CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

2010–11 Executive Board
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President
Dear Senator,

Thanks for reading my candidate statement. I hope you find my ideas compelling and worthy of your consideration.

If elected, my primary areas of focus will be building a stronger sense of community and staunch advocacy for student concerns (especially at this precarious time in legal services). My candidacy is rooted in a conviction that we deserve more accountability from our administration and a more collaborative peer environment.

By serving in the midst of my law school experience, I will have the advantage of a perspective that takes into account my just-finished 1L year and my almost-coming 3L year. This perspective will allow for me to be more flexible and amenable to the wide spectrum of student concerns.

For clarity, I have divided what I see to be some of the most pressing issues facing an incoming President, and have delineated my ideas in each section in bullet-point format.

**E-Board Management:**
- E-Board should set the agenda together. I envision my role in E-Board as a team player who organizes the meetings and who might have to break the occasional tie.
- Over the summer, E-Board should establish a clear agenda and set of goals so as to start the school year with a coherent narrative that the student body understands.
- A memo to the Senate at the start and end of every semester, posted to our website, to keep the Senate abreast of developments, and to remain accountable to the body.
- An E-board town hall for the student body at the start and end of every semester.

**Senate Management:**
- Not having an orientation was a big detriment to the 1L Senators. 1L elections should be held earlier and there should be a Senate-wide retreat at the start of the year.
- It would be useful to have Senators sit by class in meetings. This would be an efficient way to ascertain if certain issues are particular to specific grade-levels almost immediately.
- More deference to committees so that students who would like to take on more responsibility in their respective spheres are able to do so without being stunted in general meetings.

**Communications:**
- The Senate homepage should host a blog. The technology already exists for students to log-in by UNI and post concerns. The E-Board should be responsible for addressing these concerns publicly.
- Make sure our events and meetings are posted to LawCal. This will reduce Senate’s need to send out reminder emails and to prevent us from diluting the efficacy of our email address.
- Embed our site with a flickr (or similar) photo-stream... student services commissions professional photographs we never get to see. We can also have a Senate photographer role and additionally encourage students to submit law-school related pictures. For example, encourage classes to take class pictures at the end of the semester and to send them in.
- Student responses re raising the SAF are indicative of the difficulty in soliciting student opinion. We need to figure out a better way to get people engaged. This speaks to the issue of student community.

Community
- Student Senate published *What I Wish I Knew* guide for 1Ls solicited and organized over the course of the summer to be built upon in ensuing years. Recommendations about best hornbooks, treatises, registration tips, g-drive info, which staff members to speak to for certain concerns etc. I envision that this will be useful for the general student body as well.
- CLS schwag sold in Lenfest.
- CLS stationary and cheaper business cards.
- Create a calendar of the tentative events and planning for the entire school year to give incoming students a sense of the narrative arc of the year and of what to expect in general.
- Increased student amenities (monthly bagel breakfasts for example).
- IT will be revamping LawNet this summer so we should make sure to be in touch with them about how they plan to do so.

Administration and Faculty:
- Conduct communications with faculty and administration in written form so as to create an actionable paper-trail.
- Ask Dean Schizer to commit to attending two meetings so that we have the opportunity to follow up with him.
  - Make it a forum for us to ask questions, that we have prepared in advance, not for him to make a presentation that dominates the brief time we have with him.
  - Ask him to come ALONE so we can express concerns that might concern the staff that joined him for his single meeting this year.
- Encourage Dean Schizer to create a student advisory board that reports to him.
- Dean Rigas should address the Senate so she can get a better sense of how frustrating registration issues are for the student body.
- To the extent that firm jobs are drying up... what are stopgap measures? There are 8 people for career services, 2 full time for public interest advising, which is where people are going to start to go in larger numbers.
- This year the administration admitted 50 more LLMs as an easy source of tuition that won’t impact our US News Ranking. They have registration priorities and have filled classes. This should be a discussion Senate is involved in.
- Work with the faculty to create a system so that first-semester 1Ls have a better sense of what will come at grading time.
- Actually deal with the LPW problem by spending the summer soliciting feedback from 1Ls and keeping at Phillip Genty with concerns.

My summer employment is part-time, I am not committed to any other student organization, and I plan to take an intensive 3-week course in August. This will allow me to devote my full energies to Senate work.

Best Wishes,
Nona
Dear Senate,

Over the past two years I have had the opportunity to get to know many of you well, and to see the Senate and the law school grow and change. This has been rewarding, and has also shown me how we can pursue even greater opportunities in the future. During my time on Senate and the Executive Board I have learned a huge amount about the law school, various parts of the administration, the seventy student groups we currently recognize, and the students themselves. Even more importantly, I have developed personal relationships that will help me to fulfill my role as a leader and an advocate and will better allow me to pursue the interests of this body. These connections are extremely important for those who wish to take on a leadership role, as they are the quickest and most effective way to create change within the law school community.

