Candidacy Statement for Craig Greiwe

I’m running for President because now is the time for big, dynamic change. Now is the time to stop waiting and to start doing—to take charge of our own experience at CLS.

Student Senate has accomplished much, but progress has been measured. We have gotten out of debt and passed resolutions, but now is the time for much more. Now is the time for significant positive change—a change I can and want to lead not just among Senate, but among the school as a whole. A change I believe I, more than any other candidate, have the experience, determination, and energy to lead.

You saw it at Deans’ Cup—it is possible to inspire unity and spirit in our classmates. But this is about more than just throwing events. This is about institutionalizing a commitment to our students across the board in ways that have never been done before, in ways that will ensure that everyone feels a part of a real community. This isn’t about platitudes; this is about action.

It can be done. We will prevent 1Ls from falling apart as they transition to upper class. We will prevent burnout in 2Ls, and bitterness and disconnect in 3Ls. And we will get active, vibrant participation from professors and administration not just in classrooms but in our lives. We can and we will…but not without dynamic, exciting, and energetic leadership.

With me as Senate President, we can truly work together to turn a corner and effect incredible change. This is the time to make it happen. And I know how to do it, with your help. I know how to build coalitions and how to persevere through challenges. I know how to bring people together, and those who have actually worked with me can attest to that. I have done it with Deans’ Cup, CalSoc, CSIL, EASLS, the Student Handbook; and now, I can do it with you and Student Senate.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR REAL CHANGE. Now is the time to make things happen. Together, we can stop waiting for the school else to do it for us and start doing it ourselves. It’s going to take a lot of work and energy, but we are up for the challenge together. We can do more than pass resolutions and make speeches—we can change things for the better. And as President, I will ensure that we do. I can and will lead the transformation we’ve wanted to be a part of since we got here. So let’s do it together! Let’s get it done!
Max Miller Candidacy Statement

Senate:
For the past two years, I’ve served the student body with pride. Now, I’d like to continue that service as President of the Senate. If elected, I promise to bring my leadership and communication skills to the Senate to ensure that our 2008-2009 session is one that is efficient and effective.

Leadership

As Treasurer, I faced the difficult situation of an unprecedented Senate debt. In that position, I had to balance our need to maintain our current programming while ensuring that we return to fiscal responsibility. This was a very challenging task, but we did it. I am proud that next year’s Senate will be able start with all the resources from our Student Activity Fee.

I also gained invaluable experience from the position—learning to work with leaders in the Senate, the student body, and the administration to ensure our budget was balanced. The President’s most important job is to serve as a liaison between the Senate and the rest of the law school. My experience as Treasurer has helped to prepare me for this responsibility and I believe that I can perform it effectively.

As Chair of Budget Committee, I worked with 14 Senators to ensure that our funds were fairly and efficiently allocated to student groups. This required strong leadership through long meetings and complex budget issues. As President, I know I can utilize this experience to make sure our meetings as a Senate run smoothly. At the very least, I can guarantee they will be shorter than the Budget Committee meetings!

Plans for Next Year

Preparation:

I want to make sure our Senate starts the year off right with our priorities clearly defined and a work plan to accomplish our objectives. That’s why, as President, I would call one more session of the Senate before the end of the year to collect your ideas. The E-Board would then work through the summer to develop a plan for making these ideas a reality. Among the priorities I would suggest to the Senate:

- Continue the initiatives from this year. This includes making sure the Diversity Council gains traction and becomes an effective avenue for
promoting a more diverse law school. We also need to further our work in getting student participation in the faculty appointments process.

- Utilize the extra money available to the Senate to promote a more social and interactive law school community. There were many great ideas this year of ways to bring the law school together. I would like to see the Senate start planning Rites of Spring in the fall, and hosting more events throughout the year. One initiative I would particularly like to promote is more JD/LLM interaction through socials and events.

- Garner better interaction among students and alumni. There are many successful alumni of this top-notch law school. The Senate should lead an initiative to get the alumni more involved in our community. We could do this through events or efforts of our own, or earmark some of our extra money for grants to student groups which foster better relations with our alumni.

Open E-Board:

The Executive Board is an integral part of achieving success as a Senate. The E-board, though, needs to remain open to new ideas from the Senate. As President, I would work to make sure that the E-board fosters an environment where all Senators can express their viewpoints and work to make their ideas a reality. To accomplish this, I propose:

- A greater emphasis on Ad-Hoc committee work. While our standing committees do a wonderful job in their respective areas, many of the ideas that come up during a term do not fit into the duties of these committees. I think the E-board should be open to the formation of more Ad-Hoc committees which serve to accomplish a particular goal. These committees are an effective way to produce change and to put more responsibility into the hands of every Senator.

