail to the student body. v. Diversity task force met today and plans to have more concrete output by next Senate meeting. vi. In terms of the faculty appointments task force we are still gathering information and will be moving forward shortly.

b. VP. i. Legal Practice Workshop focus group met a few weeks ago and its report has been completed. 1. It is posted on the Senate website, go check it out! ii. Barrister’s ticket sales are going well only a few tickets left! Get yours today! iii. Social committee: please stay after full Senate meeting for a quick session.

c. Treasurer. i. Max met with GSAS and SIPA folks about forming an inter-school graduate event. ii. Two ad hoc requests approved since last meeting. 1. IMPACT/CLJAN event -- $200. 2. FedSoc/ACS Quiz event -- $500. iii. Pending ad hoc request that we will consider tonight. iv. Max is cautiously optimistic in terms of the budget.

d. Secretary. i. Columbia Community Outreach – March 29. ii. Relay for Life cancer fundraiser, will check with committee to see if it is something we can do – April 12. iii. Food Drive – donations/tabling. 1. Speak to Gabe if you can help out! iv. Clothing drive. v. Other minor projects currently being investigated by committee members.

e. Parliamentarian. i. One recognition request is coming up later in the agenda. ii. Send in whatever outlines you have to Elliott Ash. iii. Call for volunteers for this semester’s outline review team (we read each outline at least once before it is posted). 1. Jennifer. 2. Francesco. 3. Jia. IV. Committee Reports. a. Graduation. i. Grad committee having graduation event this Thursday at Harlem Lanes. Please encourage all 3L’s/LLM’s/JS/’s to come! ii. Grad ball tickets going on sale TOMORROW and the committee will be tabling next week. 1. Buying tickets early will save you $25! iii. Grad committee had focus group regarding grad ball, culminating in the proposal before the Senate tonight. iv. 3L’s and LLM’s meet regarding the class speaker election. Nominations due March 4th. v. Mandatory 3L meeting is tomorrow during lunch in JG 104. b. Housing. i. Lenfest Café soda fountain will return. ii. Coffee kiosk if approved will be set up downstairs on the first floor. iii. Lenfest Café credit card payments may be available but still looking. c. IT. Nothing to report. d. University Senate. i. On Friday, from 11-1 here in the law school will be a university-wide hearing on housing.

e. Faculty Committees. i. Curriculum committee met today and discussed the following: 1. committee wants to be more responsive to perceived “gaps” in the curriculum. They would like to hold a town hall meeting. 2. Committee wants to evaluate Legal Practice Workshop. Should more ad juncts continue to teach this course? 3. Committee looking into the first year elective program. a. If you have views on the program speak to Devora Whitman. 4. Enhancing course evaluations – evaluations are at an all time low in terms of valuations. Ideas to remedy this include putting a hold on grades until courses have been evaluated.

(MINUTES continued p. 5)

Please be kind and double-side your printouts!
Bidding and socializing by members of the CLS community at the 2007 PILF Auction. (Photo courtesy of Kaitlin Cordes '08.)

PILF (continued from p. 1)

Last year, the Auction, attended by over 500 members of the CLS community, raised over $75,000 for Guaranteed Summer Funding and our Community Grants Program. With your help, we can continue that success. More than any other, this fundraising event makes summer funding possible for 1Ls and 2Ls working in public interest and governmental organizations. It also enables PILF to offer grants to worthy organizations, such as the Louisiana Crisis Assistance Center in New Orleans. It’s also the biggest—and best—party of the year! We hope to see you there. Tickets are $10 and will be on sale all week in the Jerome Greene lobby. For more information, please see our website at www.columbiapilf.org or contact either Amanda Schwartz at abs2138@columbia.edu or Kathrin Schwesinger at sks2139@columbia.edu.

PILF’s 16th Annual “Bid for Justice” Auction | 7:00 – 10:00 PM; Roone Arledge Auditorium in Lerner Hall
Gerry Moody is the VP of External Relations for the Public Interest Law Foundation.

