

Oct. 6 Senate Meeting

Special Meeting

- I. Call to Order at 8:32 pm.
 - a. 43 present at roll call, 4 late.
 - b. Vote on which regular meeting time worked better for the majority of senators: Monday at 9:15 pm or Tuesday at 8:30 pm.
 - c. Hand vote, vast majority of senators preferred Tuesday at 8:30 pm.

- II. Officer Reports
 - a. President
 - i. Brief discussion of smoking ban.
 - ii. Gradfest announcement.
 - iii. Student Academic Affairs committee. Student Services sponsored a Barbri talk today.
 - iv. Thanked committees that had met over the weekend.
 - b. Vice President
 - i. Held first social committee meeting. Having a weekly pre-bar review event. Preliminary plans, for this Thursday at 7 pm.
 - ii. Lauren asked 1Ls to friend them on facebook to get out Halloween event information. Asked to contact Aditi or Lauren if they wanted to get involved.
 - iii. McCormick plans a pre-party before the Halloween event.
 - c. Treasurer. Will be going over budget tonight.
 - d. Secretary. Will be convening a meeting for Community Action sometime next week.
 - e. Parliamentarian. Nothing to report.

- III. Committee reports.
 - a. Graduation. Held interviews, will get back to people this week.
 - b. Computers. Nothing to report.
 - c. Housing. Nothing to report.
 - d. University Senate: Ben speaking for Yael. Senate met for its first general meeting last week, assigned students to committees. Invited interested parties to attend meeting held every 3rd Friday of the month in the afternoon.

- IV. Recognition of New Student Groups.
 - a. 9 members met this weekend to discuss the various groups up for recognition. Gradman presented recognition process and explain guidelines.
 - b. Existing Groups
 - i. First, considered the existing groups that changed their constitutions. All groups did so in non-controversial ways. The groups: Black Law Students Association, Outlaws, Law Students for Life, Columbia International Arbitration Association, Columbia Business and Law Association.
 - ii. Ron asked about the Opera Club, Gradman asked to hold his question, as we were just discussing the existing groups at the time.
 - iii. Call for consent. No objections. All six groups will be re-recognized under their new constitutions and by-laws.
 - c. New Groups Seeking Recognition.
 - i. Gradman presented the committee's recommendations on which groups should be recognized: Columbia Health Law Association, New England Students Association, Midwest Students Association, Bike Club.
 - ii. The committee did not recommend the other five of the total nine groups: Motorcycle Club, Refugee Connect, Workers' Rights Project, Texas Society, and the Columbia Law Opera and Classical Society.

- iii. Gradman explained the change last year, requiring 12 members instead of 7 now. Concern for extraneous redundant groups. Concern about core funding being given to all new groups, need to be cognizant of redundant groups, opportunity for collaboration instead.
- iv. Recognition Committee Decisions and Rationales.
 - 1) Health Law was easy vote, previous health group had lapsed.
 - 2) Refugee Connect was seen as redundant with SIRR and other groups.
 - 3) Workers' Right did not demonstrate much organization, and overlap with others.
 - 4) Opera Club (decision to disclose that the vote was 4-5). Concern that it would overlap with EASLS and the CU Arts Initiative. But expressed need for such a club.
 - 5) Devil's Advocates denied on basis of "beneficial purpose" clause, saying it would probably could accomplish its mission without being a club, not large benefits to the student body as a whole.
 - 6) Bike Club: large amount of interest.
 - 7) Three geographic clubs: Midwest and New England recognized as regional, but thought Texas had substantial overlap with Y'allsa, recommended that the two groups work together. Both organizations agreed to work together to address their concerns and represent each other.
- v. Move to Question and Answer phase on the first 4 recommended groups.
 - 1) Ravi asked the distinction between the bike and motorcycle club. Gradman responded that more interest had been shown in response to the bike club, giving evidence of more beneficial impact. Larger number and also broader reach (lots of people could participate) than just motorcycles.
 - 2) Mike asked about appeals process for those not recognized tonight. Gradman said those groups can appeal to Recognition, meet with committee in person, and another vote will be held. Nothing permanent.
 - 3) Tony asked about what the regional groups plan to do. Gradman said the Midwest planned to hold cultural events, career opportunities.
 - 4) Nick spoke on behalf of New England: career opportunities, outreach, similar to CalSoc with California firms. Bring New England culture, sports games, hiking, skiing. New England food.
 - 5) Jean said that she talked to Midwest, focus on career opportunities. Isokawa said to save comments for debate.
 - 6) Erik asked how the committee determines whether there's a substantial membership, and is that different from the 12 member requirement to start the group. Gradman said they are two different clauses, in addition to having 12 members to get off the group, need to determine the prospects for future viability and outreach, which is substantial membership. No objective criteria to define "substantial" during committee decision.
 - 7) Eric Wolkoff said two standards, one that it was ready to go right away. Second, because student activities fund gathered from students, need to be enough of an appeal to the student body, so that the money provided to that group will be justified. No exact number, but weighed by the committee as a general consideration.
 - 8) 3 min of Q&A over. No motion to extend.
- vi. Debate on the 4 recommended groups.
 - 1) Tony made the point that bikes are a lot cheaper, more broad appeal. Motorcycles are expensive.
 - 2) Lauren said groups not to sponsor people's hobbies, but to provide a group for the student body as a whole. Prohibitively costly to get a motorcycle, not many people can participate.
 - 3) Erik responded by saying that a motorcycle is not required, mopeds, scooters, etc. also included.
 - 4) McCormick commended the committee on a good job and pointed out that this was not a final determination, clubs can reach out, and repetition during appeals or next semester.