- Easier access to the agenda. The E-board sets the agenda for the following meeting, but often, ideas and issues come up after the deadline for submission of agenda items. I propose the following to help create an environment where Senators can get their agenda items discussed at the following meeting: First, we will have time set aside at the end of every meeting for any new business. While this time will not be spent deciding the issue on the spot, it will be a chance for a Senator to introduce a resolution/agenda item to be discussed at the next meeting. Second, I propose pushing back deadlines of submitting agenda items to 48 hours before the meeting. The agenda will then circulate 24 hours before the following meeting. By giving more time to Senators to formulate their ideas/resolutions, I hope to create an environment where all Senators feel their issues can get a fair hearing before the full Senate.
As President, I would actively avoid taking a top-down approach to leading the Senate. Instead, I would like to help implement your ideas. If elected, I promise to put my skills and my effort to this task, and to serve you to the best of my ability. I would greatly appreciate your support tomorrow evening.
Drive. Commitment. Leadership. Have yourself a president.

Let’s unleash the Senate and make the law school all it can be. I have spoken with a lot of you over the past few weeks, and I know that there is a tremendous energy and wealth of ideas at our fingertips. I can’t wait to get to work!

**The Drive:** Changes, large and small, that will allow students to truly love the law school.

Think *Career Services* – 1Ls feel uninformed and unprepared, facing a wealth of options. We have every reason to expect a Career Services office that answers the questions we really need answered.

Think *fair rents* – As chair of the Housing Committee my 1L year, I worked closely with Elizabeth Grainger, and we managed to get many rents lowered. Let’s not stop there.

Think *Friday 8am classes* – Judge Lynch needs to teach early in the morning, understood. But does it have to be a Friday? We will have our full lunch hours back next year, let’s tackle the rest of our schedule.

Think *environment* – As part of the Recycling Task Force last year, I helped increase the recycling options at the law school. Let’s follow up.

**The Commitment:** We are called upon to turn challenges into an asset and make the law school work for the student body.

Think *relationships* – I have worked closely and very well with members of nearly all law school departments. That’s an asset.

Think *change* – We are in the middle of personnel changes at student services. I have been on the front line, and will not let student groups or the Senate lose ground. Quite the opposite: change means fresh thinking. That’s an asset.

Think *experience* – Not only have I served in active roles on half a dozen student organizations, I have worked closely with all groups on their event planning and constitutions as Orientation co-chair and Recognition Committee chair. That’s an asset.

**The Leadership:** In two intense years in CLS student groups, I have experienced and practiced leadership in all its forms. I have learned well.

Think *team* – I promise you a Senate that takes its members and their ideas seriously. Don’t feel constrained by your committee. Don’t feel stifled by the e-board. Make the most of your voice.

Think *access* – Some of you have suggested effective open hours. Two senators in the lobby with some snacks once a week? So students will know that their requests are heard and their questions answered? Yes! Make the most of your role.

I sincerely look forward to working with every single one of you, to expand this agenda to what it needs to be.

Thank you very much,
Kathrin
As you know, Vice President is also chair of the Social Committee. Having served on that committee this year, I have a sense of the tasks involved and experience in accomplishing them. As you also may have seen, I have a bit of festive streak in me, so assigning me to organize the school’s social activities would be, one might say, playing to my strengths. At the same time, I’m equipped to capably handle Senate affairs in the rare times that the President is indisposed, aided in part by my experience serving on last year’s Student Senate and Budget Committee. Finally, I’m energetic and excited to be involved – perhaps the most expedient trait in an E-Board member.

At Monday’s meeting, I look forward to speaking with you about my specific ideas for making the most of next year’s Social Committee and the other aspects of the Vice President’s position.
Meredith Uhl
Candidacy Statement for Vice President

I am running for Vice President because I enjoyed working on the Social Committee alongside Dan, the outgoing Vice President. I felt as though the events we planned and work we did helped contribute to a sense of community at the Law School. One of the main reasons I ran for Senate this past fall was a desire to foster a positive environment here. I welcome the chance to become even more involved in this endeavor, as well as to increase my participation in Senate as a whole, as part of the Executive Board.

As Vice President, I understand that my primary responsibilities would involve oversight of the Social Committee. I was an active member of this committee over the past year, and with Dan’s guidance, learned a lot about what it took to plan and execute a successful event, from a Scrabble night to Barrister’s Ball. I am confident that I will be able to work with next year’s committee to come up with ideas, publicize them effectively, and make sure that all events run smoothly.

