Official Senate Announcements

Message from the President: Update on Response to Hate Incidents

As a result of the events of the past couple of weeks, specifically the incident reported in Teachers College last Tuesday, the Senate sent emails to Deans Schizer, Greenberg-Kobrin and Liebman urging them to serve as our liaison with the University and encourage them to inform students when incidents of this nature occur. We also asked them to take proactive steps to ensure law students feel safe in our building and on the surrounding campus. The Senate Executive Board is meeting with Dean Liebman on Monday to discuss these issues and actions the law school plans to take.

We also emailed James McShane, VP of Public Safety, and President Bollinger with similar requests. I attended a meeting with President Bollinger and leaders of various campus organizations Wednesday afternoon. At the meeting, Bollinger gave students an opportunity to voice their opinions and he answered some questions. He explained that because Teachers College is a separate institution with its own President and Board of Trustees, the University wanted to follow their lead and that was the cause of the delayed response. Bollinger offered to hold conversations discussing specific topics that students want to hear more about (e.g. Manhattanville, Diversity Initiative, and various ethnic studies institutes).

After Bollinger left, several student leaders remained in the room and discussed next steps. The general feeling was that this would be the opportune time to generate a list of issues students would like to address. We came up with a list and plan to meet on Monday. If there are any issues that you would like the university to address, please email me at tk2103@columbia.edu and I will add them to the list for Monday’s meeting.

Various student groups, colleges and governing bodies are hosting events to inform and assist students during this time. I encourage you to attend any and all of these events. The Office of Multicultural Affairs at Barnard will host several lunch-time drop in discussions on Monday, October 15, Tuesday, October 16, and Friday, October 19 in the Lewis Parlor in Brooks Hall. On Tuesday, October 16, 6pm to 8pm in JG106, the Student Senate hosts “Freedom of Speech in an Academic Setting.”

Student Association is meeting on Tuesday 8pm to 10pm in Lerner 568 and open their meeting to the entire community. The Black Student Organization is organizing an open forum. Teachers College is also organizing a community meeting. Please check the Senate bulletin board for updates on these events. Lastly, Counseling and Psychological Services also requested that I remind you that they are an available resource and urge you to come to their office in Lerner Hall.

When events like those of the past week occur, it gives us an opportunity to reflect and reevaluate. We hope that similar incidents do not occur in the law school and are working towards prevention through education. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us at senate@law.columbia.edu.

- Tope K. Yusuf ’08

Senate Presents: “Free Speech in an Academic Setting”

In an effort to utilize the law school’s unique resources to promote dialogue and debate in a respectful, yet thought-provoking forum, the Student Senate has organized a panel discussion with members of the Law faculty to examine what limits, if any, there are or should be to free speech in an academic setting. The event will be this Tuesday, October 16th, from 6 to 8 pm, in JGH 106. Contact senate@law.columbia.edu with questions.

Senator Workshop: How to Succeed on a Law School Exam

The Student Senate and BAR/BRI bring you a program helpful for all students. Prof. Roger Schechter of GW Law School will lead this discussion in JGH 104 on Thursday, October 18th, at 6 pm.

Holiday Cheer

Fall has arrived, and with the turning of the leaves comes delightful festivities. Student Senate is proud to contribute to the celebrations.

Inter-Law School Halloween Masquerade (10/31)
Come celebrate All Hallow’s Eve with our friends from NYLS, Fordham, Cardozo, NYU, and Pace, at Public House, starting at 9 pm. This costume party will be rockin’ with a DJ, drink specials, and no cover. Public House is at 140 E. 41st St, between Lexington and 3rd Ave, a block from Grand Central. Stay tuned for details on pre-party events here at CLS!

Thanksgiving Dinner (11/22)
Staying in NYC for Thanksgiving? Want to have a great Thanksgiving dinner?

(continued on page 3)
The CLS Black Letter

A Student Senate Publication
Week of October 14, 2007

Vol. I, Iss. 7

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/.

Executive Board
Tope Yusuuf, President
Dan Y. Shin, Vice President
Max Miller, Treasurer
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Kathrin Schwesinger, Parliamentarian

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Charlotte Lewis
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Simrin Parmar
Charlotte Lewis

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L. I. M. J. S. D.
Alison McMillan
Thomas Chong
Yi-Ching Su

* University Senator
** ABA Representative

Senate Business

The full Student Senate typically meets every other Tuesday at 9:00 PM in JGH 105. Meetings are open to the entire student body. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 16.

