Senate Regular Meeting  
Monday, September 15, 2008

I. Call to Order 9:15 p.m.
   a. Roll call: 45 present, 2 proxies, 3 absences

II. Officers Reports
   a. President
      i. Calls a vote on scheduling weekly meetings. By majority, meetings set for Monday at 9:15 p.m. in JG 105. Next meeting will be two weeks from today.
   b. Vice President
      i. Social committee will meet on Mondays when there aren’t general meetings.
   c. Treasurer
   d. Secretary
   e. Parliamentarian
   f. President extra note about committee preferences: If you’re interested in chairing a committee, note that on your form. Leave committee preferences (top three) in the back of the room.

III. Resolution to Honor Meredith Uhl and Craig Greiwe
   a. Resolution introduced by VP Will Leavitt to honor the Orientation Chairs for their work on B(law)ck Party
   b. Call for consent (David Peters); Seconded (multiple); Passes.
   c. Meredith accepts framed resolutions on behalf of Craig and Meredith (Orientation chairs)

IV. Recognition of Benjamin Brickner, as chair of the Constitutional Committee
   a. Copy of new Student Senate Constitution presented to the Parliamentarian.

V. Budget Committee Elections
   a. Nominations
      i. 3Ls: Jason Lear, Adam Sparks, Brian Goldberg, Dustin Crawford, Stephen Cockrell
      ii. 2Ls: Dimia Fogam, Meredith Uhl, Max Dubin, Benjamin Brickner
      iii. 1Ls: Oscar Loui, Christina Kim, Gillian Horton, Kahlil Williams
      iv. LLM: Peter Lochore
   b. Move to appoint by acclimation (Fischer); Second (Isokawa); Call for Consent (Schwesinger). Appointed.

VI. Budget Guidelines
      i. Dates and names updated.
      ii. Initiation of mandatory meeting for all student group treasurers.
      iii. Budget committee liaisons - clarifying the relationship - a liaison is a student group’s advocate
      iv. Clarification that groups can request up to $500 for ad-hoc requests
      v. Capital expenses: set allocation and records to avoid funds being disbursed for the same items every year.
      vi. Record keeping and ongoing reporting requirement for student groups to make sure funds are well spent. 14 day reporting requirement - forms should take treasurers no longer than 15 minutes (name of event, attendance, line item expenditures) - allows budget committee to keep better records of event costs. Goal is to keep records from the past 3 years. Allows for better analysis of student group spending.
      vii. Penalties for failing to timely file
      viii. Auditing: Three year record-keeping requirement.
   b. Question and Answer period: (5 minutes allocated, 30 seconds for response)
      i. Rationale for scheduling treasurer training for the fall rather than the spring? (Shin)
         1. To match when budget guideline changes are approved (LDP)
      ii. Won't the 15 day reporting deadline be overly burdensome? (Lear)
1. Not intended to be burdensome and the requirements are designed to be completed and filed quickly (LDP).

iii. Reporting requirements - will the guidelines take effect upon passage (Sept. 29) and the opt out procedure for treasurers will have to take place by Oct. 1 which is a quick turnaround time. (Shin)

1. Treasurers will be notified of the approved budget guidelines as soon as they’re approved, giving them sufficient notification time. (LDP)

iv. Question to clarify the ownership change in the capital expense section of the guidelines. (Sparks)

1. Items purchased through the capital expense allocation are the property of Student Senate. Goal is to avoid spending items multiple times on the same item. Student Senate can act as a clearinghouse and ensures that items will carry over from year to year. (LDP)

v. Who’s in charge of monitoring capital expense items? (Chu)

1. Executive Board (LDP)

vi. Is there sufficient space? (Shin)

1. Yes, they have to get stored somewhere regardless of who owns them (LDP)

vii. Question about penalty for not filling out forms on time. (Maffucci)

1. Consistent filing of a late report will be subject to an audit (already the case). Making public a policy that is already in place.

c. Debate

i. Motion to amend introduced (Schwesinger)

1. Informal disfavor during budget committee discussions. Moves to strike “informal” to reduce arbitrary nature of budget committee decisions.

2. Friendly amendment (LDP)

ii. Motion to amend Section 3 introduced (Lindemann). “The Senate Treasurer may - at their sole option - arrange for an individual… “their” to “him”

1. Friendly amendment (LDP) with the note that “their” is a proper use of the pronoun.

iii. Motion to amend introduced (Lindemann) “…in both the fair and efficient allocation of funds” - minor wording change.

