CLS Student Senate Meeting

Minutes

Monday, February 11, 2008 9:10 P.M.

I. Roll Call

II. Officer Reports

  a. President
     i. The list of professors we would like invited to the lunches that we compiled at the previous meeting, was sent to Dean MGK. We are awaiting her response but hope the lunches will start soon.
     ii. Appointments committee task force met on Friday. We divided up the schools that we are personally reaching out to. Tope e-mailed ABA listserv again and has begun collecting responses.
     iii. Bias task force has not met yet, but will be coordinating schedules shortly.
     iv. Still awaiting meeting confirmation from administrators regarding memorandum sent to them last semester.

  b. VP
     i. For Valentine’s Day, carnation-gram sale is going on for a mere $1.
     ii. My meet sheet survey closes tomorrow night at 11. They can be picked up for $1 in the lobby on Wednesday-Thursday. Prize: free tickets to Barrister’s ball, March 8 9PM-2AM
     iii. Accounting procedures for Barrister’s Ball tickets will be simplified this time around. We will use Lerner Hall ticket booth which includes on-line purchasing system.
     iv. Mental health survey in Black Letter this week

  c. Treasurer
     i. Max has compiled and distributed information on other funding opportunities for student groups
1. Presidents and Provosts Fund
2. Gatsby Fund is for any event with art-related element
   ii. Ticketing service through the university allows for events your group is having to work through the ticket information center, which will set parameters for ticketing, collect money, etc.
   iii. Budget appeal has been withdrawn
      1. Bylaws process is currently cumbersome and time consuming, and senators are invited to join in an effort to rework and streamline the rules. Volunteers:
         a. Ben Brickner
         b. Mojoyin
   d. Secretary
      i. Attendance records have been updated and you should have received an email notifying you of your absences.
      ii. If you came in late, tell Gabe
      iii. Community Action Committee stick around after the meeting
   e. Parliamentarian
      i. E-mailing Kathrin during the meeting won’t work because her computer is being used to project onto the screen, so raise your hand in a point of information, etc.

III. Committee Reports
   a. Graduation
      i. 100+ participants attended open bar event
   b. Housing
      i. They are reviewing survey results from last semester
   c. IT
      i. David and Ben met with Franz, and discussed spotty wireless coverage in the building, better e-mail, color printing in the lab, having an open forum for students
         1. David asks for suggestions for the forum
a. Advertise that students could communicate directly with Franz
b. Tech is a big issue for students, so people would likely show up
c. Emphasize the wireless possibilities
d. Money can come from general Senate fund to provide food
d. University Senate
   i. Since last meeting, Manhattanville project has gone through most major legal hurdles. Now it is a matter of when and how the construction will go forward.
   ii. Social responsibility and other issues are now on the table.
   iii. Will law school get part of SIPA or the business school once those entities move to Manhattanville? Unsure at this point.
   iv. University Senate passed a resolution last Friday, calling upon the university to provide a clearer financial plan regarding housing price increases in the neighborhood of 5%. This 5% figure outpaces both inflation and other housing stocks price increases.
   v. After last year’s bias incidents, the Senate finished a round of meetings with university officials and plans to issue a report with recommendations.
   vi. University created IGB – inter-governmental board, which is a funding source for student groups that span more than one school at Columbia.
   vii. Because of construction on the former tennis court area, parts of the Levian gym will be closed for several months.
      1. To do: Senate will send e-mail to law school student body alerting them of gym closure.
   viii. Question: has there been a discussion with President Bollinger regarding sending a mission of Columbia representatives to Iran, per his comment to Ahmedinejad during the latter’s visit to
campus? No, but JKJ will follow up with Bollinger at the next meeting.

e. Faculty Committees

i. Journals committee met last week, and discussed issues that have been arising. Focus was on the differences in staff member numbers, and ways to remedy those differences. Credit issues, resources, and faculty advisor issues were also discussed.

ii. Curriculum committee has not met, but it is fielding complaints from student groups that due to the new scheduling block they cannot hold lunchtime events of sufficient time. Proposals: moving the first block to 9:10 A.M., which would let the second block end at noon; starting the blocks later, which would push classes back 10 minutes. Student services believes that starting the day at 9:10 is the more popular option. If you feel strongly about one of these options, communicate to the Curriculum committee.

1. Currently the block starts at 9:30
2. 8:00 A.M. classes would be unaffected
3. Straw poll of Senators: would you rather start earlier, or end later?
   a. In favor of the 9:10 block: 18
   b. In favor of the later block: 14

IV. JG Receptionist Resolution

a. Dan Shin’s introduction: this resolution stems from discussions from last year that resulted in the lobby remodeling and the security station placed there. One of the things discussed was employing someone to direct visitors around the law school. This year, Dean MGK said that student services would like to hire a receptionist for the school, but because of budgetary constraints, cannot do this right now. If Senate expresses students’ desire for such a hire, the possibility will gain traction.

b. Q&A

   i. What would the receptionist do?
1. Receptionist would sit in JG lobby and know rooms and locations around the law school, in order to help visitors.

ii. What are projected costs, and who would pay?
   1. No exact dollar number yet. The resolution expresses support for making the hire, as long as it is not cost-prohibitive.

iii. Would the receptionist keep abreast of events going on at the law school during the day?
   1. The receptionist would have a calendar to be aware of what is going on.

iv. Would receptionist have any other duties other than informational?
   1. No specific other duties are envisioned.

v. What would be the hours?
   1. Regular business hours.

vi. Where did this idea come from?
   1. Students had mentioned the need for someone in the lobby both for security reasons and to direct guests and strangers to their destinations.

c. Debate
   i. This resolution should be passed. It will increase our perceived friendliness, and help our clinical clients find their way to the 8th floor.

   ii. This might be a good opportunity for a student on work-study. Students already know the organizations and events going on.

   iii. This is a good idea, but should not be a top priority. Maybe from noon to 1 P.M. it is critical, but not the rest of the time.

   iv. If only for the clinics, there should be a receptionist in the lobby.

d. Vote on the resolution: passes 36-2-3!

V. Announcements

a. February 28 Harlem Lanes graduation committee event!
b. New student policy bans individual students from reserving rooms for study groups. Talk to Mojoyin if you are interested in fighting this policy. Volunteers to discuss issue with Marta: Adam, Max, Dan, David, Yael, and Devora.

c. A 1L requested that we send an e-mail out to the 2L’s about Briffault’s outlines. Senate will send an e-mail out to 2L’s.

d. Next meeting will likely occur two weeks from now.

e. PILF auction is coming up. Please get people you know to donate! Donation form is at www.columbiapilf.org.

f. Hopefully university-wide student leaders forum/gala will be happening in the coming months, if interested in helping or have ideas, contact John Johnson

VI. Adjourn @ 9:58 P.M.