Agenda for the October 16, 2007, Senate Meeting
I. Roll Call
II. Visit by Deans Schizer and Greenberg-Kobrin
III. Officer Reports
IV. Hate speech/hate crimes response update
V. Announcements
VI. Adjourn

Minutes of Student Senate October 9, 2007, meeting
I. Call to Order at 9:00 PM
II. Roll Call
III. Officer Reports
   A. President: Student issues committee is in touch with Baribi and will be bringing Professor Schetter in on October 18th 6pm JG104 for “How to Succeed on Law School Exams.” Planning another program with Glannon for October. November 6th – blood drive – Jason Lear is in charge, if you want to help contact him. Student Activities Council met last Friday and reviewed communications and coordination issues. Also discussed event dates for student organizations hoping to create less scheduling conflict. Student Health Advisory Council is a university-wide council. If you’re interested in serving please let Tope know. Google groups – not everyone has signed up. If you have not, please do so ASAP so we can convert from yahoo to google. E-board received an e-mail from a senator mentioning the hate incident at SIPA. Also, TC incident was brought to our attention late this afternoon. Senator response? Incorporate into Ahmendinejad-response forum. Biggest issue is the lack of information by university…many people is this the first they are hearing about both incidents. SIPA occurred last week of September and TC was earlier this morning. University should send more information out and it should not be left to different student groups or the Spectator to announce. If Senate is compelled to see something, it may be a good idea to draft a statement expressing Senate’s position against hate on campus and promoting solidarity with victims. Statement should also clarify what happened in each incident. University administration should be the body to clarify and publish incident reports – it is not Senate’s job or position. Security concerns – hard to believe that we are carded to enter each building, and yet people are able to hang nooses up on professor’s doors. Concern that student statement may lead to perpetrator satisfaction. Best message we can send is a unified one to the administration urging vigilance. What about publicizing hate crime policy if we have one? B. VP: Next Wednesday there will be a Scrabble® tournament – if you have a board, please contact Dan Shin to lend it to this event. Halloween party will be held on October 31st at Public House in midtown, with all of the other Manhattan law schools! Pre-party will be held on campus at 6:30 P.M. with food, drinks, and a costume contest. Possibility of coordinating with BLSA Early November – Iron-Chef-style cooking competition. Thanksgiving dinner – please promote via word of mouth. C. Treasurer: Thanks to everyone for passing the budget at the last meeting! We had no appeals on the budget, but we do have several ad hoc requests come in. D. Secretary: Web site – met with Ben Bricker to discuss changes and working with IT to gain access and make changes. Free speech panel – hoping to confirm more professors and incorporate recent hate incidents. Clothing/food drives – working with organizations right now, will finalize by next week. E. Parl.: Putting outlines up on – we are looking for a Senator to assist with the posting of outlines. This Senator would chair a committee to solicit and post outlines. Elliott Ash agrees to chair.

IV. Committee Reports
   A. Graduation: we received info from committee members that will help inform the planning and execution of graduation. Max should expect the budget shortly. B. Housing: mat with last year’s chair and also emailed Elizabeth Grainger for a meeting to discuss what to do. C. IT: meeting with Franz is in the works. On the agenda: getting law.columbia.edu e-mail addresses; streamlining the various passwords for law portals; making the law school website more user-friendly. Would people be interested in getting a permanent law.columbia.edu address, which would survive graduation? Straw poll: Yes. D. University Senate: John is at a meeting tonight regarding the TC incident and will report back. E. Faculty Committees: Tope spoke with chair of Student Services committee, who asked that Senate come up with a prioritized to-do list. Ideas: Bring the folders back. Before last year, each student had individual file folders; this year, they are grouped by last name. The full F.C. will meet with last year’s chair and also emailed Elizabeth Grainger for a meeting to discuss what to do. C. IT: meeting with Franz is in the works. On the agenda: getting law.columbia.edu e-mail addresses; streamlining the various passwords for law portals; making the law school website more user-friendly. Would people be interested in getting a permanent law.columbia.edu address, which would survive graduation? Straw poll: Yes. D. University Senate: John is at a meeting tonight regarding the TC incident and will report back. E. Faculty Committees: Tope spoke with chair of Student Services committee, who asked that Senate come up with a prioritized to-do list. Ideas: Bring the folders back. Before last year, each student had individual file folders; this year, they are grouped by last name. The full F.C. will meet with last year’s chair and also emailed Elizabeth Grainger for a meeting to discuss what to do. C. IT: meeting with Franz is in the works. On the agenda: getting law.columbia.edu e-mail addresses; streamlining the various passwords for law portals; making the law school website more user-friendly. Would people be interested in getting a permanent law.columbia.edu address, which would survive graduation? Straw poll: Yes. E. Faculty Committees: Tope spoke with chair of Student Services committee, who asked that Senate come up with a prioritized to-do list. Ideas: Bring the folders back. Before last year, each student had individual file folders; this year, they are grouped by last name. The full F.C. will meet with last year’s chair and also emailed Elizabeth Grainger for a meeting to discuss what to do. C. IT: meeting with Franz is in the works. On the agenda: getting law.columbia.edu e-mail addresses; streamlining the various passwords for law portals; making the law school website more user-friendly. Would people be interested in getting a permanent law.columbia.edu address, which would survive graduation? Straw poll: Yes. E. Faculty Committees: Tope spoke with chair of Student Services committee, who asked that Senate come up with a prioritized to-do list. Ideas: Bring the folders back. Before last year, each student had individual file folders; this year, they are grouped by last name. The full F.C. will meet with last year’s chair and also emailed Elizabeth Grainger for a meeting to discuss what to do. C. IT: meeting with Franz is in the works. On the agenda: getting law.columbia.edu e-mail addresses; streamlining the various passwords for law portals; making the law school website more user-friendly. Would people be interested in getting a permanent law.columbia.edu address, which would survive graduation? Straw poll: Yes. E. Faculty Committees: Tope spoke with chair of Student Services committee, who asked that Senate come up with a prioritized to-do list. Ideas: Bring the folders back. Before last year, each student had individual file folders; this year, they are grouped by last name. The full F.C. will meet with last year’s chair and also emailed Elizabeth Grainger for a meeting to discuss what to do. C. IT: meeting with Franz is in the works. On the agenda: getting law.columbia.edu e-mail addresses; streamlining the various passwords for law portals; making the law school website more user-friendly. Would people be interested in getting a permanent law.columbia.edu address, which would survive graduation? Straw poll: Yes.

