Columbia Law School Student Senate  
General Meeting  
Minutes  
November 10, 2008

I. Call to Order 9:15 p.m.
   a. Roll:  42 present; 42 voting (2 proxies)

II. Officer Reports 
   a. Presidents Report
      i. Halloween Party Advertising – CLWA Complaint
         1. E-Board had approved the advertisements.  CLWA approached 
            the Senate with complaints about the appropriateness of the 
            images. Senate representatives met with CLWA members last 
            week.  
         2. It was reinforced that we are a professional school and our 
            advertisements should reflect that fact.  
         3. A very productive meeting with minimal contentiousness. 
            CLWA was able to voice their concerns.  
         4. Resolutions going forward: 
            a. Provision will be added to the Senate Organization 
               Handbook about event advertising  
            b. Attention will be drawn to the concern at the Student 
               Activity Council Meeting this week.  
            c. CLWA will host a panel about this issue and the 
               portrayal of women in advertisements and society. 
               Student Senators are invited and encouraged to attend.  
         5. Will, as Social Chair VP, apologizes to the Senate and the 
            school as a whole for the advertisement and is grateful that the 
            meeting was productive. Encourages people to speak with him 
            should they have more concerns.  
      ii. Student Activity Council Meeting this Thursday. 
         1. Max, as president, is chair. Meets with student head leaders.  
         2. Agenda: 
            a. Technology, discussion of the calendar, TV screens in 
               the lobby.  
            b. Reforming the email system to model it off of other 
               schools with less hectic spamming. 
               i. Ben and David as e-board members are working 
                  towards a solution that consolidates information. 
               ii. Kathrin thinks email shouldn’t be consolidated 
                   too much because the system self-regulates. 
               iii. Informal poll on how aware people were that 
                   they could unsubscribe from emails en masse 
                   (only two).  
               iv. Elliott: request to present the Wiki page at the 
                   SAC meeting.  
         iii. Grading ad-hoc committee will meet after this meeting. The 
            committee will meet next Tuesday with three members of the Advisory 
            Committee.  
         iv. Dean Schizer will be at the Monday, November 17 Senate meeting.
1. People can talk about the grading system, he may or may not address.

v. CLS Student Senate makes Above the Law for the second time this semester because of Assassins.
   1. Social Committee is coordinating with Intra Vivos.

vi. Diversity Council met last week.
   1. Membership defined by Senate bylaws.
   2. Diversity Council is drafting their own bylaws.
   3. Diversity Council is missing members – the LLM class is currently not represented. Call for volunteers or the Senate will solicit non-senator LLMs.
   4. Faculty members and administrators needed on the committee. Give Max suggestions.

vii. E-Board will meet with Anthony Pallone (head of building services) – wants to know what to address with them.
   1. Mounted stapler and hole punch in the third floor computer lab.
   2. Moving forward with the TV screens, which have the potential to be a great resource.
   3. General call for issues to raise to building services.
      a. Bathrooms in the law school desperately need more care and attention.
      b. Temperature

b. Vice President Report (Will Leavitt)
   i. Assassins ongoing. People are into it. 30 “kills” today. Community building aspect apparent.
   ii. Amateur night at the Apollo – Wed. Nov. 19. Tabling will begin on Thursday.
   iii. Ice Skating in Central Park – Thurs, Nov. 20. 6:30-8:00
   iv. Thanksgiving dinner – Social committee needs a volunteer to oversee. Dinner is free if you volunteer at a soup kitchen beforehand.
   v. 1L Exam Party after last finals.
   vi. Bagel breakfast last day of classes.

c. Treasurer (L. David Peters)


d. Secretary (Jessica Isokawa)
   i. Clothing Drive – ongoing, donate your clothes to the back of the east hallway in JGH.
   ii. Blood Drive this Thursday. Volunteer for slots. Encourage your friends to donate blood. Temperature will be better.

e. Parliamentairan (Ben Brickner)

III. Committee Reports
a. Graduation (Craig Greiwe)
   i. About to finalize a spring calendar with some 20 events.
   ii. Need volunteers to help out.

b. Housing (Charles Wolf)
   i. Discussing online rent payment system.
   ii. More transparency in the housing selection process.

c. Newsletter (Rex Chatterjee)
   i. New format. Snazzy look. One long article per week.

d. Computers and Library (ExamSoft). Eric Wolkoff and Ben Brickner met with Dean of Registration Services about future of Exam Soft. Currently, Mac users cannot use SofTest natively on a Mac.
   i. Possible Options
1. Eliminating SofTest and shifting to an honor code. Concerns:
   a. Cheating
   b. Test-taker anonymity
   c. Stability of personal computers (SofTest backs up work automatically)
   d. Professors who wish to keep old exam questions confidential

2. Wholesale shift to alternative software "Exam 4," which runs natively on both Mac and PCs

3. Make alternative exam software available and allows students to choose which to use (Exam 4 or SofTest)
   a. Currently what NYU does.
   b. Mac users could use either (Exam 4 natively or SofTest via Bootcamp) and PC users would use SofTest.