- 5) Move into vote. Call for consent. No objections. Four new groups pass.
- vii. Discussion of the five non-recommended groups, beginning with the Opera and Classical Music Society. Question and Answer phase.
 - 1) Gradman described the club's purpose as serving as a forum to discuss and enjoy classical music, concerts, performances in the city, etc. Find other people to play music with. Concern about giving access to budget process. Main purpose would be as subsidies to tickets, but whether this would be redundant given the CU Arts Initiative.
 - 2) Nona asked about what funding opportunities were available to groups not recognized. Gradman said outside fundraising (firms, organization), but can't ask Senate for funds. Gillian responded that to go through the budget process, you need to be an officially recognized student group.
 - 3) LDP said that the only way to get that money from student group allocations, but can get some funding through another committee.
 - 4) Meredith asked about the feasibility of a compromise position. Asking if there was a way to recognize for listserv without granting funds. Gradman said that it could not be done now, as it did not exist, but is a matter that should be looked into.
 - 5) Eric said committee couldn't do that now, as it would be pushing groups around as demanding the group to promise they would not spend money, even if given recognition. And so recommended groups to come back later.
 - 6) Motion to extend Q/A by 5 min. Motion passed.
 - 7) Austin asked why funding could not be denied to requested events. Gradman responded by citing core funding that was automatically given and brought up the Recognition committee's recommendation about severing core from recognition. Gillian said core was granted every year, not every semester.
 - 8) Njoya said that group should be recognized and left to the decision of the budget committee.
 - 9) Ron motion to extend the question and answer session and was granted by Isokawa. Then asked whether the subsidized tickets was the only concern; Gradman and Wolkoff said that CU Arts provides funding and also does a lot of the events this club would do, bring performances to campus, substantial overlap.
 - 10) Michaela asked for more information about CU Arts to make a more informed decision. LDP explained that CU Arts worked to get discounts for tickets, booth in Lerner. Arrange performances on campus and hold events in the city.
 - 11) Lisa asked about core funding. Gillian said automatic 300, increments of 100. Based on membership numbers. But 300 is automatic no matter how small, if recognized.
 - 12) No motion to extend, moved into debate.
- viii. Question and Answer Session with the Opera Club Representative.
 - 1) Sam from the Opera Club came up for debate. Said there was a misunderstanding -- the CU Arts Initiative does not offer any discounts for opera/classical music tickets. Only offer a limited number of tickets to certain operas for full price.
 - 2) Motion for Q&A for Sam. Motion passed.
 - 3) LDP asked about whether they looked into discount opportunities. Sam said no advance discounted tickets, but only day of tickets, hard to plan events if using that. LDP then asked what the plan was then -- Sam said buy full price tickets, and try to subsidize with funds.
 - 4) Nona asked what other uses of money the club would have. Asking why couldn't just be an informal group. Sam said he wanted a legitimate group, to send out emails to the student body. Easier organization and communication. Need a standing membership to count on for speakers, etc. instead of random people. Sam said they plan on attending more than one opera, need some kind of funding, can't just charge dues and use them to subsidize. Also, membership meetings to recruit people and attract membership.
 - 5) Jae asked about the broad appeal to student body. Concern about making it hard for

non-members to go to events, if they joined late and the club had already bought advance tickets. Sam said that might be true of every group, other operas opportunities, even if they miss out on a sold out show.