1. Friendly (LDP)

iv. Motion to amend introduced (Schwesinger) Page 2. third full paragraph motion to change “This person shall serve as that group’s advocate during the budget committee’s allocation meeting.” Rather than “A group should view its liaison as that group’s advocate”

1. Friendly (LDP) amendments were drafted on a red eye plane flight.

v. Lear calls on people to stop making moronic changes. In the future, proposals should be checked for errors in advance of the meeting to save time.

vi. Shin: substantive problems should also be brought up in advance.

vii. Return to full debate.

viii. Motion to amend introduced (Sparks) : Part 4 Section 3 move to strike three sentences.

1. Presentation: Remove stigma of capital expense. Remove ownership transfer, feels ownership should remain with the groups.

   a. First paragraph changes are friendly to the Treasurer.

   b. Other amendments not friendly to Treasurer.

2. Question and answer period.

   a. Crawford question about why student groups should be allowed to retain ownership of the items.

      i. Sparks: Trust the student groups, highlights experience with Law Revue.

   b. How much money does Student Senate actually spend on capital expense-type items? (Cockrell)

      i. Unknown (Sparks)

3. Debate on Amendment
a. Amendment to the amendment introduced (LDP): add at the end of the third paragraph language to the effect of “Student groups when applying for capital expenses will indicate the number of years they expect such expenses to last and agree not to re-apply for said expenses within that period of time.
   i. Amendment friendly to Senator Sparks.
   ii. LDP: larger amendment is still unfriendly.
b. The auditing process is the only way to monitor outside fundraising.
c. The Senate isn’t aware of groups abusing capital expense-type items purchased.
d. Amendment receives support from Senator Schwesinger because most of the items are relatively small and group leadership transitions in the Spring.
   i. Introduction of amendment to the amendment (Boroumand) to change “expense” to “items.”
   ii. Friendly to amendment mover (Senator Sparks)
e. Treasurer announces that the full amendment is friendly. Snaps!
ix. Return to full debate on approval of the budget guidelines, as amended by amendments by Senators Schweisinger, Sparks, Lindemann, and Borumand and approved by Senator Peters.
   1. Clarification: All changes to the budget committees will be voted on at once.
   2. Treasurer responds to question about current reporting system - there is none and all the Student Senate can do is audit after allocations have been made. Goal is transparency.

d. Vote to approve the 2008-2009 Budget Guidelines: 39 in favor; 5 opposed, 0 abstentions.
e. Budget Guidelines Approved.

VII. New business
a. Shin announcement: Undergraduate schools are planning a referendum on whether or not to invite ROTC back to campus and want to include graduate schools in the debate. Shin requests comments and ideas on ROTC. Motion for five minute commenting period. (Shin) Second (Schwesinger).
   i. These types of conversations could potentially be placed on Basecamp. (Fischer)
   ii. Motion to add ROTC discussion to the agenda passes with 26.
   iii. Comment period:
      1. Facilitating open forums is good, but this doesn’t affect the hiring rules of the law school so does it affect us in any substantive way?
         a. CLS is part of the larger university community
      2. Who in the university is pushing for this? (Parkinson)
         a. There was some movement awhile ago. Considering the Navy ROTC. (Shin)
      3. This isn’t something the law school needs to deal with if it’s contained to the undergraduate campus and it’s always going to be an undergraduate issue. (Schwesinger)
      4. Columbia students can join the ROTC through programs at Fordham and Manhattan college. (Boremund)
      5. Don’t ask don’t tell and employment practices matter to all of us and we should informally reach out because it’s important (Sparks)
      6. An ROTC program is a defining characteristic of a school. (Horton)
      7. Support for an open forum, even if it’s not something we have decision making power on. (McDevitt)
      8. Call to discuss this after the meeting and figure out how to move forward. (Leavitt)
   a. Volunteers: Wokoff, Dubin, Mullens, Lindemann, Boremund, Schwesinger
VIII. Announcements
   a. Rajiv is having a party on Saturday, everyone’s invited!
   b. Budget committee meet for 10 minutes after the meeting.
   c. Interested 3L and LLM senators contact Kathrin about graduation committee.

IX. Adjourn 10:30 p.m.