CLS Student Senate Meeting

Agenda

Wednesday, January 30, 2008 9:15 P.M.

I. Call to order 9:19PM

II. Officer Reports
   a. President
      i. Survey results
         1. We will fund light refreshments out of our general fund
         2. If you have procedural questions, please say “point of information,” which will allow the chair to clarify what is going on
         3. There were some conflicting comments, and we will seek to balance them going forward
      ii. Left in the balance at the end of the semester
         1. Student-faculty lunches: eight total; four open sessions with paper presentations; four similar to Deans lunch with sign-up system
            a. Dean MGK asked for 8-10 professors
               i. Monaghan
               ii. Philip Bobbitt
               iii. Carol Sanger
               iv. Tim Wu
               v. Michael Dorf
               vi. Scott Hemphill
               vii. Prof. Heller
               viii. Tudy Jackson
               ix. Olati Johnson
               x. George Berman
               xi. Bob Scott
xii. Elizabeth Emens

xiii. Jim Tierney

xiv. Leslie

xv. Carol Liebman (and/or the whole Liebman family)

xvi. Akhil Amar

xvii. Lani Guinier

xviii. Carol Ziegler

iii. Senators should submit Presidential Teaching Award nominations…due date is this Friday

iv. Appointments committee business: Tope and Gabe have gathered a large amount of data from various schools regarding student involvement in faculty hiring. We would like to put together a task force to look into ways to bolster student involvement. Volunteers:
   1. Jason Lear
   2. Max Dubin
   3. David Peters
   4. Kathrin Schwesinger

v. Bias incidents on campus: we believe that looking into the incidence of bias incidents on the law school campus may help us to fight such problems in the future. In this vein, we would like to form a separate task force to handle this work. Volunteers:
   1. Stephen Cockrell
   2. Adam Sparks
   3. Zahra Egal

vi. Tope, John K. Johnson, and several other students wrote a letter to the Office of President Bollinger and several deans, and Tope will forward that letter to the Senate along with the minutes. In response, the students received a letter setting a meeting date for
January 24th. That meeting was cancelled and they are now trying to set a new date for this meeting.

vii. One of our Senators, Craig Greiwe, resigned in mid-January. The process involves reaching out to potential senators next in line in terms of votes from last spring. Amy Maffucci will be the new 2L senator!

viii. The e-board is meeting with student services soon. Marta Ricardo and Dean MGK will be present, and the e-board will address:

1. Elevator access issues
2. Lenfest café – food, space, lingering outlet issues
3. JG lobby receptionist
4. Faculty house access
5. Hiring issues
6. Faculty funds
7. More information on travel funds for non-CLS-hosted events. E.g. national or regional events.
8. Faculty advising process
9. Student group space allocation issues
10. Anything else? Please e-mail Gabe with more suggestions!

b. VP

i. This Friday, the Student Health Advisory Council will meet about Mental Health issues. Contact Dan with mental health related issues you would like him to relay to the committee

ii. Super Bowl party Sunday in Lenfest café. Free tickets to Barristers for the most excited fan.

iii. Legal Practice Workshop session next week with Prof. Genty, to determine what can be improved in the upcoming programmatic overhaul. Need more people so send 1Ls to Dan

iv. Social Committee met this week, planned a large number of exciting events for this semester, and is always accepting more ideas regarding programs
v. Meet sheet will star this week for Barrister’s Ball please send questions to Dan
vi. 1Ls interested in designing the Class of 2010 hoodie get in touch with Claire and Jessica

c. Treasurer
   i. Please submit receipts for past senate events. We need to keep accurate records

d. Secretary
   i. Appointments committee – Gabe will be working somewhat with the data before turning it over to the task force
   ii. Kudos to Ben Brickner et al on the website improvements
   iii. Clothing Drive was a huge success
   iv. Columbia University Day of Service in March
   v. Other opportunities for community outreach – Community Action Committee will be meeting to discuss these opportunities
   vi. Attendance – Gabe will email out information to senators with one or more absence

e. Parliamentarian
   i. No spring requests for recognition

III. Committee Reports

a. Graduation
   i. Successful graduation meeting held recently
   ii. Tomorrow, open bar at Parlor, 10-1, get people to go!
   iii. Bowling at Harlem lanes coming up in February
   iv. Many other events are coming up this semester

