MEMORANDUM
TO: Dean David Schizer, Dean Michelle Greenberg-Kobrin, Marta Ricardo, et al.
FROM: Columbia University School of Law Student Senate
DATE: February 16, 2008

On Monday, February 11, 2008, at the regular meeting of the Student Senate, a “Resolution To Express Support for the Employment of a Receptionist in the Lobby of Jerome Greene Hall” was passed by a vote of 36-2-3.

In addition to the text of the resolution, several important points for consideration were brought up by senators over the course of the debate.

One point that was raised by several senators was the possibility of making this a work-study position, in order to make the position more cost-effective for the school. Concerns over costs were discussed during consideration of the resolution, and it was felt that this approach might be a means to alleviate those concerns. Students are also generally already familiar with the various organizations, buildings and events that are often happening at the law school.

Another point raised during debate that was not touched upon directly in the text of the resolution was that the receptionist could serve as another means of making the Law School, and by extension the University, a more engaged member of the larger community around us. By empowering the receptionist with knowledge of relevant legal resources, the role could serve as a valuable point of contact to our local neighbors who may from time to time enter the halls of our institution seeking legal counsel for the real-world problems they face. Instead of finding a bewildering array of atomized and largely ignorant students, they will encounter a friendly face of the institution who can point them towards the appropriate avenues for assistance.

In addition, we hope to see this position imbued with the ability to quickly access security services when necessary and to be completely informed on all the day’s events in the various law school buildings, so as to be able to readily direct visitors and students seeking particular functions.