I also know that the responsibilities of the Vice President are much more than those of a social planner. I would be excited to work with the other members of the Executive Board in shaping the direction of Senate and ensuring that we represent the needs and concerns of the student body. My work on the Student Services Faculty Committee has helped foster relationships with administrators, and I would be able to use this background in the role of Vice President.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my last year on Senate, and feel that I have learned a lot. I would like the chance to bring this experience, as well as my enthusiasm for Senate and CLS in general, to the Executive Board.
L. David Peters
For Student Senate Treasurer

With service on the budget committee, a background in Finance, and a year’s worth of an MBA, David Peters has the experience necessary to be your Treasurer for the 2008-2009 school year.

David will be a dedicated Executive Board Member, and will work hard to faithfully represent the interests of the Senate and the student body.

Other reasons to elect him / initiatives he will pursue:

• David will increase accountability and oversight of student group expenditures
• New “capital expenditures” pool for student groups
• David will build on this year’s attempt to make the budget process more efficient for Senators and student group treasurers alike

And if that’s not enough…

• David has never (successfully) embezzled funds
• He actually is crazy enough to want the job
I’m interested in serving as the secretary for the Student Senate. I approach student activities with lots of enthusiasm and dedication, and would certainly do so for this position. I’d love to chair the Community Action Committee and find new ways for law students to contribute to the local community. I think it’s awesome that the law school participated in Columbia Community Outreach day and we should do so again next year.

I will diligently take minutes during meetings and oversee Senate correspondence. I can cast Senate proceedings in a fair light, I’m very organized and I get things done efficiently. Plus, as luck would have it, I type really fast!

It would be wonderful to work closely with the members of next year’s Executive Board since I feel one of the best parts of Senate is collaborating with other Senators. I’m a team-player and very in favor of working with other committed students to make this school even more wonderful than it already is. I am really excited by the opportunity to get more involved and would appreciate all of your support!
ScottMcJ, delighted to be your new Administrative Assistant  
(née Secretary)

I know, you’re looking at that picture of me and thinking, “oh man, those clowns in HR sent over another fluff-headed bit of eye candy for the new admin assistant role. When did secretary stop being a good enough title? He probably doesn’t even know how to make a good cup of coffee and won’t remember how many lumps I like!”

But let me tell you, I do know how to make and fetch coffee, and I am a master of numerous other Secretarial arts as well which I am sure you will find invaluable in facilitating realization of all your Senatorial needs:

- **Master of mimeograph technologies** – and everything goes over easier with dittos, as anyone who did school exercises on fresh dittos can attest.

- **Proficient on all portable typewriting devices**, including the Underwood, Royal, and the Blickensderfer 6 “operating systems.” Also, I am able to strike smartly enough to create no fewer than 4 simultaneous carbons!

- And should the need arise, I would be happy to duplicate documents for our busy board using the thermofax, bringing nearly-legible copies to all, and avoiding the bothersome trouble of passing a paper or taking notes.

- And though you would seek to the very four corners of this page, you’ll find no one who can present your “slide show” on the overhead projector with fewer upside down or reversed transparencies, and a stuck-together-transparency failure rate of less than 3%.

In addition to the skills listed above, I will be pleased to take care of all the mundane necessities the Senate might require of me in order to facilitate easy planning for this next year’s important projects, graduation, and, dare we even dream – a second win by faculty at Dean’s Cup.
Dear Student Senators,

Rules, motions and procedure. Being Parliamentarian can be an exercise in tedium. Fortunately, there’s one Senator tedious enough for the task: Ben Brickner.

**Assistance** — The potential of an organization is at its zenith when procedural barriers are at their lowest ebb. Yet when I think of rules, I think of my father telling me “no.” Rules should enable action, not stifle it. My first priority as Parliamentarian will be to make Senate procedure less cumbersome by minimizing unnecessary formalism and taking care to explain each step in the parliamentary process as it unfolds.

**Confidence** — Effective parliamentarians are also confidential advisers able to assist members with advancing their priorities. Whether you’re unsure what motion ends debate or how much is two-thirds of 51, I can help. As Parliamentarian, I will be available to any member wishing to discuss Senate proceedings in confidence. It will emphatically be my duty to help you do yours more effectively.

**Experience** — Parliamentarians also function as institutional guardians able to contemplate the long-term interest of a deliberative body. I have contemplated the interest of our body. Last year, I planted a seed of institutional history on our new website and served on the Recognition Committee. As a non-profiteer before coming to law school, I learned how to find my way through charter documents. As Parliamentarian, I will expound our constitution consistently with our vision for the Senate and for the Law School.

I would be honored to receive your support. As Senate Parliamentarian, I promise you candor, sound judgment and good humor.