b. Housing

c. IT
   i. Committee is meeting with Franz from IT next week, and will pose to him a number of initiatives they hope to undertake
   ii. If you have ideas for the IT committee to address with Franz, let Ben Brickner and David Peters know
iii. The law school is hoping to hire someone to revamp the law school’s website

iv. Recent changes to the Senate website
   1. Minutes and agenda and black letter are now available
   2. Website is now google searchable

d. University Senate

e. Faculty Committees
   i. Curriculum committee met this week, in a joint session with the adjunct committee. There are now almost 200 adjuncts. They seek more interaction between full-time faculty and adjuncts. Also some discussion regarding faculty fund and whether student groups hosting events with faculty may use that money.

ii. Clerkships – Jia Wang stopped by Ilene Strauss’ office and she said that the committee has never met as a body, and students are supposed to provide feedback on how the clerkship programs are going.

iii. IT Committee met, hoping for movement in the coming months on website in particular with the new hire

iv. Comparative and Int’l Law – new programs coming up for 2009 specifically building stronger ties in Amsterdam and China

IV. Budget Recommendations

   a. Treasurer Max Miller’s introduction (8 minutes)
      i. Thanks to budget committee, which met for long hours to develop this budget

      ii. Process:
          1. Call for budget requests
          2. Budget committee liaisons meet with every group
          3. Committee then met twice for a total of 12 hours
             a. L. David Peters developed a spreadsheet which helped greatly with consistency
          4. Guidelines
a. Lunch speaker events: $150, unless event is cosponsored
b. Dinner and movies: $150; movies alone: $75
c. Dinner speaker: $250

iii. There were $151K in requests; around $91K in liaison recommendations, and $64,787.50 allocated. The target was $64K with $5K reserved for ad hoc, but since we had leftover ad hoc from last semester, we went over slightly this semester.

b. Q&A (12 minutes + 7 additional)
   i. How does the voting column work?
      1. Committee starts with the liaison recommendation, and goes from there. Other committee members can make their own recommendations, though, and the vote represents the ultimate breakdown on the committee.
   ii. If a particular group wants to know how it played out with a particular event, how can it find out?
      1. Treasurer Max Miller will do his best to answer any questions groups have.
   iii. What is amount recommended?
      1. Liaison’s recommendation.
   iv. What is the process of liaison interaction with groups?
      1. The liaison gets as many details as possible about a group’s planned events and priorities, and then brings this information to the committee
   v. Why did BLSA and CalSoc have more divided votes than other groups?
      1. The votes often depend on the nature of the events, and often represent a vote between the recommended number and a lower or higher number not necessarily zero
   vi. If the baseline for lunch events is $150, why does FedSoc get more than other groups sometimes?
1. Because they often do joint events with ACS and other groups, and this is encouraged by the committee

vii. If a group has evidence that it has had large attendance numbers for lunch events, can it get more than $150 for lunch events?

1. Each event is considered based on the information provided by the group. This type of data is something that the committee would take into consideration.

viii. Is there a cap on the number of events that the Senate will fund by any one group?

1. There is not a cap on the number of events.

ix. How do we stay fair if we don’t look at every group’s attendance numbers?

1. We do look at every group’s attendance information, to the extent that it is provided. Every request form should contain this information.

x. How many exceptions were made from the baseline funding amounts for FedSoc?

1. There are two exceptions for the funding for FedSoc, and that is where they had $200 for a cosponsored event (Ken Starr and John Bolton events)

xi. How do appeals work?

1. If a group believes that the amount allocated to it is inadequate, the group can get in touch with the budget committee within a week. The committee will e-mail the appeals out to the Senate, and they will be voted upon at the next Senate meeting.

xii. How do high-profile speaker events work?