- 6) McCormick said that CU Arts said they offered some discounted tickets - \$4 off a \$27 ticket. Sam said maybe it was no service charge, but not a big discount, so not redundant.
 - 7) Tony asked if sole purpose was to bring people to shows, and he said that was main point, and socialize and bring speakers, etc.
 - 8) Gillian asked about mechanics of an actual event, Sam said they would get a head count and divide the money up to subsidize everyone.
 - 9) No motion to extend Q&A, moved into debate.
- ix. Debate over the Opera Club.
- 1) Ron spoke in favor of the club. Said CU Arts not a society, just gives tickets. Club could hold events, bring in a professor to talk about opera, etc. Would not overlap with CUArts.
 - 2) Nona said there was a valuable aspect to bring in speakers and have meetings, but no need for subsidized tickets if we have CUArts.
 - 3) Eric said he bought subsidized tickets for an opera, the tickets aspect is troubling. Doesn't think student activities fee should be funding opera trips.
 - 4) Shana brought up the point that budget committee would probably bar tickets and show discretion for those events.
 - 5) Gillian said that budget committee was competent to do so and was hesitant to deny a club solely on this basis. Also reviewable by general senate.
 - 6) Art said it shouldn't be the recognition committee should not be deciding based purely on budgetary concerns.
 - 7) Njoya said that he didn't like opera, but still supported the club, said budget committee could take care of it.
 - 8) Tony said finances should still be a factor, particularly with core funding. Legitimate to not recognize them.
 - 9) Lauren pointed out that student activities fee goes to buying baseball bats, poker chips, things she was not interested in, but still valuable. Should not be basis for denying recognition for this club.
 - 10) Jessica extended debate time by 3 minutes.
 - 11) Ben said that the Recognition committee should consider finances, especially when inevitable, has a budgetary impact, should be a consideration. Second, beneficial purpose clause is new and a stronger standard than previous years, hard to compare with previous years with clubs being let in under laxer standards.
 - 12) Ravi said finances could be a relevant concern, but not the overriding one to deny recognition.
 - 13) Ron said that he would not vote to fund tickets, budget committee could exercise discretion. Club not just about buying tickets.
 - 14) Motion in favor to extend debate by 5 min. Call for consent, objections. Hand vote. Motion did not pass.
 - 15) Motion to extend by 2 min. Call for consent, objections. Hand vote. Motion passed.
 - 16) LDP said group should not be recognized because stretched for resources, each additional group strains that further. Believes there should be a compelling reason to recognize each group, and no compelling reason here, students will go the opera regardless.
 - 17) Mia said that funding for tickets would most likely not happen. Also points out that there are other clubs that can be done on Facebook, include faculty members, that would not need recognition for. EASLS could incorporate these events.
 - 18) Art said that he recognized the need to limit balkanization of student groups, and make sure that new groups aren't stifled by existing groups that are not very active.
 - 19) Hand vote. 21-17-4, passes to recognize. 43 Senators present.