SURVEY Results: Room Usage at CLS

90 students total responded to our seven-question survey, with a relatively representative sample: 28 identified as 1L, 30 as 2L, 23 as 3L, and 7 as LLM (2 did not identify).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't care</th>
<th>Haven't thought about it</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Do you feel that, during the bulk of your time at CLS, the manner in which classroom space is utilized when classes are not meeting has been efficient?</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don't answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Would you find (or have found) the ability to reserve a seminar room in the law school buildings for personal use for a specified period of time to be useful?</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>1 hour</th>
<th>2 hours</th>
<th>3 hours</th>
<th>4 hours</th>
<th>5 or more hours</th>
<th>No limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do you think is the maximum amount of time that any group of students should be able to reserve a room at a given time?</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>One</th>
<th>Two</th>
<th>Three</th>
<th>Four</th>
<th>Five or more</th>
<th>Depends on size of room</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What do you think the minimum number of students required to reserve a seminar room should be?</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know that, until a few weeks ago, all CLS students were essentially allowed to reserve any classroom in the law school for any purpose, through an online request system?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Did you know that, until a few weeks ago, all CLS students were essentially allowed to reserve any classroom in the law school for any purpose, through an online request system?</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The final question, “Any additional thoughts on the subject?”, elicited 31 responses, which are available at the Senate website at http://www.columbia.edu/cu/law/senate/docs/roomusagesurvey.pdf.
Resolution to Allocate General Funds to Ease the Financial Burden of Attending Grad Ball 2008 for Students Accepting Low-Income Jobs

Sponsors:  Adam Sparks ’08/’09; Devora Whitman ’08; Shawndra Jones ’08; Zahra Egal ’08

WHEREAS there exists a substantial and significant disparity in the annual salaries of graduating students, constraining the ability of some graduating students to attend the Graduation Ball;

WHEREAS the Graduation Ball is an event meant to bring the entire student body together to celebrate their respective and collective achievements over the past three years, and to enjoy one another’s company in a social setting before graduation, bar, and employment duties come to dominate their lives;

WHEREAS it is in the spirit of the legal profession, and aligned with the goals of Columbia Law School, to support attorneys entering all sectors of the legal industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,

THAT the sponsors of this bill shall make a good faith effort to secure funding from other sources, including but not limited to the Office of Development, the Dean's Discretionary Fund, and the Office of Student Services, and should such efforts prove successful any money allocated by the Student Senate through this resolution will be returned to the general fund immediately.

Resolution to Amend the Room Reservation Policy

Sponsors: Mojoyin Onijala ’09; Yael Fischer’10; David Peters’10; Benjamin Brickner’10

WHEREAS the student body has long benefited from the ability to reserve rooms in the law school for a variety of purposes including quiet study, group study and organized events,

WHEREAS the Columbia Law School administration is legitimately concerned that this system was prone to abuse,

WHEREAS the Columbia Law School administration has recently established a new policy restricting law school room reservations to student group leaders,

WHEREAS maintaining the new policy will require many students to travel elsewhere, at various times of the day and night, in search of alternate space,

WHEREAS the student body is legitimately concerned about this change of policy and believes it will hinder group coordination, efficiency and productivity,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED it is the sense of the Columbia Law School Student Senate that the administration should reconsider its current room reservation policy,

FURTHER the Student Senate proposes the following guidelines for the administration’s consideration:

a) Room reservations shall require a minimum of three persons and be limited to four hours per group per day,

b) During exam and study periods, at least one larger lecture hall shall be designated for quiet study,

c) All students may reserve rooms, provided they clearly note the participants, duration and purpose of their request, and

d) This resolution shall not apply to the following rooms: Jerome Greene Hall rooms 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, and William and June Warren Hall L107, which shall be designated for either quiet study or group study by Student Services, subject to reservations by student organizations, and

e) Students requesting rooms for personal study group use will only be able to reserve rooms up to two weeks in advance, and

FURTHER the Student Senate shall, once Student Services has revised its room reservation policy, publicize this policy to the student body, and

FURTHER the Student Senate requests that the administration designate appropriate staff to post a hard copy of the room schedule at each reservable room on a daily basis, and