1. There is no standard formula for funding them, but the committee normally funds them at slightly higher levels out of respect to the speaker and anticipation of higher attendance
2. Example of group other than FedSoc benefiting from higher funding: ACS Chemerinsky event

xiii. When there is a large disparity between amount requested and amount allocated, what explains it?
   1. Scarce resources, quality of budget request forms, prioritization

xiv. Dean’s Cup $2,000 ad hoc reservation, what is that for?
   1. This was a special circumstance that was debated at the committee level, because the original allocation to Dean’s Cup was $5,000, but this was revisited and reduced to $3,000. The other $2,000 has been reserved as ad hoc, and will only be dispersed if Dean’s Cup cannot find adequate outside funding for the event.

xv. What happens when a liaison is not passionate about a group?
   1. The liaison’s recommendation is a starting point, not a binding number. Moreover, liaisons tend to be passionate, and if there is a situation where a liaison is not advocating for the group, the liaison can be switched.

c. Debate (12 minutes)
   i. Jason: each group had several spirited advocates, whether this was the liaison or not. Groups were compared with each other in an effort for consistency.
   ii. Dan: if the Deans’ Cup ad hoc reserve is not used, will it roll over to the regular ad hoc fund? Yes, and this would happen if there was a high demand for ad hoc funding from other groups.
   iii. Devora: softball society allocation for $600 should not be funded.
   iv. Mojoyin: we should strive to give more money for more serious-minded events such as conferences

d. Motion on budget recommendations: passes

V. Free Coffee Resolution (sponsor Ben Brickner gets 3 minutes, 10 minutes for Q&A, 10 minutes for debate)
a. Ben’s introduction: This resolution says that the Senate working with the law school administration will see that coffee be provided in JG Hall outside of Lenfest café’s hours. Genesis of this: Harvard Law provides coffee to its students. The resolution is worded generally, on purpose. Issues that have been raised include lack of details, issues of Senate credibility if this resolution passes and coffee is still not provided.

b. Q&A

i. How much would this cost? What percentage of CLS students drink coffee? Where would the money come from?
   1. This information is lacking. The HLS student body is larger than CLS’, and their coffee is provided by the law school itself (although their endowment is larger than ours).

ii. Is this resolution empowering a committee to research the plausibility of having coffee, or is it calling for having coffee at the school?
   1. The latter, although it could go either way.

iii. How would the coffee be limited to CLS students? Could the sponsors come back with a more concrete plan?
   1. It could be inside the turnstile in the library.
   2. The problem with waiting for more details is that we want to begin a give-and-take with the administration. The more specific the resolution, the less room to negotiate.

iv. Do the drafters of the resolution mean “Fair Trade Coffee?”
   1. That was left out, as the sponsors were unaware of university and law school policies on coffee, but yes the university has served fair trade coffee since 2001.

v. How can you have coffee in the library since you need closed mugs?
   1. There would be cups with tops provided

vi. Why not advocate free coffee all the time?
1. One reason not to is to keep costs down, and another is because Lenfest café would not appreciate the competition.

vii. What about free hot water for tea and tea?
   1. Sponsors seem amenable to that idea.

viii. How would logistics work?
   1. That will come about as a result of discussions with the administration.

ix. Why don’t we just push to keep Lenfest café open later?

c. Debate
   i. Devora strongly opposes the resolution, as it shows a sense of entitlement. Student services provides coffee and tea every day. More faculty, more scholarship are more important.
   
   ii. Arjun says this will cost $7,500. If this resolution is to pass, it must limit the amount that Senate will spend towards this.
   
   iii. Max M. suggests an amendment to the effect that “the administration shall explore whether free coffee can be provided...”
       1. Amendment passes
   
   iv. Now we continue debate on the amended resolution. There is a call to question, which fails. Debate continues.
  
   v. People could bring their own mugs, which would be better for the environment, and save money.
   
   vi. We shouldn’t compare ourselves to Harvard, we had more applicants for fewer spots.
   
   vii. Yes we should. Studies show that strength and numbers of future donors may decline, and anything we can do to bolster connections and positivity ought to be encouraged.
   
   viii. No motion to extend. The vote on the resolution as amended: PASSES 26-10-8 We will explore the possibilities of providing free coffee to the CLS student body.
VI. Announcements
   a. Our next meeting will be on 2/11 @ 9:10 in JG 105. Please submit resolutions to the e-board by 3 P.M. on Wednesday 2/6.

VIII Adjourn @ 10:59 P.M.