- 20) Ben made a point of order: an abstention counts as a no vote as per the Constitution. Opera Club is not recognized.
- x. Question and Answer phase over Refugee Connect.
- 1) Committee recognized that leader had done lots of work, but substantial overlap with SIRR. Believed that people who believed in refugee rights should work under a common banner. Recommended seek synergy with SIRR.
 - 2) No questions, moved into debate.
- xi. Debate over Refugee Connect.
- 1) Gillian said that group had potential to be a valuable group that would serve a distinct purpose, but would need more organization and start out slow. Would need large capital to start up and need to prove itself first.
 - 2) Njoya said that he supported the group, but wanted more organization and to start out slow.
 - 3) Shana asks how many students were listed on membership. Charles, the recognition liaison for the group, said it was the minimum 12 people.
 - 4) Gradman read the group purpose of Refugee Connect and SIRR.
 - 5) Call for vote. Hand vote. 4-29-5, Refugee Connect is not recognized.
- xii. Question and Answer over Worker's Rights Project.
- 1) Gradman said not very organized, need a more coherent plan. Recommended working with CPIL.
 - 2) No questions, move to debate.
- xiii. Debate over Worker's Rights Project.
- 1) No debate.
 - 2) Gillian called for consent, no objections. Worker's Rights Project not recognized.
- xiv. Question and Answer over the Texas Club.
- 1) Gradman said organizers were energetic, but substantial overlap with Y'allsa. Gradman read letter between Texas and Y'allsa pledging to work together.
 - 2) Dave asked whether we had to still consider this group, given they were not contesting the decision. Gradman said they withdrew their appeal, but we still had to consider the original decision.
 - 3) Art asked about the distinction between Texas and Y'allsa compared with APALSA, SCL, NHK, etc.
 - 4) Eric responded that other clubs had been passed under different standards. The beneficial purpose clause was new this year and had to apply that new standard, moving forward.
 - 5) Ron asked whether those clubs would have passed under the new guidelines. Eric said committee did not decide that question. His personal opinion was that he had not thought about it, or examined the constitutions, purpose, etc. But still, focus is on the future.
 - 6) Art asked what the basis for denial was, Eric responded that the beneficial purpose clause was considered before the full committee.
- xv. Debate over Texas Club.
- 1) Ben said that decisions are not final, can come for appeal or next semester.
 - 2) Mia said that a more apt analogy would be CalSoc and Southern California group.
 - 3) Art said that new groups should have the same chance of existence as old ones, especially if they lapse into inactivity.
 - 4) Jae advocated the same point, though he understood precedent.
 - 5) Vote. Hand vote. 0-36-11, Texas Club is not recognized.
- xvi. Question and Answer over Devil's Advocates.
- i. Gradman said in consideration of the new beneficial purpose clause, did not recognize.
 - ii. Motion to end Q&A, call for consent, passes.
- xvii. Debate over Devil's Advocates.
- i. Motion to call the question, hand vote, passes. Voting, call for consent, no objections, Devil's Advocates are not recognized.

V. 2009-2010 Senate Budget.

- i. Gillian stated that the budget went up slightly because of increased fee and more students. Gave more money to student group allocations, minor changes in other committees.
- ii. Question and Answer phase over the Budget.
 - i. No questions, so moved into debate.
- iii. Debate over Budget.
 - i. Njoya said that Gillian did a very good job with the budget.
 - ii. No other questions, Jessica motioned to call the question. Call for consent, no objections, budget is approved.

VI. Student Fall Group Allocations.

- i. Called for budget committee members to stand and be recognized. Got within \$3 of the target, and Gillian lauded the fairness and advocacy of budget committee members. 411 line items.
- ii. Question and Answer.
 - i. Ben asked how much was left for ad hoc budget. Gillian said she believed it was \$5537, expected more and larger requests from groups this year.
 - ii. LDP asked which groups had increased core funding, Gillian said to her recollection, it was only roughly two groups.
 - iii. LDP asked about the capital expenditures process. Gillian stated that the same process was used as last year, allocated \$100 for banner requests in line with last year, and some other capital requests.
 - iv. Eric asked about the whether there was a formal mechanism to keep track of capital equipment, LDP said there was no formal mechanism, but informal.
 - v. Austin asked if any expenditures were controversial. Gillian declined to answer as that would be a very involved process, but stated that the process was fair.
 - vi. Meredith asked about the \$15 fine imposed on three groups who did not show up to B(law) ck party after committing to it, without 24 hour notice.
 - vii. Eric asked about whether the fact that the \$15 fine was not reflected in the budget was constitutional, and whether an open vote would be required.
 - viii. Mia asked if there was another mechanism to extract the \$15 fee.
 - ix. Austin made a motion to amend the budget, adding the provision that the three groups in violation should be deducted \$15 each.
 - 1) Question and Answer regarding Senator Thompson's Amendment.
 - a) Shana asked for clarification that the groups had not given 24 hours. Meredith replied that the deadline was noon on the Wednesday before the party.
 - b) Mia asked that, given the surplus, how important the amendment was.
 - c) Austin said the \$15 would not damage the groups, but served as a warning to groups.
 - d) Call for consent to extend debate by 1 minute, Ron objected but withdrew, so passed.
 - e) LDP asked where the \$15 per group would go. Gillian stated that it would probably go back to the general fund.
 - 2) Debate on Senate Thompson's Amendment.
 - a) Meredith gave justification for the \$15 fine, minor financial penalty to ensure that groups were responsive next time. Gillian stated she supported the fine, fair penalty and supported the message.
 - b) Ben proposed a friendly amendment to change the language to 48 hours instead of 24. Accepted by Austin.
 - c) Eric stated that the \$300 minimum was not in the constitution, but in the budget committee guidelines, so that particular issue was not a constitutional issue.
 - d) Njoya brought up the point that members of the committee felt uncomfortable, given no constitutional authority, to fine groups.

