CLS Student Senate Special Meeting

Minutes

Tuesday, September 2, 2008

I. Call to Order (8:00 pm)

II. Officer Reports

a. President
   i. Described the Senate’s summer activities
   ii. Announced Senate adoption of Basecamp software
   iii. Announced the September 13 Senate retreat

b. Vice President
   i. Announced the September 5 B(law)ck Party; called for additional volunteers

c. Treasurer
   i. Announced the Budget Committee elections (to be held after election of 1L and LL.M./J.S.D. Senators)

d. Secretary

e. Parliamentarian
   i. Called for Election Commission volunteers

III. Graduation Committee Report

a. Called for Committee Members

IV. Roll Call (8:20 pm)


V. Special Meeting Concerning Amendments to the Senate Constitution

a. Introduction (Constitution Committee chair Benjamin Brickner)

b. Motion to Postpone Definitely
   i. Senator L. David Peters moved to postpone debate and voting on all agenda items until a date no later than Feb. 1, 2009.
   ii. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the motion to postpone the balance of the agenda until a date certain be approved?”
   iii. The motion was defeated 7-16-4 (18 votes necessary for passage).
COLUMBIA LAW SCHOOL STUDENT SENATE

c. Technical Amendments (Red)
   i. Constitution Committee chair Benjamin Brickner introduced and explained the technical (red) amendments to the Senate.
   ii. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the technical (red) amendments to the Student Senate constitution be approved?”
      iii. The motion was approved 24-0-3 (18 votes necessary for passage).

d. Conforming Amendments (Yellow)
   i. Constitution Committee chair Benjamin Brickner introduced and explained the conforming (yellow) amendments to the Senate.
   ii. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the conforming (yellow) amendments to the Student Senate constitution be approved?”
      iii. The motion was approved 24-0-3 (18 votes necessary for passage).

e. Substantive Amendments (Green)
   i. Committee Consensus
      1. Eligibility for Office A rt III, § 3
         a. Constitution Committee member Adam Sparks introduced and explained an amendment that would require Student Senators to be in residence at the Law School for at least one semester during the year for which they are elected.
         b. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding a residency qualification for Senate office be approved?”
            c. The motion was approved 24-0-3 (18 votes necessary for passage).

      2. University Senator A rt III, § 2
         a. Constitution Committee member Dan Y. Shin introduced and explained an amendment that would permit a continuing University Senator to serve on the Spring Senate between April and September.
         b. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding a continuing University Senator’s participation in Law School Spring Senate be approved?”
            c. The motion was approved 23-0-4 (18 votes necessary for passage).

      3. Expiration of Resolutions A rt VII, § 9
         a. Constitution Committee member Kathrin Schwesinger introduced and explained an amendment that would leave Senate resolutions in effect indefinitely unless a definite sunset date were specified.
         b. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding indefinite expiration of resolutions be approved?”
            c. The motion was approved 22-2-3 (18 votes necessary for passage).

      4. Committee Service Required A rt V II, §§ 3, 4 and 7
         Consideration of Past Performance Duration of Committee Service
         a. Constitution Committee member Kathrin Schwesinger introduced and explained three amendments to the Senate committee policy: (1)
requiring Senate committee chairs to serve on only one Senate committee, (2) allowing the Senate to consider the past performance of Budget Committee candidates and (3) extending the committee term of service for Graduation and Budget Committee members.

b. After Q & A on the three amendments, Senator Ryan McDevitt moved to consider the questions seriatim.
   i. The motion was approved without objection.

c. Committee Service Required Art VIII, § 3
   i. After debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding committee service required be approved?”
   ii. The motion was approved 22-1-4 (18 votes necessary for passage).

d. Consideration of Past Performance Art VIII, § 4
   i. During debate, Senator Will Leavitt moved to strike “In electing Senators to these positions, the Senate may consider candidates’ past performance.”
   1. The motion was approved without objection.
   ii. After debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding consideration of past performance be approved?”
   iii. The motion was approved 23-0-4 (18 votes necessary for passage). [Note: because of the Leavitt amendment, approval of this amendment was necessary solely for technical purposes.]

e. Duration of Committee Service Art VIII, § 7
   i. After debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding duration of committee service be approved?”
   ii. The motion was approved 24-0-3 (18 votes necessary for passage).

ii. Motion to Postpone Definitely
   1. Senator Elliott Ash moved to postpone debate and voting on all remaining agenda items until a date no later than Feb. 1, 2009.
   2. After a 10-minute recess, Q & A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the motion to postpone the balance of the agenda until a date certain be approved?”
   3. The motion was defeated 5-19-3 (18 votes necessary for passage).

iii. Committee Disagreement
   1. Senate Apportionment Art III, § 1(A); Art IV, § 1 and Art V I, § 2
      a. Constitution Committee member Dan Y. Shin introduced and explained an amendment that would apportion Senate seats in proportion to each class (1L, 2L, 3L and the combined LL.M./J.S.D. programs), with reapportionment every two years.
      b. After Q & A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding proportional representation be approved?”
      c. The motion was defeated 10-10-6 (18 votes necessary for passage).
2. Senate Size Art. III, Sec. 1(A)
   a. Constitution Committee member Adam Sparks introduced and explained an amendment that would reduce the number of Student Senators from 51 to 41 as follows:
      i. 12 1Ls
      ii. 12 2Ls
      iii. 12 3Ls
      iv. 4 LL.M./J.S.D.s
      v. 1 University Senator
   b. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding the number of Student Senators be approved?”
   c. The motion was approved 20-3-3 (18 votes necessary for passage).

3. Direct Election Art. III, § 4; Art. V, §§ 1, 4 and 6
   a. Constitution Committee member Craig Greiwe introduced and explained an amendment that would cause all Senate officers to be elected directly by the student body.
   b. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding direct election of officers be approved?”
   c. The motion was defeated 7-15-4 (18 votes necessary for passage).

4. Voting for Officers (LL.M./J.S.D.) Art. V, § 1
   a. Constitution Committee chair Benjamin Brickner introduced and explained an amendment that would allow outgoing LL.M./J.S.D. Senators to vote for Senate officers.
   b. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding LL.M./J.S.D. Senators voting for officers be approved?”
   c. The motion was defeated 6-11-9 (18 votes necessary for passage).

5. Transfer Student Senator Art. III, § 1(A); Art. IV, § 1
   a. Constitution Committee member Dan Y. Shin introduced and explained an amendment that would set aside two rising 2L Senate seats for incoming transfer students to be elected in the Fall Elections.
   b. After Q&A and during debate, Senator Adam Sparks moved to strike “two” and insert “one” in its place.
      i. The motion was approved without objection.
   c. After Q&A and debate, the Chair put the question: “shall the amendment regarding transfer student representation be approved?”
   d. The motion was approved 20-1-4 (17 votes necessary for passage).

VI. Adjourn (11:37 pm)