Student Senate Regular Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 16, 2010

1. Roll Call at 9:17 p.m.

2. Officer's Reports.
a. President (note: President's/University Senate/faculty committee reports took place after the Recognition debate).
   a. Jess announced that Dean Schizer will be here next Monday, 9:15 p.m. in JG 104.  Will be giving an overview of law school issues, as well as a presentation on CLS and the federal government's LRAP program.
      i. Said that the admissions office was encouraging students to participate in the admitted students events. Will be hosting an after hours Senate event on March 5th.
      ii. Vasia asked what the Dean's agenda would be. Jessica said that it would be a general overview and the LRAP presentation.
      iii. Also next Tuesday, town hall meeting by the Dean, lunch time in JG 104. Tell your friends and attend!
      iv. Jessica said thank you to the recognition, social, and graduation committees.

b. Vice President.
a. Thanked people for helping out with Sweet Treats, Heartbreaks Ball, and Superbowl Party.

c. Treasurer.
a. Nothing to discuss tonight.

d. Secretary.
a. Spoke about the new website.
b. Said that this semester's blood drive was tentatively scheduled for the first half of April.

e. Parliamentarian.
a. Spoke with Frantz about the Internet connectivity in the law school and Senate website.

3. Committee Reports.
a. IT.
a. Nothing to report for now.

b. Housing.
a. New microwave has been installed in Lenfest. Happy microwaving!

c. Graduation.
a. Sweet treats auctions raised more than $3,400, exceeded attendance expectations.
b. Will be conducting a vote on graduation speakers. Process was launched today.
c. Had a successful Harlem Globetrotters event @ Madison Square Gardens last Friday.

d. Coming up is a night at the Apollo.

d. University Senate.
a. Talking about the academic calendar, but doesn't affect law school much.
b. Haiti relief. Trying to coordinate efforts by the different schools.
c. Kofi Annan will be coming to speak at a leadership forum. Details TBA.
d. Yael reported that CLIO had been revamped, can get text messages with call numbers for books.
e. Efforts to increase involvement with the student body.
e. Faculty Committees.
a. Rules committee. Aaron said that they're working with the W grade (dropping a class after the add/drop period, you don't get an F), debate about what that means on your transcript.

4. Recognition
a. Student Hurricane Network
   a. Gave history of the group, which had started out as a Senate committee and receiving ad hoc funding without being officially recognized.
   b. Recognition committee recommended that the group be recognized.

b. Law and Education
   a. Committee recommended this group.

c. Cooking Club.
   a. Did not recommend, overlap with Gastronomy Society.

   a. Did not recommend, overlap with PILF.

e. Q&A (5 min).
   a. Elisa asked what the purpose of SHN was now. Gradman said the purpose was to hold a caravan for volunteer students to provide legal services to residents in the area.
   b. Art asked about the written purpose. Ben read aloud that mission from the recognition documents.
   c. Ron asked about their current leadership and details. Gradman said they had an executive board, President was a 2L. Current constitution requires 4 board members, with at least 50% non-graduating students.
   d. Christina asked what would happen with the group after New Orleans was rebuilt, or there was no longer a need. Gradman said that a lack of need would probably lead to a lack of interest. Also, would probably not receiving much funding if the need died out. Gillian elaborated on the budget committee's usual stance regarding caravans.
   e. Jorge asked about other groups, like Darfur. Gradman did not know about those groups.
   f. Eric said if this group could expand its purpose to general disaster relief. Gradman said that they currently were focusing on New Orleans and had not discussed that possibility.
   g. Gillian asked about the $2500 in their current Student Services account. Reported that the money in the account had not come from the Senate, but could not be sure what the source of that funding was. Gradman said that he had received an email from Matt Rafalow saying it had been from fundraising, but was unclear about the exact details.
   h. Elisa asked what the purpose of formal recognition, if they were already successful at fundraising. Gradman said a big concern was that they had an existing account with money. Gillian added that they currently had appealed to the budget process through the ad hoc process as an unrecognized group, and would feel more comfortable if they were recognized.
   i. Ben said that the group seemed to be funded for only one spring break caravan, and asked how many other caravans had been funded by the Senate. Gillian said that
this year, the number was zero. Caravans had approached their liaisons, but did not ultimately submit a request.