- e) Ron brought up the problem of the period of notice, and Erik supported the concern.
- f) Art stated that the budget committee overall supported the fine, but being unsure about the constitutional authority, did not feel comfortable about imposing the fines themselves.
- g) Austin made the point that he thought the penalty was fair, given the hours that the committee and the Senate had put into organizing the event.
- h) Debate over. Hand vote. Amendment passes. 37-2-1.
- x. Treasurer Horton proposed an amendment for the \$45 to be placed in the Social Committee's budget, as B(law)ck Party costs will be drawn from this account.
 - 1) Question and Answer.
 - a) No questions.
 - 2) Debate.
 - a) No debate.
 - b) Call for consent, no objections, amendment passes.
- xi. No further points of debate on the amended budget.
- xii. Hand vote. 46-0-1. Amended budget passes.

VII. Response to the Flu/Cold Season

- i. McCormick brought up debate about the flu season and sick students. Asked for e-mails soliciting involvement in coming up with resolutions or solutions. Also seeks proposal of actionable items to implement.
- ii. Amaris asked about whether there were webcams to broadcast classes. McCormick said they are currently working on that, but do not have anything in place right now.
- iii. Art voiced the concern that trying to change the attitude of students and have them not show up when sick would be ruined by a few people who didn't follow the rule, and seek other alternatives like vaccinations.
- iv. Chris Angell proposed sending weekly emails talking about what to do when symptoms appear and bring notice to sanitizers.
- v. Jorge brought up the suggestion that have a point person to respond to people's questions regarding their symptoms.
- vi. Austin proposed having designated note takers in class so that sick students wouldn't feel obligated to show up to class.
- vii. Jae proposed videotaping classes; even though it might discourage people from attending classes, safety and health concerns are an important issue.
- viii. Khalil proposed that the potential committee should work with the Mailman School of Public Health, in addition to Senate work.
- ix. LDP supported note-taking for sick people, already system in place for people with disabilities, should be same for the flu.
- x. Erik said not just a student culture issue, but the administration can't force faculty to record their lectures, potential legal issue.
- xi. Jean said that might not need the administration to coordinate it, since students can ask fellow classmates for notes. Noted that soap in the women's bathroom smelled too strong. McCormick noted that the men's bathroom often did not have soap.
- xii. Mia suggested that Purell in the bathroom might be more function than Purell in the classroom. Also suggested some level of autonomy, let people make their own decisions, don't have teachers kick people out.
- xiii. Tony said that recording is much easier than videotaping, usually done on Jewish holidays.

VIII. Senate Constituencies.

- i. Resolution to create senate constituencies, co-sponsored by McCormick and Khalil.
- ii. Motion to table the discussion, accepted as friendly by McCormick.
- iii. McCormick explained the basic premise of the resolution, dividing up the student body into separate constituencies, having senators writing emails to their assigned people, notifying them of

senate events. Also responsible for listening to their concerns, serve as first point of contact.

- iv. Khalil said it would provide good feedback from the student body, good contact with 1Ls. Provide familiarity over long-term interaction.

IX. New Business.

- i. Soo asked about the coffee situation in Lenfest. Jessica said that there was a new vendor, the Brooklyn Roasting Company. Also put in more vegetarian options, and a second cashier. More changes on the way. Feedback that the coffee did not taste great.

X. Announcements.

- i. Mia announced that a number of student groups are organizing to formulating a response to the atrocities against women in Guinea that happened over the past two days. Proposed potential endorsement by the Senate to this resolution, objection to this rape as a war crime.
- ii. Gillian asked budget committee liaison to contact groups and let them know their budgets.
- iii. Christina asked for volunteers for Gradfest to talk to her.

XI. Adjournment at 11:16 pm.