FURTHER the Student Senate requests that Student Services, at its earliest convenience, inform the student body of how to view rooms available for its use and reservation.
First, let's consider the need for this forum? Many Columbia students felt that what was being provided by the college was inadequate, especially concerning day care, the adoption laws, childcare options, etc.  d. Debate.  i. Paying for an honorarium is bad precedent, and especially one this hefty. This is not a slippery slope consideration. Also, we are in NYC and every major university has an alumni group already.  c. The bylaws propose asking the student services for help in funding grad ball.  iii. A large part of the administrative burden stemming from last year’s grad ball is falling on this year’s graduating class. If you take away one hour, you have an $60K+ to go to CLS need a $100 subsidy to attend grad ball.  3. The amendment that would change the time block from four to two hours fails.  f. Second part of the amendment would make it unlikely that anyone would reserve a room for a two hour meeting.  g. New amendment would add a fifth point to the proposal, only allowing student groups to reserve a room for a one week period.  h. The administration funds part of the graduation gown costs as part of the registration fee.  iv. A large part of the budget deficit that we had last year was due to the administration, not the students.  v. Likely attendance of the 60 students? Last year out of around 700 3L’s and LLM’s only 30 attended. So this year we are looking at 30 who would be covered under this resolution. But, everyone who attended was a graduating student.  vi. Is the price of grad ball a deterrent to attendance? The sponsors believe so.  v. Debates. The original resolution brought to the floor was that the amendment be that everyone, including student groups, could only reserve four hours out, inserts two hours, and exempts lobby of JG. A designation of quiet or talking rooms would help on this point.  iii. Debate on the amendment.  1. Some senators think that having a weekly cap on hours reserved in secret room groups is more important than a daily cap. 2. Having a four-hour block would make student services’ life easier. 3. The administration needs a $100 subsidy to attend grad ball to a large extent. 4. If we want to give a public interest subsidy the event should have been cheaper, or ticket prices should have been higher. This implies poor planning. This should have been done up front and not now. 1. Response: $14K is all that has been subsidized. xiv. Goodwill is needed in the Senate and people’s contributions ought not be minimized. Ad hominem attacks will not be tolerated. xv. This is an honest resolution that does what it says it does. Every expenditure of funds can be considered a subsidy, but this really is, and it is a commendable one. The dilemma the sponsors have shown is that half of the people who want to use the space may not be able to use the space because the Senate is already not funding the space. 3. Vote on the amended resolution: passes 29-10-7. 4. Room Reservations Resolution. a. Sponsors are Adam, Devora, Shawnda and Devora. b. Adam Sparks’ intro. i. The idea is to subsidize grad ball for non-student who will be carrying much less weight than others, seeing as grad ball is the chance for all students to gather together last one time.  ii. Last year there were concerns about the administrability of the measure. This can be pegged to the LRAP levels of students for ease, though.  iii. Since the administration? Multiple students attended the meeting, at which the administration initially indicated said it was not amenable to changing the new policy, but then showed signs that it would welcome guidance from Senate on a policy that would best serve the student body. The point is that there needs to be some moderation of who needs rooms. Also, the administration spoke to the E-board about this issue last week.  ii. If the concern before was abuse, how does this resolution protect against abuse? This would be run on an honor system. The abuse was not lying. There is no reason to assume this would occur now. c. Debate. i. This is a good system given our constraints.  ii. Amendment proposed resolution: takes four hours out, inserts two hours, exempts lobby of JG hall and L107 in Warren. 1. Amendment is seconded. Adam’s introduction of it: this amendment helps fight the potential for abuse that would be present under the original resolution. 2. Motion to table the amendment passes, so we are tabling this amendment and resuming debate on the original resolution. 3. There is feeling that four hours is too long of a block. Perhaps 2.5 or 3 would be an appropriate maximum. 4. A few concerns: one is that the time blocks are too long, and that these study groups will preclude student organizations from meeting. 5. Anything less than four hours is laughable. Being realistic, first year law students are not going to have four hours to attend a resolution debate on campus. This requires a minimum of four. vi. This is meant to be an ongoing and evolving process that can be revisited next fall. 1. Debate on the amendment. a. Vote on this amendment: the table passes, so we will have the A & K then debate on the amendment, divided into two parts. i. Q&A on the first portion of the amendment.  ii. Debate. 1. Some senators think there being a weekly cap on hours spent in reserved study rooms is more important than a daily cap. 2. Having a four-hour block will make study spaces’ life easier. 3. The honor system is about how students pick resources. 4. The point is that there are three basic problems, and asks the administration to meet us halfway on each of them.  c. Voting on the amendment: the amendment that would change the time block from four to two hours fails. f. Second part of the amendment would make it unlikely that anyone would reserve a room for a two hour meeting.  g. New amendment would add a fifth point to the proposal, only allowing student groups to reserve a room for a one week period.  h. The administration funds part of the graduation gown costs as part of the registration fee.  i. Adam’s intro: the large lecture halls should not be locked down by a small study group. This is purely to best utilize our space. ii. Q&A on the amendment. 1. How will these rooms play out in terms of student use? a. The administration committee of students will help on this point. b. Again, student services. 3. Vote on this amendment: the amendment passes. g. New amendment would add a fifth point to the proposal, only allowing student groups to reserve a room for a one week period.  h. The administration funds part of the graduation gown costs as part of the registration fee.  i. Adam’s intro: the large lecture halls should not be locked down by a small study group. This is purely to best utilize our space. ii. Q&A on the amendment. 1. How will these rooms play out in terms of student use? a. The administration committee of students will help on this point. b. Again, student services. 3. Vote on this amendment: the amendment passes. g. New amendment would add a fifth point to the proposal, only allowing student groups to reserve a room for a one week period.  h. The administration funds part of the graduation gown costs as part of the registration fee.
This Week at CLS
February 25 - March 2, 2008