Next year represents a unique opportunity for us. I hope to see the Senate become a truly proactive- rather than a reactive- body, which is capable of creating actual change in the law school. In order to accomplish this, I hope to start with a closer group of Senators, holding events and activities that will allow us to get to know each other outside of bi-weekly meetings. I also want to work closely with other members of the e-board to make sure that we are effectively delegating to the entire Senate, and that all members are involved. Next year we will have fewer representatives, which I believe presents a valuable opportunity for us to shape our own organization to better meet the needs of our classmates.

Many of our responsibilities rest with the power of financial allocations, the creation of groups, and the planning of social events, though we also perform a limited yet valuable advocacy role as mentioned above. Next year I hope to work closely with the Treasurer, the Parliamentarian, and the full Senate to successfully pursue many of the reforms that have been suggested this year- particularly those concerning core funding, recognition of student groups, and evaluating the continuation of those groups. I see many opportunities for streamlining the budget process and even taking it online, and I hope to work closely with the Treasurer to make these ideas a reality.
I would also like to work with the Vice President and the social committee to pursue a diversity of social events, and to encourage the involvement of other student groups where this partnership could be beneficial. In addition, I am interested in discussing a long-term charity component to Barristers Ball. To clarify, I do not support the idea of a donation from the Student Activity Fee whenever a disaster occurs somewhere in the world, but I am interested in further exploring the creation of a “charity ball”. I imagine this as being more than a check box on a ticket- I would like to create awareness of the cause we decide to support through a variety of means, giving Barristers a social consciousness. I believe that incorporating such a component is consistent with the growing social awareness at the law school, and shows our recognition of our responsibility as future attorneys. This would not negatively affect the enjoyment of the event, and would make it more professional. However, this is merely an idea I would like to explore further, and would be subject to full Senate and Social Committee discussion.

Finally, I really want to listen to you, and to give each one of you an opportunity to become involved. Members of the Senate should be able to take their ideas and those of their constituents and transform them into advocacy- and it is the job of the E-Board to help them do this. If chosen as your President I intend to facilitate this kind of communication, and to ensure that the Senate operates with respect, professionalism, and efficacy. Thanks for taking the time to read, and I encourage each of you to approach me with questions, concerns, or ideas!

Gillian
Dear Members of the Senate,

As I said in my senatorial statement there are several tasks that I believe the Senate should work on this coming year (in addition to annual functions). Perhaps most importantly, there needs to be a better connection between the Senate and the student body. If the Constitution says that the Senate is to represent student interests, I don't know how this is possible if elections are basically a popularity contest (and let's be honest, most senators didn't even have a platform) with no further communication between Senate and students. I'm talking real quality dialogue, not emails that aren't read.

I would like to work on this by taking the Senate to the web via social media sites. I have used Facebook fairly effectively for various campaigns over the last year and I think that the Student Senate could be far more effective communicating with the student body through FB status updates than through hundreds of emails. I would also like to use FB to mobilize the student body through petitions and other campaigns if there are serious concerns that the students have that the admin are simply dismissive of. There is no reason why staplers, printers, and monitors should be a serious obstacle.

Second, I believe that there should be a push to establish an Islamic law class. This is something I have been advocating for some time, and I believe is important for the “#1 School in International Law” to provide. While I am happy to see that the administration has arranged for an Islamic Law seminar this coming fall, I believe we need to ensure that option continues, and perhaps even to make it a full class.

Third, there needs to be better opportunities for JD/LLM interaction. Everybody loves to praise diversity and the international flair of CLS, but then the student body lives in de facto segregation. We could try to promote a more integrated bar review night, or use the Thursday keg to do this. Also, we could set up a language exchange program that sets up nights where students with an interest, in say, Spanish, and Spanish speaking LL.Ms with an interest in improving their English, could get together, meet, and mingle. There could be other and better ideas for accomplishing this, but it should be a priority for the Senate.

Fourth, there is a serious need to work with the administration, library assistants, and IT people to ensure that for our $65k/year we never want for staples, and that half the monitors in the basement computer lab are working at all times. This is seemingly a very simple issue to resolve, but it is my understanding that it's an ongoing issue with the admin. I don't understand why the library assistant can't refill the staples when she refills the printers, or check the monitors not being used and report any errors to IT (who, in my experience, are excellent about quickly resolving these issues). Isn't she on work/study?

Finally, while this was brought to my attention by a concerned student and I am not sure about how it works, I have heard that student groups must leave any and all trash from a student event, no matter how minimal, so that it can be cleaned by janitorial staff for a
hefty fee that comes from a student budget. If that is the case, and while the janitorial staff do a great job, it simply doesn’t make sense to take possible student org funding or event planning in order to have 3 pizza boxes cleaned up. If this is the case, it needs to be discussed.