j. Shana asked what would happen with their current account if the group was not recognized. Gradman responded that the money would probably go back to Student Services, but was unclear about the exact details.

f. Debate (5 min).

a. Mia said that the group has been around for 3 years, and has been doing events, but has not been recognized. One of the reasons that they never had to go through the budget process was because they brought ad hoc requests and came before the full Senate. Said that they had their own leadership, and the funds had been from outside fundraising.

b. Soo said that for this year, SHN had worked with CPIL and CJAN for spring break caravans. Currently taking 12 students, co-hosted by BLSA, funding from firms.

c. Elisa said that she thought while the work was laudable, but that they did not need to be recognized, since they had already been successful in the past.

d. Ben suggested that SHN should be a separate debate, and that the Antitrust Club should present their appeal first, given that they had members here ready to speak.

e. Discussion was tabled, moved to Antitrust.

g. Columbia International Antitrust Society.

a. Gradman said that the committee had been concerned that the proposed club was redundant with the Columbia Business Law Association. Also was concerned that there had been little effort to work with that existing club, who were holding their own antitrust events.

b. Eric added that the committee was concerned about fragmenting into too many student groups. Slippery slope, might have a white collar defense group, securities, etc.

c. Nicholas spoke on behalf of the club. Said that they had addressed the committee's concern that there were not many JDs by recruiting JD students, said that they had 54 students expressing interest on their list. Said that 12 were 1Ls, 16 were 2Ls, with half of them being interested about being on the board.

d. Made the point that CBLA was too broad and that there were already other groups that overlapped like CSIL and CLABA, EASLS, SLST. Pointed out all the narrow human rights and public interest groups. Also pointed out ethnic and regional groups. Said that the point of clubs were to identify concrete interests among the students, and there was a distinct antitrust interest. Said that they would probably have successful fundraising efforts, so would not require lots of funding from with Senate.

e. Said that they had tried to reach out to CBLA, but had not received a response. Said that their focus would be international, economics, regulation, and transactions, which was not the focus of CBLA, which was very general. Stated that they would be willing to co-sponsor events with other groups.

f. Q&A.

i. Jae asked about the events they wanted to hold. Responded that they wanted to focus on litigation, transactional work, regulation, and government enforcement. Has contacts in government who could come speak, and bring in professors.

ii. Ravi asked about CBLA's constitution. Gradman started looking it up. Said that the purpose was to focus on hedge funds, private equity, etc. But were still holding antitrust events.

iii. Austin said that there were already too many groups, and whether they thought they should have their group. They responded yes.
iv. Ben asked how their got their member numbers and solicited interest. Said this had been done through emails, and previously expressed interest. Ben asked that the interest was in the journal or a new group. Nicholas said it was in establishing a group.

g. Debate.

i. Meredith said this debate was similar with previous discussions, like with the Texas Society. Said that there were already many existing business outlets to work with. Recommended having a strong policy against the proliferation of groups.

ii. Erol said that it was anomalous for a law school to encourage regional groups, but not recognize different areas of the law.

iii. Njoya said that we should be encouraging legal groups like this.

iv. Dave said that he doubted that there was actual concrete interest, since it was easy to respond to emails. Didn't see enough interest to justify the group.

v. Mia said she disagreed, saying that even if the interest were by 3Ls, still had merit. Said it was a legal group that should be recognized.

vi. Gradman read the CBLA President's email regarding antitrust events. Said that could not speak directly to the group, but will be holding antitrust events.

vii. Ben said that the committee spent a long time considering these groups, and their main criterion was whether there had been overlap with other groups, and that we recognized groups whether they were legal, social, ethnic, etc.

viii. Jorge said that he had been a CBLA meeting which had been very firm-oriented, and thought that this new club might be a more intellectual focus.

ix. Austin said that he agreed, hard to have intellectual discussions if you didn't get in the Antitrust case.

