Schizer Speaks to Senate

On Monday, November 17, Dean Schizer took a bit of time to speak with the Student Senate. What follows is a summary of his remarks and the Senate general meeting that followed it, edited with humor because finals are approaching and, well...we need it. The truth appears in black; all kinds of farcical nonsense appears in pink.

Dean Schizer began by noting that the number of applications to Columbia Law School were significantly higher this year, that new faculty hires were progressing well, and that one must look carefully for tarantulas when buying supermarket bananas. He also mentioned that the guaranteed summer public interest funding program had been a great success and that he hopes its utilization will rise in upcoming years. (Editorial note: with the way the economy is approaching and, well…we need it.)

The truth appears in black; all kinds of farcical nonsense appears in pink.

Dean Schizer reported that CLS had a third-straight record year of fundraising, with $38 million raised. Potential uses for the extra money may include hot tubs on the 9th floor, a lazy river connecting Jerome Greene to Big Warren, a shared-use Lamborghini Gallardo for 3Ls, or a Pinkberry to replace Lenfest Café. (Editorial note: the first three ideas are, admittedly, bad. The last one, though…pretty please?)

Dean Schizer acknowledged it was unfortunate that most students found out about recent staff changes in Career Services through non-Columbia media outlets, but touched upon the administration’s ongoing commitment to improving the department. The administration hopes to integrate student feedback into that process. Despite wild exhortations from many senators, however, prospects for hiring Sarah Palin seem bleak at best.

That more or less ended the Schizer report.

The Senate at large went on to have its own discussion about moving to a pass/fail system. An ad-hoc committee has been appointed to review the issue looking at a number of alternatives such as selective pass/fails, high-pass / low-pass classes, and so on. The senate finally reached the conclusion that everyone should just get a scratch-n-sniff sticker on their exam and call it a night. Hilarity would ensue when the hiring partner from Cravath looks at you and says, “So, I see your grade in Contracts was…strawberry. Very nice.”

A fiery debate over the future of the “Underground Keg” ensued when members of the senate suggested that it should no longer be “underground.” The way it works now is that a keg is hidden somewhere in the law school on Thursday after classes, and its location is supposed to be spread through word-of-mouth. This has met with varying degrees of success attributable to a wide variety of factors. A group of senators raised the idea of having the keg no longer be secret, but, well, not-secret. This proposal was met with fierce opposition from those who would prefer to keep it underground.

One particularly ornery senator argued further in the other direction, specifically that the underground keg ought actually to be buried underground every week, and that shovels and a treasure map ought to be hidden. Law students would pair up in teams of two and call themselves the Red Jaguars, Blue Barracudas, Purple Parrots and so forth. The teams of two would attempt to find and dig up the underground keg while avoiding being caught by the temple guardians. After everyone got tired of talking, the issue was withdrawn (parliamentary speak for “nevermind”) so that Graduation Committee (who are currently in charge of the program) has time to discuss the issue on its own before a formal vote is taken.

Finally, it’s been a tumultuous semester for the Black Letter, with our reorganization in September, our change in format thereafter, and the continuous reworking of, well, everything. We hope you’ve enjoyed our little product and hope you’ll come back for more next semester. Good luck with finals. Try not to get eaten by a polar bear over break.
This Week At CLS: November 24-30, 2008

Monday

- Post-Mortem on the 2008 Election, Juliet Eilperin, Washington Post. 12:00 - 1:30 PM; JG Case Lounge. Lunch provided.
- CPS Workshop for Couples. 5:15 - 6:45 PM; Lerner Hall. E-mail pya2120@columbia.edu or wg31@columbia.edu to register or with questions.

Tuesday

- CPIL Pro Bono Brown Bag: NYC Law Department for Spring and Summer Pro Bono Opportunities. 12:10 - 1:15 PM; WJW 600.

Thursday

- Student Senate: Thanksgiving Volunteering. RSVP to william.leavitt@law.columbia.edu.
- Student Senate: Thanksgiving Dinner. RSVP to william.leavitt@law.columbia.edu.

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.


The 2008-2009 Student Senate

Executive Board
Max Miller, President
William Leavitt, Vice President
L. David Peters, Treasurer
Jessica Isokawa, Secretary
Benjamin Brickner, Parliamentarian

Class of 2009
Rajiv Batra
Stephen Chu
Stephen Cockrell
Dustin Crawford
Gabe Gershowitz
Brian Goldberg
Craig Greiwe
Jason Lear
Amy Maffucci
Scott McJannet
Mikhaile Savary
Kathrin Schweisinger

Class of 2010
Dan Y. Shin (University Senator)
Eliott Bhandari
Max Dubin
Yael Fischer
Dimia Fogam
Ryan McDevitt
Meredith Uhl
Eric Wolkooff
Steven Wu

Class of 2011
Mike Anderson
Kevin Boroumand
Lauren Bragin

LL.M./J.S.D.
Celine Assaf (LL.M.)
Patryk Labuda (LL.M.)
Peter Locehore (LL.M.)
Mathias Oleskow (LL.M.)
Hiram Pagano Filho (LL.M.)

Announcement: The next general Senate meeting will be held on Monday, December 1st at 9:15 p.m. in JG 105. Vice President Will Leavitt has decided to step down from the Senate Executive Board. The general meeting will be preceded by a special meeting to elect a Vice President for the remainder of the 2008-2009 year.