But I hope you don’t take this as an authoritarian list of tasks the Senate will be pushed to accomplish. I have not served previously as a Senator and I am sure that everybody has fantastic ideas, some of which are of greater importance than what I listed above. My lack of “experience” is not a minus; it’s actually a plus. I don’t have political ties to anyone, and I don’t have strict ideas about how the Senate should be run. I would draw heavily on advice and input from every Senator (and hopefully the entire student body) for plans, ideas, and feedback. I don’t want to be a president so much as a WikiCEO. Bringing everybody’s ideas together to produce the best work product possible, while making sure their implementation is coordinated, efficient, and accomplished. If you want the ability to be heard and have your ideas genuinely listened to, but don’t want the responsibility of actually being president, cast your vote for me.

I understand that the Senate has done a great job in the past years coordinating everything, and hats off to all yall that worked so hard to make this year run so smoothly. But I would like to help transform the Senate into a truly representative organ that can push the administration on real Student interests and that is a respected and actually prized position at the school. I think we can do this through better communication with the student body and effective lobbying with the administration, while also doing an excellent job of carrying out the planning and social functions that the Senate does every year. That’s the tone I would like to set. Constructive, mobilized, and efficient. Carried out in a wiki, relaxed atmosphere.

As an additional bonus, I don’t have any other serious time commitments next year. No clinic. No externship. No journal. No student org board positions. Instead I will be able to dedicate all that time to the position of president to ensure that the responsibilities of the Senate are carried out effectively.

I hope to get your vote,

Brian Jacobi
Kahlil Williams for President

I'm running for President in order to work toward the goals the E-board has established over the past two academic years: fostering meaningful relationships with the administration, promoting greater communication between the Senate and the student body, and advocating greater diversity on Senate and in student groups.
Dear Senators,

Thank you all for taking the time to consider my candidacy for Student Senate President.

Let me start just by giving you a brief background of my own experiences at CLS. I am a rising 3L, and have been a member of the Student Senate for both my 1L and 2L years. During this time, I served on the Student Organization Recognition Committee both years and was the Chair of the Housing & Facilities Committee my 1L year. I also helped organize and run the Thanksgiving Dinner that the Senate held in the Fall of 2009, as well as helping out at various other Senate functions and events.

To give you some insight into what my commitments are like next year, I will be on campus both semesters. I have already completed many of my graduation requirements (major writing credit, pro bono hours), and will not be participating in a Journal next year. As such, I can focus my attention on the demands of the Senate presidency, both in running the meetings, having E-Board meetings, participating in law school events, talking with the Administration, and in general being available for people to approach, whether other Senators or students.

Some particular strengths that I believe that I can bring to the position include my good relationships with individuals from the law school administration, which I have fostered through helping out at new student orientations and admitted student events over the past 2 years. Having served on the Senate for the past 2 years also is a distinct advantage, as I have seen some of the things that the Senate can accomplish through the Senate body as a whole (e.g. Haiti relief fund), through great leadership in Committees (e.g. this year’s excellent achievements in the Housing Committee), and through individual pursuits of Senators (e.g. the new email opt-in system).

Regarding specific platform positions that I propose, I believe that the President should be completely open to what the rest of the Senate wishes to pursue and to the expressed interests of the student body as a whole. As such, my main objective would be to make the Senate meetings a more efficient and streamlined process. I believe that perhaps the biggest way that this can be accomplished is through strict adherence to the time limits associated with senators’ comments and questions. If someone wishes to go over their allotted time, then I believe that the only way that this can be done is through another senator raising their hand and yielding the floor to the first senator. Making the meetings more straightforward and sticking to the rules should reduce frustration with the process, hopefully encouraging more proposals.

I would like to see more communication devices between the student body and the senate, and one simple way that this could be done returns to an idea that was proposed last year by Christina Kim. The bulletin board that now just has our faces could also have an empty square with index cards or post-it notes and tacks, welcoming students to jot down notes,
questions, concerns, criticisms, requests, etc to bring to the attention of the senate. This could be an easy way for students to anonymously bring matters to our attention. While last year's attempts at having weekly Senate office hours was certainly a noble goal, it required effort on the part of every senator with almost no results, and while I would be more than happy to bring back an altered version of it, the post-it note board could be a great intermediate step.

Regardless of how the election comes out, I look forward to working with all of the new and returning senators next year, and I would like to thank all of the outgoing senators for their hard work over the past year(s). I also think the current E-Board has done a great job, and deserves our appreciation for the hard work that they've put in to the process. Thank you again, and I hope that finals are going well for everyone!