x. Gillian said that she was inclined to give the committee’s decision deference, but made the point that she was worried that new groups might be held hostage to old groups that did not possess strong leadership or had fallen defunct.

xi. Elisa said that she didn't consider 54 people a small group. And said that under CBLA, would wipe out the possibility for any other new groups. Said that LLMs' interests should be considered too.

xii. Gradman said that in reference to Gillian's comment, that new interested students could run for board positions in those defunct group and focus on their interests.

h. Jessica extended debate by 5 min.

i. Khalil reminded people to refrain from making points that had already been made.

ii. Eric said that the committee thought that it wasn't wholly inappropriate to recognize them, but to come back in the fall to see whether interest would still be around. He responded that he was a 2L.

iii. Erol disagreed with the argument that because there was heavy LLM involvement there would be little continuity.

iv. Shana asked about what people thought about the general idea of smaller practice groups being established for interested students.

v. Ravi said that he encouraged these small groups to be established.

vi. James said that a lot of students end up in corporate law, so we could afford proliferation in this area.

vii. Nick moved to call the question, which was seconded. Majority voted in approval.
i. Vote was made to recognize the student group. 21 in favor, 12 against, 36 present.

j. Debate moved back to the Student Hurricane Network.
i. Mia said that the Columbia students had founded a national organization, and worked through that, and established a Columbia chapter. That national group has now been discontinued, so want the Columbia chapter to be recognized to help solicit funds. Had been working with BLSA to get funding.

ii. Gillian asked for clarification, whether this group would seek funding after being recognized, as they had done in years past.

iii. Mia said that recognition and funding were too different issues and not weigh in on the debate.

iv. Jean said that even if they asked for funding, it was a noble cause that should be supported.

v. Njoya said that there was no harm in recognizing them to provide legitimacy.

vi. Eric said that he was concerned that their purpose was very narrow, and that recognition should be permanent. Suggested that the group expand their purpose.

vii. Ravi said that he supported the group, and urged the Senate to come up with a clear policy regarding recognition and budget issues.

viii. Ron asked about the membership of the club. Mia said that they have an executive board to facilitate fundraising and open applications for students to go on the caravan.

ix. Dan asked for clarification about how other caravans were organized. Gradman knew about CJAN, which was an umbrella organization, but unclear about details. Jean said it might depend, year to year, on which locations they got every year.

x. Eric said that he was concerned about efforts of the group to reach out to the Senate, and the writing of the constitution.

k. Jessica called the question.
l. Vote. 26 in favor, 10 against, 39 present. SHN recognized.
m. Move on to the three remaining groups.
n. Q&A (5 min).
i. Erol asked about the Cooking Club, thought that it was a very textualist argument to just analyze the group's purpose. Gradman said that this had been discussed at the committee meeting, interested students could run for leadership positions.

ii. Vasia asked what kind of events the Cooking Club was proposing to hold. Gradman wasn't sure if they had structured any events.

iii. Khalil asked whether the Cooking Club had approached the Gastronomy Society. Charles said he wasn't aware of any approaches personally.

o. Debate (5 min).
i. Art said that the same debates kept coming up, and separate core funding from recognition.

ii. Tony said that for clubs that didn't even appeal their declined recommendation, we should just accept the committee's recommendation.

iii. Gillian said that we should approve the recognition committee's recommendations.

p. Motion to call the question, majority in favor.

q. 32 votes in favor, 4 votes against. Recognition committee recommendations accepted.
5. **New Business.**
   a. Ron asked about constituencies, up to senator's discretion about how frequently updates should be made.
   b. Jae said that he wanted to organize a Senate Happy Hour to mingle among the Senators. Asked what people's preferences were. Will send around an online form.
   c. Eric wanted to recommend that the Golf Club be audited.
   d. Mia asked how recognition issues should be dealt with for future meetings, to get concerns on the agenda. Gradman said the ideal opportunity was the by-laws process that was coming up.
   e. Jorge brought up a security issue that should be looked into.

6. **Announcements.**
   a. None.

7. **Adjournment at 10:42 p.m.**