End of Meeting
Holiday Cheer (continued from p. 1)

for the Annual CLS Thanksgiving Dinner! For those students who want to contribute to the community on this special day, Student Senate is organizing a Thanksgiving trip to a local soup kitchen just before the dinner. There will be a small contribution for the dinner; however we will waive that if you will also be participating in the community service project. Please RSVP to dys2101@columbia.edu by Monday November 5, for the dinner and/or community service project. Spouses, partners, and children are welcome, so please include those folks when you RSVP.

Scrabble Tournament Wednesday!
The Student Senate brings you Scrabble Tournament 2007 on Wed., 10/17, at 7:30 pm in Lenfest Cafe. Spouses and partners of CLS students are eligible to play in this family-friendly event. Refreshments served. Prizes for top scores! Register by e-mailing meredith.uhl@gmail.com by 10/16.

Senate Elects New ABA Rep
3L Senator Adam Sparks was elected unanimously by the Student Senate at its October 9th meeting to the position of American Bar Association Representative.

News & Notes

New ID Distribution Coming Soon. As you may know, the University is switching to a new security system, which means that all faculty, staff, and students will be issued new ID cards. The “re-carding” will take place from October 15 through November 16, and for your convenience, CLS Student Services is arranging to distribute cards to law students in the lobby of William and June Warren Hall according to a schedule organized by last name. Student Services will be e-mailing students this week with the distribution schedule. If you cannot comply with the schedule, you will be able to pick up your card at Student Services on the fifth floor of Big Warren beginning at a to-be-announced later date.

As part of the change in the security system, swipe-card readers on all campuses are being replaced by “contactless” readers. In order to obtain your new card you must present and turn in your old card. If you have lost your old card you must show a government issued ID. Please be aware that you must pick up your card by November 16, 2006. After that date, old cards will no longer work.

Breast Cancer Awareness Bake Sale. October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Join Columbia Colleges Against Cancer, AMSA, and the Blue Key Society on the Morningside Heights campuses of Columbia University and Barnard College where you can send caring messages to loved ones, enjoy delicious baked goods, purchase t-shirts, and participate in a raffle to win great prizes. All Proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society. Thursday, October 18th, 11 am to 3 pm, College Walk and Lehman Walkway. For more information on this event and upcoming awareness events please visit www.columbia.edu/cu/cac.

Arts Law Summer Internships Brown Bag Lunch. The Kernochan Center for Law, Media & the Arts invites all first year students to a presentation on summer internship opportunities in the arts. Learn how you can spend this summer working at a nonprofit arts organization in New York, Washington DC, Los Angeles or San Francisco. In the past few summers, students have interned at WNET, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, NPR and the San Francisco City Attorney's office, among other places. Come hear from last year's interns and learn about this year's application process. Room 304, Jerome Greene Hall, October 24 at 12:10 pm. Contact Philippa Loengard for more information.

If you have a news item that everyone should know about, please email senate@law.columbia.edu.
This Week at CLS  
October 15 - 21, 2007

Monday
- DVP: Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System. 12:15 PM; JG 546.

Tuesday
- Student Senate: “Free Speech in an Academic Setting,” Faculty Panel Discussion. 6:00 - 8:00 PM; JG 106.

Wednesday
- HRI Speaker Series: Tutu Alicante, Equatorial Guinea Rights and Democracy Network. 12:20 - 1:20 PM; JG 646.
- Panel Discussion: “Immigration Ordinances: Lozano v. Hazleton and Beyond.” 6:00 - 8:00 PM; JG 104.
- Student Senate: Scrabble Tournament. 7:30 - 9:30 PM, JG Lenfest Café. Please RSVP to meredith.uhl@gmail.com by 10/16.

Thursday
- Study Abroad Info Session: Hungary (Central European University). 12:30pm; WJWH 101.
- Society for Law, Science and Technology: Happy Hour. 5:00 - 7:00 PM; Radio Perfecto.
- Student Senate Workshop: “How to Succeed on a Law School Exam.” 6:00 - 7:30 PM; JG 104.
- BLSA Alumni Reception. 7:00 - 9:00 PM; JG Lenfest Café.
- SIRR: “Assaulted Dream,” Documentary Film Screening plus Q&A with the Director. 7:00 - 11:00 PM; JG 101.

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
- All quiet on the weekend front.

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. http://www.law.columbia.edu/current_student/studentorgs_abc/studentorgevent/eventform