Sincerely,

Charles Wolf
Vice-President
Dear Fellow Senators:

I am running for the office of Vice President because I want to use my experience, skill-set and personality to refine the role of the senate in Columbia Law School.

As the Vice President and an Eboard Member, I hope to draw from my involvement in the budget committee and KLSA (treasurer) to better facilitate my role as the head of the social committee. I am well-versed in how the budget process works and can maximize its function to best plan and execute events of varying sizes and nature. Also, having managed various 2000+ person events for Penn’s New Student Orientation which included renting out the Philadelphia Museum of Arts, I have a firm understanding of planning and facilitating a social event. Being an enthusiastic, open-minded, and creative person, I also believe that I can offer the senate, the eboard, and the Social Committee, a unique, solution-oriented vision. I have brainstormed a few new social events: a senatorial picnic in the park (homemade sangria anyone?) in September, a school-wide hiking event in October. Additionally, I would like to trim Open/Notorious and revisit co-hosting events with NYU.

In Respect to the General Body of the Senate, I would like to facilitate more information-al transparency between the eboard and senators and create more informal opportunities for senators to meet each other. I do not believe in forced socialization—but who doesn’t like free non-pizza food? I am thinking a dessert outing.

As To the General School Body, I want to host an event where senate can coordinate with various student groups. For instance, we could have centrally organized (although allow each groups their own independence in choosing charitable organization) our Haiti efforts. It was obviously successful without the senate’s initiative this year, but I think that a tighter relationship between the senate and student groups will, among other benefits, increase our leverage against faculties. I also want to work closely with the webmaster next year to create a central “news hub” of the senate. (Reference: http://pennua.org/category/newbusiness/). Lastly, I will be a particularly desirable de-facto face of the senate; I am involved in a myriad of activities and have attended my fair share of school-wide events. I am also very active in Law Revue, which apparently has amplified my visibility (if you recognized that I was actually not a woman in the show, that is).

Lastly, it’s totally random. I hope to organize ONE physical community service event for the senate (but open to the school). Sometimes, all I need is to destroy a molded kitchen cabinet and paint the whole place white to relieve stress.

Thank you all for your time and I look forward to working with you!
Nona Farahnik for Vice-President

As Vice President, I would approach the E-Board with the same philosophy as explicated in my candidate statement for President: advocacy and community-building.

As Social Chair, I would focus my energies on social programming aimed at creating a more relaxed environment and at facilitating relationships between members of the student body.

I hosted my Open and Notorious in the lobby, and generally believe that we should have casual events in accessible parts of the law school that can engage the passer-by who might ignore his/her Senate emails.

Below, are some of my ideas:

- Encourage members of student body to take advantage of the rule allowing non-Senate members to sit on the social committee.
  - Funding for non-Senate student initiatives that could benefit the entire Student body.

- Give more responsibility to social committee members, while delineating clear rules of their obligations if they choose to join the committee at the start of the term.

- Improved communication of social activities.
  - Utilize LawCal.
  - Formalize the Jerome Greene Facebook page (and add every student I can find as a friend so I show up on his/her newsfeed 😊).
  - Think of innovative approaches to communicating with the student body.

- Create a general social calendar over the summer so that students are aware of the arc of social events and of what to expect over the course of the year.

- Change the O&N model of a weekly, cheaper event to be more elastic (different days of the week, different times of day, different goals, etc.)
  - Monthly bagel breakfasts
  - Wednesday happy hours
  - Advance-release movie screenings.
  - Monday Sundaes (ice-cream, that is)

- Bring back Rites of Spring, the week of parties during spring semester.

- CLS talent show @ start of winter.

- Social events that engage Harlem more seriously
  - Gospel Sunday
- Apollo Theater night
- Harlem Bowl night

- Secure a larger barrister’s venue in the summer and avoid wait-listing as a highest priority.
  - Senate subsidized $35,000 of Barrister’s cost. If we want to spend a significant amount of the SAF subsidizing an event that people can bring guests to, we need to think about how that implicates use of the SAF when there is a waitlist of students who cannot attend.

- Better engagement with the other Columbia grad schools. (This can be done on the cheap. eg. Pair up with a CBS Thursday happy hour).

- Consider online pay mechanisms for better use of committee time and easier organization of events.

- Outdoor events during lunch that are virtually cost-less. (Dodgeball in the fall, sledding in Morningside Park in the winter).

Thanks for your consideration,
Nona
Dear Senate,

The offices of President and Vice President are the two places where I believe I could best serve the Senate, and I have strong ideas for both. During my time on Senate and the Executive Board I have learned a huge amount about the law school, various parts of the administration, the seventy student groups we currently recognize, and the students themselves. Even more importantly, I have developed personal relationships that will help me to fulfill my role as a leader and an advocate and will better allow me to pursue the interests of this body. These connections are extremely important for those who wish to take on a leadership role, as they are the quickest and most effective way to create change within the law school community.