Monday
• CareerServices/CCLS/SCL: “The Status of International Arbitration In China and Japan.” 12:15 - 1:15 PM; Harison Room - 2nd Floor, Faculty House.
• CareerServices: “Transitioning from a legal career to a non-legal career.” 4:00- 5:00 PM; JG Annex.
• Law & Economics Workshop: Vikrant Vig. 4:10 PM; JG Case Lounge.

Tuesday
• KCLMA: “Music Licensing Reform.” 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 101. *Pizza and soda.*
• StudentServices: “The Nuts and Bolts of Applying for a Clerkship at CLS.” 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 106.
• Koleinu: “Reflections on Immigrants and Immigration in Jewish Law.” 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 807. *Lunch.*
• CJAN/IMPACT: Felon Disenfranchisement Panel. 12:10 - 1:00 PM; JG 102.
• Feminist Legal Theory Workshop: Robin Morgan. 4:10 - 6:00 PM; JG Case Lounge
• YJA: Movie Screening, *When Kids Get Life.* 6:30 - 8:30 PM; JG 106. *Food.*
• MESO: Film Festival, *Paradise Now.* 6.30 - 9.00 PM; location TBA. *Popcorn and soft drinks.*

Wednesday
• CareerServices: “An Associate’s View on Practicing Law in Washington, DC.” 4:00 - 6:00 PM; Harison Room - 2nd floor, Faculty House.
• “Understanding Private Equity Transactions.” 6:00 - 8:00 PM; Drapkin Lounge. *Food and drink.*
• SALDF: Talk and Book Signing, *Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds about Animals and Food.* 7:00 - 9:00 PM; JG 103.
• Amnesty International/SIRR: Film Screening, *Lost Boys of Sudan.* 7:00 - 8:30 PM; JG 106. *Ethiopian food.*
• BLSA: Admitted Students Event. 8:00 - 11:00 PM; Lenfest Café.

Thursday
• 2008 PILF AUCTION. 7:00 - 10:00 PM; Lerner Hall Arledge Auditorium.

Friday
• *Calm before the storm.*

Saturday
• SENATE: BARRISTERS’ BALL 2008. 9:00 PM - 2:00 AM; Lerner Hall Arledge Auditorium.

Sunday
• *We’ve had enough fun for a spell.*

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 10 am on Thursday, the week BEFORE your event.  [http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform](http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform).