



Official Senate Announcements

Clothing Drive Brings in a Haul! The Student Senate’s November clothing drive literally brought in tons of clothing—okay, maybe not quite 2,000 pounds, but eight oversized boxes could not contain the generosity of CLS students. The fruits of the month-long drive include suits that will assist needy members of our community looking for jobs. All the clothing is going to Goodwill and to Dress for Success, which collects interview-appropriate business clothing. As for the most generous class, the J.D. class of 2008 proved that they are the most philanthropic (or at least the ones with the most clothes they no longer need), surpassing the efforts of the 1Ls, 2Ls, and LLMs.



Student Activities Council Meets Again. Representatives from nearly every recognized CLS student groups gathered once again on Friday, November 30th, to discuss various issues and coordinate event planning for next semester. Among other things, ideas on how to improve student leader training were shared; the spring budget allocations process was discussed, and an update on Senate efforts to ensure that prime tabling space is reserved for student groups was presented.

Important Second Semester Dates. Save March 8, 2008, for Barristers’ Ball! And for all you LLMs and 3Ls, Graduation Ball will take place on May 18, 2008. Two other Senate events that everyone may want to put on your calendars include a self-defense class in late January and a student talent show in early February.

Last Issue for Fall 2007. This will be the final edition of *The CLS Black Letter* for the semester. Thanks to the readers who make this all worth while! In order to serve you better next semester, we hope that you will send us feedback (or better yet, your own contributions) by emailing CLSBBlackLetter@gmail.com.

News & Notes



Stressed about finals? Need a study guide? Come to the **PILF bookstore** this week to buy study guides for only \$10 each! It will be open **Monday through Wednesday**, from **11 am to 2 pm**. The PILF bookstore is located in the basement of Faculty House (http://www.columbia.edu/about_columbia/map/faculty_house.html), behind Jerome Greene Annex. PILF accepts ONLY cash and checks—NO credit cards.

Come early to ensure your study guides will still be there! Also, don't forget to **donate your books** when you're done with them! The dropbox is located just outside JGH 106.

In celebration of **Channukah**, there will be nightly Menorah lightings on **Low Plaza**, including one featuring **Dean David Schizer** on the first night of the holiday! On each of the eight nights, starting this Tuesday, the Menorah will be lit, and latkes (hot potato pancakes), doughnuts, and hot cider will be served. The festivities begin **December 4th at 5 pm**.

SIPA cordially invites you to “Russia and The Future of European Energy Security.” **Gerhard Schröder**, former Chancellor of Germany, will present the Gabriel Silver Memorial Lecture on Monday, **December 10th**, at **6:00 pm** in **Low Library**. You can register at: http://sipa.columbia.edu/silver_lecture/register.html.

If you have a news item that everyone should know about, please email senate@law.columbia.edu.

READER POLL

Who would you like to see profiled in future “Get to Know Your CLS” columns?

To submit your choices, please visit http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=uRFRcv_2f1ktvD3uRr71C0rw_3d_3



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 Yusuf, President
Dan Y. Shin, Vice President
Max Miller, Treasurer
Gabriel Gershowitz, Secretary
Kathrin Schwesinger, Parliamentarian

Class of 2008

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Aden Allen
Anne-Carmene Almonord
Zahra Egal
Arjun Garg
Shawndra Jones
John K. Johnson *
Saad Khanani
Charlotte Lewis
Tiffany Meriweather
Simrin Parmar
Ashley Scott
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Jessica Isokawa
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Mojoyin Onijala
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Noah Solowiejczyk
Ernesto Velazquez

L.L.M./J.S.D.

Frank Hang
Eelco Keij
Kirstin Nijburg
Francesco Pezone
Ke Zhu

* University Senator

** ABA Representative



Senate Business

The full Student Senate typically meets every other Tuesday at 9:00 PM in JGH 105. Meetings are generally open to the entire student body. The final meeting of the semester was held this past Tuesday, November 27.

Minutes for the November 27 Senate Meeting

I. Call to Order at 9:00 pm. II. Roll Call. III. Senators Survey. III. Officer Reports

a. President i. Friday November 16, Provosts meeting regarding expansion and hunger strike. On the academic end, hunger strikers' goals in many ways dovetail with university plans, but waiting on final approval from faculty; on Manhattanville, a vote passed two days ago and it now moves to the next phase. Also, next Friday Tope is meeting with the Student Outreach Coordinator, who wants to learn more about law students' views on Manhattanville. One issue for law students is obtaining more classroom space. Contact Tope with other suggestions. ii. Tope also attended a meeting on university student services, including registration, IT, financial aid, and others. She forwarded law student issues to them, including unifying the passwords across multiple portals, increasing international student loan options, language class availability, and making degree audit services available online for law students. iii. Transition from Dean Liebman to MGK: E-board met with both of them to wrap up loose ends with Dean Liebman and smoothly transition back to working with MGK. 1. Lenfest Café – MGK was under impression that progress was going to be made and is following up on this. Specifics include bringing back soda fountains, power outlets, changing the food options, expanding the hours. 2. In terms of coffee on the fifth floor of WJWH, they switched to Fair Trade coffee at no additional cost. 3. Coffee in JG seems unlikely, because the reason Student Services has coffee at their office is to draw students in. Alternatives may be worked into the remodeling of Lenfest Café. 4. Student-faculty lunches – it seems that Mondays and Wednesdays next semester will be possible days to hold these. Details are still being worked out, but this initiative is going forward. 5. Rooms 728 and 722 will hopefully be made available for study groups during finals time. 6. Security issue: having someone stationed at the desk in JG while the building is open or even until midnight is not within the available budget. Senate can pass a resolution compelling the administration to take action on increasing security, but they would still have to find funds. 7. Tope has been working with undergraduate student leaders and graduate leaders, particularly in following up on the meeting with Pres. Bollinger. They have drafted a letter, which asks for transparency and the establishment of definitive plans on the part of the university administration. 8. Student Activity Council is meeting this Friday at 12:30. Treasurer Max Miller will explain how to prepare your

(“Minutes” continued on page 3)

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



The CLS Black Letter



A Student Senate Publication

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Minutes (continued from page 2)

student group budgets for next semester and more. 9. Day Out Against Hate – both the Senate and Student Services sent e-mails out about this today. Ehi Oviyasu has prepared a petition, which will be circulated in connection with the Day. She will be tabling tomorrow from 12-4 and needs volunteers from 2:30-4:00. Gabe will table from 3-4, and Larue and Sharmila can help from 2:30-3. 10. LLM Senators circulated two petitions to the LLM class, one regarding the introductory class in American law they have to take, and one regarding housing problems LLM's face. 11. Guide to Columbia – Meredith working on Public Interest and Career Services chapters. 12. Mentorship Program for 1L's is being improved for next year Jennifer Clark & John Johnson working with Student Services. 13. LLM/JD community-building initiative: MESO project is culminating in initial event this Friday, and they are hoping many JD's show up! **b. VP.** i. Last big event was thanksgiving. Over 30 people participated in the community service project this time, some of whom did not attend the dinner which was free for service participants. 45 people attended the dinner @ Radio Perfecto, which went very well. ii. Social committee event on the last morning of 1L classes: Bagels and Brownies! This will be on Dec. 5th. iii. Iron chef had 60 participants was a very successful event. iv. Health services issues should be communicated to Dan before Friday. **c. Treasurer.** i. Budget is looking good for the year. Most expenses come second semester, though. Currently, we have \$129,000 left for the rest of the year, but this includes Barrister's Ball, and Grad Ball. We have already paid off last year's debt, and even after doing that, we have \$3,000 left for this semester. We could go up to \$15,000 in debt for the semester, but we will not have to. ii. Ad hoc requests: 1. \$120 for CRLS 2. De Vinimus one event allocated money the other was not. 3. \$400 for ACS/Fed Soc Quizzo 4. Christian Legal Society allocated \$235 for a movie screening event. **d. Secretary.** i. Faculty advising system discussion with Liebman & MGK there are some faculty discussions taking place ii. Clothing drive (need help getting clothing to Senate office) iii. Next semester: NY Cares Day and Columbia community outreach. Also, canned food drive. **e. Parliamentarian.** Revised recognition guidelines later on agenda. **IV. Committee Reports.** a. Graduation – Grad ball and its speaker are looking good. Party this Thursday for graduating students, don't forget to pick up your wristbands! **b. Housing** – survey is now complete, more than 300 people responded. They are analyzing results now, and putting list of issues together to discuss with housing liaison. **c. IT** – meeting will be scheduled in the new year. **d. University Senate.** i. Hunger strike was because of Core Requirements focus on Western thought, Office of Multicultural Affairs and its needed expansion, concerns regarding recent hateful incidents on campus, and also Manhattanville expansion and some students' reservations regarding it. Note that the university seemed to make concessions in response, which can be viewed as concerning. Does hunger strike take relevance away from formal student government and the process it represents? ii. JKJ is meeting with Spectator writers on Friday, to talk about the lack of coverage of graduate events. Let John know if you believe this issue is relevant. iii. A University Senate representative spoke at the recent MTA Hearing. **e. Faculty Committees** i. Advisory Committee Elliott Ash received letter in group mailbox and will send an e-mail to the Senate listserv summarizing it ii. Comparative/International Law committee did meet but Esha was the only student member who attended meeting. Discussion of partnerships currently in development for the Global Governance Exchange program being planned. There are several plans in the works with law schools in Paris, London, Amsterdam, and China which should take more concrete shape in the next several months. They are still in talks so probably China won't be a go until fall 2009. iii. Curriculum committee has met twice. At the first meeting, Legal Practice Workshop was discussed; student representatives gave their input, and committee was receptive. In terms of the first year electives, the faculty does take the evaluations very seriously. Committee reviewed the past two years' reviews and discussed them. Please communicate with committee members any issues you have regarding curriculum. The committee is also planning to hold a forum for all 2L's and 3L's regarding the curriculum's strengths and weaknesses, e.g., the need for more environmental law professors. Seminars were also discussed. They questioned whether the 2-credit and 3-credit breakdown and whether that makes sense. Craig's suggestion about the work-life balance for various courses was also brought up, but the committee seemed to find this type of initiative unfeasible. They did ask the student reps to write up a report about the Senate's discussion and to present it to Chair Barbara Schatz. iv. IT – they met last week. Two views in tension: internal and external needs. Profs focus on internal needs for website, whereas Dean Schizer is pushing the web person to focus on making it a "brochure." A new hire will join the IT team, focusing on making needed website changes. It should take 3 months to hire someone due to Columbia's hiring process, so it will be a while before changes are effected. v. Resources and Development – the committee met on Nov. 15th. This committee deals with the law school's finances. Dean Schizer has been trying to increase the law school's support for public interest work, and the school recently started guaranteeing summer funding for public interest work. The next step is improving the LRAP (loan repayment) program for public interest jobs. We currently lag as against our peer schools. Senator Arjun Garg sent around an e-mail summarizing the relevant data. Applicants look at this information and we need to improve. Example: the income threshold at CLS is \$25,000; at NYU, Yale, and Stanford, it is at least \$45K. Committee proposed doubling the CLS threshold to \$50K, which would cost around \$1 million per year. The proposal is not finalized yet, but it seemed to be moving forward. Dean Schizer also told the committee how great the fundraising efforts are going: we are up from \$17 million/year, to around \$36 million/year. This happened via more large gifts (\$500K+), fundraising at alumni reunions, and outreach to young alumni. 1. Issues/responses from Senators a. PILF helps to guarantee summer funding and so the administration should not take all the credit b. Miscommunication between different parts of the administration: one Senator was told that there was no income threshold at an admissions seminar. c. Where is the extra money going to come from? vi. Student Services committee met Nov. 7th, and much of the discussion focused on faculty advising and mentorship. They are almost certain that classes will begin next year at 9 A.M. and this will allow a full lunch hour. There was also a discussion of course evaluations and ways that the system can be improved. 1. Last year's Senate debated whether people should be required to fill out course evaluations before they could receive their grades. This could be something to discuss again. **V. MTA update from David Peters:** David attended a meeting in the Bronx, and everyone there spoke against the fare increase. David spoke to the pressures on students' budgets. While the fares in general have been frozen, there has been no special action regarding student fares. **VI. Recognition Guidelines.** a. We are considering Section E at page 5. This section is in response to a memorandum the Senate passed last year, to fill the gap that exists that if a student group ceases to exist in terms of dealing with its finances. b. Q&A – none c. Debate – none. d. Vote – Senator Shin calls for consent, and the recognition guideline changes passes unanimously **VII. Announcements.** a. This is our last meeting of the semester. Thanks everyone for your hard work this semester! b. As of now, our meeting time for next semester will remain the same. If it seems like the present time will not work, after schedules are released, we will determine a better time. c. The importance of receipts – give Max Miller your receipts so we can accurately track our expenses. **VIII. Adjourn at 10:08 P.M.**



This Week at CLS December 3 - 9, 2007

Monday

- CLWA: Study Break. 8 - 9 PM; Lenfest Café. *Massages provided.*

Tuesday

- *Nothing doing.*

Wednesday (Last Day of 1L Classes!)

- CCLS Lecture: "China Modernizes: Threat to the West or Model for the Rest?" Professor Randall Peerenboom. 12:15 PM; JG 701. *Lunch provided.*
- SIRR Study Break: Happy Hour. 5 - 7 PM, Radio Perfecto.
- "Rebellious Lawyers: The Lawyer's Movement in Pakistan and its Ramifications," Professor Osama Siddique. 6 PM; JG 103.
- SIRR/CRLS/NLG Study Break: Film Screening of *Fast Food Nation*. 7 PM; JG 107. *Dinner provided.*
- APALSA: Study Break. 7 - 9 PM; Lenfest Café. *Food provided.*

Thursday

- University Seminar: "Power, Gender and Eugenics: Critical Discourse on Disabled Identities," Profs. Michael Rembis & Suzanne Goldberg. 10 AM - 12 PM; 555 Lerner. *RSVP to dsseminar@gmail.com by December 3, 2007.*

Friday

- Madrigals and Polyphony. 12:15-1:15 PM; JG 501.
- CCLS: Discussion (in Chinese) with Pu Zhiqiang. 12:30 PM; JG 701. *Lunch provided.*

Saturday & Sunday

- *Your event here!*

GOOD LUCK WITH FINALS, EVERYONE!!!!

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