Next year we will have a smaller group of Senators, and as the Vice President and the head of the Social Committee, I want to have events and activities that will allow us to get to know each other outside of bi-weekly meetings. I really do want us to get to know each other, as I believe this will make us more effective and make our experience on the Senate more rewarding.

If elected as VP, I want to work closely with other members of the e-board to make sure that we are effectively delegating to the entire Senate, and that all members are involved. I hope to continue the Halloween Party and Iron Chef, while holding four open and notorious keg events throughout the semester and diverting some resources to new and innovative events that may interest a different sector of the student body. To this end, I intend to delegate to 2-4 member teams on the Social Committee, and to make sure that all committee members are involved in the planning of at least one social event during the
semester. I do intend to be closely involved with everything that goes on, while simultaneously encouraging committee members (especially 1Ls!) to take an active role in suggesting, designing, planning, and executing events. If certain events lend themselves to collaboration with student groups, and I think we should also pursue this avenue (has been done to a limited extend in the past).

In addition, I am interested in discussing a long-term charity component to Barristers Ball. To clarify, I do not support the idea of a donation from the Student Activity Fee whenever a disaster occurs somewhere in the world, but I am interested in further exploring the creation of a “charity ball” (either Barristers or a separate semiformal event, perhaps in conjunction with some of the growing public interest groups at the law school). I imagine this as being more than a check box on a ticket- I would like to create awareness of the cause we decide to support through a variety of means, giving Barristers a social consciousness. I believe that incorporating such a component is consistent with the growing social awareness at the law school, and shows our recognition of our responsibility as future attorneys. This would not negatively affect the enjoyment of the event, and would make it more professional. However, this is merely an idea I would like to explore further, and would be subject to full Senate and Social Committee discussion.

Finally, I really want to listen to you, and to give each one of you an opportunity to become involved. Thanks for taking the time to read, and I encourage each of you to approach me with questions, concerns, or ideas!

Gillian
Dear Senators,

Simply put, because I have sincerely enjoyed being on Senate, I would like to contribute meaningfully to it by being on the E-Board. And because I especially loved being a member of Social Committee, I want to head it.

At a meeting for prospective 1L Senators last semester, our current Vice President quoted Abraham Lincoln to explain why Student Senate was worthwhile, and I have found it to be on point. “If we could first know where we are, and wither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it.”

I learned a lot of lessons this year, and if elected, I promise to prioritize EFFICIENCY and FUN. With that, I will leave you with another Lincoln saying to describe what will guide me as Vice President. “Determine the thing can and shall be done and then we shall find the way.”

I am very excited by the potential for this position. I would appreciate your support.

♥  All my best,
Soo Park
Kahlil Williams for Vice-President

I'm running for Vice-President in order to continue providing our peers with opportunities to socialize with one another in new and creative ways. I also hope to be a strong voice on E-Board, having previously served as VP in during the Spring of 2009.
Treasurer
Art Cavazos Jr. for Treasurer

First of all, I am honored to have received a nomination, and thank you for considering me to serve as next year’s Treasurer. Every year the Student Senate allocates a rather sizable amount of funds to student organizations for their semesterly events and, if elected Treasurer, I’d like to facilitate a smooth transition in this important function. Below are some issues I anticipate dealing with, and a summary of how I would approach them.

Core Funding

Recently, the Student Senate passed a “resolution urging replacement of automatic core funding.” The 2009-2010 Funding Guidelines do not provide for automatic core funding, and actually explicitly state that core funding is not automatic. However, in practice it has been treated as guaranteed funding for groups.

If the Senate’s intent was to abolish the practice of automatic core funding, what needs to be done is to clarify to groups that the guidelines will be enforced as written. The problem with this is that under the current guidelines, a fairly large some of money ($300-$500 depending on group size) is allocated as core funding. Giving some groups such a large sum of money with no specific purpose and denying it to others entirely would seem to undermine the stated goal of a “need-based method of funds.”

I would propose we eliminate the practice of automatic core funding, remind student groups that core funding was not guaranteed in the 2009-2010 budget guidelines, and revise the amounts and methods of allocating core funding (i.e. make it smaller and perhaps more need-based).

Lunch Panels

With the help of next year’s adjustments to core, I believe a more varied and healthier selection of food can be achieved through working closely with student groups to determine which groups are interested in pursuing this goal. Not every group will want to go though the extra trouble of providing food other than pizza, and I would propose making a distinction between a “pizza lunch” and a “non-pizza lunch.” Similar to the current unofficial $150 blanket allocation for all lunches, I would propose a two-tiered $150 for pizza lunch, and $250 for a non-pizza lunch, as an incentive to serve food other than pizza, and as a mechanism for the budget committee to allocate funds. I would make clear to groups as early as possible that “variety” and “health” are important factors in evaluating a budget request for a non-pizza lunch, and to the extent that we may receive more requests than can be granted, I will trust the discretion of the budget committee to evaluate the requests based on their added value in light of the stated goals, and determine the most fair allocation that can be achieved given the circumstances.

Second, I would encourage groups who do not wish to serve food not to do so. The practice of serving lunch during lunch-hour events has become quite common but I would in no way
encourage groups to do this. I would simply encourage those groups who choose to have lunch-hour events and choose to serve food at these events to serve the best quality food possible, and to provide those groups with the means to do so as far as possible.

**Transparency**

To the extent that accounting principles, CLS and Senate rules, and general prudence allow, I will ensure that budget information is readily available and accessible.

**Budget Committee**

Will be awesome again and I hope everyone will consider joining especially those of you who were on it this year, and to those who are graduating, congratulations!! We’ll miss you!!

**Senate Finances**

I’d like to cut down on costs as much as possible, and will look for ways to make Senate events like B(law)k Party cheaper without sacrificing quality. I’d like to negotiate with vendors and talk with administration, as well as read over the union rules and contracts that apparently say we have to pay such outrageous fees.

**E-Board in General**

I’d like to meet with the other E-Board members as early as possible (I will be back when the 1Ls start Legal Methods) to set goals for the year. I’ll also be available by email or phone over the summer to discuss ideas and implementation. I’d like to have a firm agenda that the E-Board and the Senate wishes to accomplish next year, and I’d like to present a professional, united front. I believe this will help build credibility and standing with the student body and Administration and facilitate the achievement of our goals.
Secretary
Dear Fellow Senators:

Yes, I am also running for the office of Secretary. I would like to amplify its role as the designated communicator.

First and foremost, I am a seasoned note-taker. Having experimented with various note-taking formats since high school, I am comfortable with working with sometime-unconventional way of communicating ideas. I can also easily identify key information and informational hierarchy. Given that the senators, let alone students, have little time to read the meeting in its full length, I hope to make available information in a readily digestible format.

But more central to my candidacy, I plan to create more refine venues and methods of communication both between the eboard and the senate and the senate and the rest of the law school. Particularly, I hope to create a blog-like news section on the senate website to provide a central location for students to get the most up-to-date information regarding various school-wide events and the senate updates. I have proficient in webdesigning, although I would like to delegate this role to someone more versed, I am personally capable of executing this goal. I think that with the increased availability of the course outlines on the senate website, we will attract greater student traction, and in turn, make the website a worthy place for such investment. I would also like to release bite-size eboard meeting minutes containing the issues on which eboard is currently working (and the stages of each’s development).

I intend to also increase the variety of community service activities as the chair of the Community Action Committee. I am particularly interested in promoting more university-wide activities and also encouraging other student groups to co-sponsor/plan non-legal community service projects. Having organized blood-drives for my high school as well as my hometown of about 100,000 residents, I am familiar the inner-workings of organizing a large-scale community service events.

Through this office, I hope to bring my energy, passion, and skills to the eboard, the senate, Columbia Law School, and the university. I feel privileged to be asking you to help me serve that important role, and I look forward to working with you next academic year.

Jae Bang
Andrew Gradman for Secretary

I am also running for Parliamentarian (see other candidate statement). But it occurred to me that my goals and interests don't bind me to that position. My interest is to be on the board.

If I were elected Parliamentarian, I would of course bring my “lessons learned” to that position, and I think I would do it very well. But if I were elected Secretary, I would share all those lessons with my successor as Parliamentarian. I would also do a really good job of writing minutes and documenting things.

I think I’d do both positions equally well, and I would be equally happy with either. Remember, I will only be here for the fall semester.
Ron Mazor for Secretary

- **Student Body Outreach**
  - The Secretary is intimately connected to the way the Senate communicates with the student body and interacts with its past. Traditionally, the Secretary has possessed important duties related to the efficient and effective functioning of the Senate, including publicizing minutes, taking roll, and handling Senate correspondence.
  - In addition to carrying out the traditional duties, I would use my position as Secretary to give the Senate a more active and involved presence with regard to student ideas and participation.
    - As Secretary, I would work to streamline the way committees interact with the student body. I would work to create and set up a centralized method of reporting, so that students grow comfortable with sending suggestions and complaints directly to the people who can most affect change.
    - As Secretary, I would work to better publicize in a regular fashion the successes and improvements that Senate achieves for the student body.
    - As Secretary, I would continuously strive to make the Senate more visible, more engaged, and more responsive to the student body.

- **Community Involvement**
  - Morningside Heights has been my home for the past five years. I care about the state of our community, and I want the Law School to be a positive force in the affairs and health of our neighborhood.
  - I have deep connections to the University in addition to my life at the Law School, and I believe these connections can be utilized to make community outreach more effective.
    - As Secretary, I will work to create programs that reach across the red tape and involve multiple schools/divisions—to better capitalize on the untapped good will of the larger university.
      - As a University Senator, I’m in a unique position to cultivate connections across institutional barriers and work with counterparts in other segments of the University towards putting on larger and more effective service programs and initiatives.
    - As Secretary, I will provide more opportunities for Law Students to volunteer and give back to the community, both by continuing the programs and established events of the Community Action Committee and by exploring ways to bring established service opportunities from other segments of the University to the Law School.
Parliamentarian
Lisa Giunta for Parliamentarian

I accept my nomination for the office of Parliamentarian and am very excited for the opportunity to serve the Student Senate in this capacity.

Much of my interest in the position of Parliamentarian comes from the wonderful experience I had participating in my undergraduate’s Student Government Association (SGA). During my three years in SGA, I served as the Rules Committee Chairwoman, Election Commission Chairwoman, and Vice President; the responsibilities of these positions were very much akin to the responsibilities of the Parliamentarian. For example, as the chair of the Rules Committee, I was responsible for overseeing over 120 student clubs and the creation of all new student groups. Additionally, I was responsible for providing interpretations of SGA’s governing documents when necessary, and since we did not have a parliamentarian the year I served as Rules Committee Chairwoman, I was tasked with resolving all procedural questions that arose during meetings. Further, as Election Commission Chairwoman, I was charged with administering all aspects of SGA’s elections, and as Vice President, I chaired all full senate meetings.

I loved my time in SGA and it was probably the favorite part of my undergraduate experience. More specifically, I really enjoyed the particular duties of my positions; it was great to be able to help students start new clubs and I really liked interpreting the rules that governed SGA and sharing my knowledge of the rules with the rest of my colleagues. Thus, I would be happy to take on very similar responsibilities as the Student Senate’s Parliamentarian. I also think that my SGA experience makes me a strong candidate for the office of Parliamentarian.

Moreover, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at CLS and being involved in student life here. As a member of the Student Senate this year, I have served on both the Student Organization Recognition Committee and on the By-Laws Committee, which has given me familiarity with some of the responsibilities of the Parliamentarian. I also feel that I have become comfortable working with the rules that govern the Student Senate and have made an effort to bring the rules into debates and discussions when appropriate. Furthermore, I have participated in the creation of two new student organizations at CLS – Columbia Law Students for Life and, more recently, National Security and Law Society; these experiences have allowed me to reflect on the recognition process and how it can be improved.
Some of my goals as Parliamentarian would be to work with the e-board to improve the recognition process, to create greater accessibility of resources available to both student groups and students in general, to reevaluate the opt-in system for student club listservs, and to find ways to make Senate both more open and run more efficiently. Regarding the recognition process, I intend to introduce at least two additional recognition cycles (one at the end of each semester) or else make recognition operate on a rolling basis; by doing so, I think the Student Senate will be able to better help those students who are interested in establishing new groups, which will contribute to our vibrant law school community. I will also work with next year’s Treasurer to separate the recognition process from the budget process, since there are a lot of important benefits to being a recognized student group outside of receiving Senate funding.

Furthermore, Andrew Gradman, our current Parliamentarian, has done a great job making important CLS resources available online, and I would like to continue in this direction by creating easy to access, centralized locations for these resources. What’s more, I would like to help the Senate operate more efficiently by working with the President to utilize rules of procedure during meetings so that it is clear to everyone exactly what is being discussed. I also plan to bring back an orientation program for Student Senators where rules of procedure can be explained and to follow up on Benjamin Brickner’s proposal to make the committees a more integral part of the Resolution process.

I am very enthusiastic about the chance to serve as the Student Senate’s Parliamentarian and think that I will bring a lot of experience to the position. I would really appreciate the opportunity to help the Student Senate operate as efficiently as possible, as well as to assist those students who are interested in adding to the CLS community by starting new student groups. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me at Lisa.A.Giunta@gmail.com or 516-456-5864. Thank you so much for the consideration!

Sincerely,
Lisa Giunta
Andrew Gradman for Parliamentarian

What this office calls for:

Formal duties include running elections, ensuring compliance with the Constitution & bylaws, assisting with meetings, running the Recognition Committee

Informal duties (in my opinion, more important): as a member of eboard, be one of five student leaders who are responsible for the things nobody has taken responsibility for.

My goals in this office:

My first priority next year is to transmit lessons I learned this year.

- We need a fall orientation to make new senators feel welcome
- Strategies and goal-setting should pervade our work
- When meeting with certain administrators, always prepare agenda, and always produce minutes.
- The rules of meeting procedure should contain further details.
- We need more all-Senate social events

I also want to commit more time to certain unfinished projects:

- Wiki & website
- Continue developing the constituencies program. Create boilerplate text that Senators can send.
- Further develop internal senate webpages that help us work more efficiently; esp. forms and spreadsheets for budget work.
- Help Student Services revise the handbook for student groups. Urge administrators to communicate more effectively through the internet (e.g., moving info from pdfs to webpages).
- Now that email is opt-in, CLS needs a weekly newsletter.
- Revise the Unofficial guide to CLS
- Monitor CLS's status posting casebooks and syllabi online in advance of course selection.

I will only be here for the fall semester.
You would have to replace me in Spring semester.

Nevertheless, I believe that the student body would benefit more from the added experience in the first semester, when we set our agenda.
Brian Jacobi for Parliamentarian

I would absolutely love to be your rule enforcer for this coming year. One of the biggest complaints I have heard from one term senators who refused to run for a second term is that the meetings were long, drawn out, and full of endless and pointless debate on nitpicky details. Let me assure you that I will be working over the summer with the president to draft meeting rules that eliminate wasting all of yall's time sitting through meetings that are going nowhere. Further, as it will be Texas football season in the fall, I can assure you that Art. 6(5) of the Senate Constitution will be strictly enforced. I am all about the Senate meeting and being productive, but I am also all about efficiency and not wasting anybody's time. If you want to get there, get done, and get home – vote for me. According to one current senator I just have that “Texas vibe” going, and would make a damned fine Parliamentarian.

This goes double for getting written materials to everybody in advance. We're all just too busy to have extra reading dumped on us at the last minute, and I suspect that at least part of that inefficiency experienced in the past was issues not being fully fleshed out prior to the start of meetings.

I am also a bit of a computer nerd. Anybody who breaks existing guidelines will have to answer to my level 70 Half-Elf Paladin. (no, that's sadly not a joke). But the benefit of this is that I am pretty sure I can handle the overhead projectors.

As I said in my original candidate statement, I believe there needs to be better opportunities for JD/LLM interaction. Everybody loves to praise diversity and the international flair of CLS, but then the student body lives in de facto segregation. There is little or no effort to really comeingle. We could try to promote a more integrated bar review night, or use the Thursday keg to do this, or set up a language exchange program that sets up nights where students with an interest in say, Spanish, and Spanish speaking LLMs with an interest in improving their English, could get together, meet, and mingle. There could be other and better ideas for accomplishing this, but it should be a focus of the Senate. I would like to use the Senate recognition committee as a platform from which to branch out to new organizations, and existing ones, in order to promote more JD/LLM interaction through student orgs.

But I would also like to be on the e-board so that I can work to expand the Senate's web presence. I have run multiple campaigns on Facebook over the past year (Dan Choi group, Guy Wolfe Public Funding Group, Elect Brian Jacobi Senate group, and NORML). The Senate should take a more active approach to using social media to connect to the student body. Mass emails get ignored. But a Facebook status update from the Student Senate profile would be read by everybody, and may even get enough attention to the profile and check out what the senate is up to. That would be a big first step into getting the student body active, and help us be better “representatives.” The more students behind an initiative the less wiggle room admin have.

So I hope youll elect me as parliamentarian.
Ron Mazor for Parliamentarian

The Parliamentarian plays a critical role in ensuring that Senate meetings are run in an efficient, fair, and orderly manner. It is an important duty, and one which I would be honored to fulfill.

As Parliamentarian, I would work to ensure not only that our constitution and by-laws are properly interpreted, but that they remain helpful and useful tools for the future. To that end, I would institute a crash-course in parliamentary procedure for the incoming class of 1L senators. As a 1L, I thought our productivity was hampered early on, because a substantial portion of the Senate was encountering procedure for the first time and were not immediately able to make useful contributions. By the same token, it is incumbent upon the Parliamentarian to ensure that our constitution and by-laws remain relevant, cohesive, and effective, and are revised appropriately. As Parliamentarian, I would work to make sure that our rules do not become a liability.

At the same time, the Parliamentarian is very much a preserver of the future. It is incumbent upon the Parliamentarian to be judicious in their use of power. As both chair of the Student Recognition Committee and as the safeguarder of procedure, the Parliamentarian must be cautious, as their decisions have long-reaching ramifications. As Parliamentarian, I would do my best to fulfill the dual-role of ensuring that the Senate functions in a fair and appropriate manner and that students are able to actualize their desires through the creation of new student groups, while keeping a steady hand on tradition and in ensuring that reforms do not leave things worse than they originally stood.