4. Status Quo. Continue using SofTest and IT offers free licensed copies of Windows XP to Mac users.

   ii. Wolkoff Report
   1. One issue with Mac native software is that it hasn’t been widely tested. Few schools use it as their sole program.
      a. NYU is testing the program out with some of their Mac users.
   2. The ideal approach would be to have a pilot program of Mac users try out the program in a non-exam situation. Then transition to using it in a real exam environment.
   3. Costs: CLS would negotiate a per-person cost. Currently, fees are contractual and based upon the number of students who use the software.

   iii. Brickner Supplemental Report
   1. Clarification on timing - the school won’t switch over to a new exam testing program mid-year. Instead, if there is enough student interest, new options would be pilot tested next semester. Depending on student feedback, the school will determine how best to proceed.

   iv. Senator Feedback
   1. Urgency of Problem. Miller highlights that the number of Macs students are using has grown. The rapid trend makes this issue particularly pressing.
   2. Honor Code. Senators express that the honor code seems risky and problematic. The idea of people policing for cheating is unpleasant. (*SNAPS* to show support)
   3. Mac Nativity.
      a. Mac Users express strong interest in switching over because it’s annoying having Windows on your computer.
      b. The exam software has caused a lot of problems for Mac users and makes it more prone to crashing during everyday use.
      c. *SNAPS* to show support
   4. Fees.
      a. Ash: The school pays for each Mac users to use Exam Soft and introducing new software would be a waste of money. Highlights Open source online options.
      b. Brickner: Clarifies the fees – double-fee would result only if student used both programs. Any solution should
require the student to choose a particular program, but not both.

5. **Single Program.** Value of having a standard program for both PC and Mac users. The ideal program could be used by both Mac and PC users.
   a. Agreement that consistent program has value.
   b. The exam program should be compatible with all program platforms.

6. **Security.** Question about the security of the different exam programs. Exam Soft is very secure.
   a. This would get explored during the testing phase
   b. Exam Soft does NOT plan to create a Mac compatible program.

v. **Non-Binding Vote**

1. Should CLS replace testing software with an honor code?
   a. 5 yea
   b. 30 nay
   c. 3 abstain

2. Should CLS explore switching to a program that runs natively on Mac?
   a. 35 yea
   b. 2 nay
   c. 3 abstain

3. Should CLS (1) have a single program that both Mac and PC users can use natively; (2) offer a choice of programs to Mac and PC users or (3) do whatever it takes to get a program that runs natively on Macs?
   a. 13 (1)
   b. 13 (2)
   c. 9 (3)
   d. 2 abstain

e. **University Senate**
   i. MTA Subcommittee has begun work with volunteers from the law school.
   ii. Safety Shuttle Subcommittee has some law school volunteers.
   iii. Student Leaders Forum planning is underway. Law students are involved.
   iv. Free admission to Columbia athletic events. Apparently only undergrads get free admission. It has been brought to the attention of the Student Affairs Caucus.
   v. The annual Town Hall sponsored by Columbia's Advisory Committee on Socially Responsible Investing will take place next Tuesday, November 18, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, at Carleton Cafeteria in the Mudd Engineering Building, Ground Floor.

f. Congratulations to Gabe Gershowitz on his profile in the Law School magazine. Highlighted for his work as last year's Student Senate Secretary and his work with Impact and JLSA.
   i. Flattering photo of Gabe displayed on the overhead projector to oohs and aahs.
   ii. Gabe informs the Student Senate that sitting for a photo shoot is unpleasant.
IV. **New Business**
   a. Underground Keg: last week’s underground keg was poorly attended and only one keg was consumed. (Austin) Suggestion that the program be revisited.
   i. Kathrin highlights how there was also poor attendance at Bar Review, so there was low turnout because people went out on Tuesday for the election and were probably partied out.
   ii. Motion to consider Underground Keg (requires majority vote). Rescinded. The motion will be placed on next week’s agenda. (10 minutes)

V. **Announcements**
   a. Please be on time next week for the meeting with Dean Schizer. No computers.
   b. Grading committee meet after the meeting.

VI. **Adjourn 10:10 p.m.**