Student Senate Regular Meeting Minutes
Nov. 23, 2009

1. Roll Call at 9:20 pm.

2. Officer Reports.
   a. President.
      i. Said that Student and Academic Affairs committee would be meeting with
         Professor Genty to talk about LPW feedback and improvements.
      ii. Said Dean MGK looking into LRAP situation and LLM employment database.
      iii. Faculty committee met last Friday. Dean Schizer gave a report about job
         placement, focusing on 3Ls, reported on NALP consideration of the 45-day offer
         acceptance rule. Also talked about rethinking the way Civil Procedure is taught,
         making cross-registration with SIPA better, an improved JD/MBA program, other
         faculty initiatives.
      iv. Next meeting (last of the semester!) is Tuesday, Dec. 8th at 8:30 pm.
   b. Vice President.
      i. Talked about the Thanksgiving event, said lots of positive response. Art and
         Camilo taking care of the event.
      ii. Austin and Errol in charge of the Christmas holiday party. Dec. 1st, starting
         around 6:30 pm until about 8:30 pm.
      iii. 1L post-finals party at Pourhouse, on Dec. 21st.
   c. Treasurer.
      i. Said that the Budget Committee met after last general meeting and passed two ad
         hoc events, a movie night, and a CLOCS dinner event.
   d. Secretary.
      i. Asked for volunteers to help with WordPress and the new Senate website.
   e. Parliamentarian.
      i. Talked about the Wiki Project, showing how to access the site and asked for
         volunteers.

3. Committee Reports.
      i. Art reported on discussions with IT and faculty about the Echo360 system that is
         up and running, but might be underutilized currently. Suggested testing out the
         program with lunch panels or TA sessions to show the faculty how easy it is to use.
      ii. Talked about efforts to go paperless and motion-sensor lights.
      iii. Wiki update. Meeting today of Martin, the head of IT. Will open up the wiki so
         that you no longer have to use a VPN to access the wiki, instead using your traditional
         Lawnet login information.
   b. Graduation.
      i. Kicked-offed events with the Bar Crawl, which was a big success. Planning on
         more events in 2010, starting with the Around of World party on Jan. 10, which was a
         big success last year. Also working on the Sweet Treats Date Auction, and the Ciao
         New York cultural program.
      ii. Also engaged in negotiations for a grad ball contract with the hosting venue.
   c. Housing and Facilities.
i. Ron said that Dean MGK met with people in housing, trying to work out a trial program of having 3Ls stay in their apartments during the bar summer, not clear how big the program will be.

ii. Trying to have residents in UAH housing to have their packages picked up by their superintendents.

iii. Potential purchase of a microwave for the café or water heater. Art pointed out there was a microwave on the 4th floor of Warren.

iv. Leslieann asked whether the summer bar policy would differ based on the buildings. Ron said the program would probably start with Lenfest and see about expansion.

d. University Senator Update.

e. Faculty Student Committees.

   i. Journals. Tony talked about journal editors being able to give grades to high-ranking journal staff, which the committee wasn't in favor of. Can currently have the person receive a W or remove from the transcript if they do not do a good job, but have to go through the Rules Committee. Brief discussion of removing journal involvement from people's transcripts as well, arguing that journals should go on resumes and not on the academic transcript.

   ii. Student Services. Meredith reported on housing discussions with Dean MGK. Talked about the 1L and 2L summer job positions, and trying to encourage the faculty to provide research positions to supplement. Cary reported that the committee discussed getting credit for Senate, but the committee wasn't in favor of it, should be usually reserved for academic courses. Slippery slope for a lot of other organizations.

4. Senate Constituencies.

   a. McCormick said that they took into consideration the feedback they received last time the resolution was up for debate, and hoped that the changes would lead to more support of the bill.

   b. Khalil said that they wanted to limit the sending of e-mails only a small component, focusing much more on establishing a framework for having senators to reach out to constituents.

   c. McCormick said that senators weren't required to engage in or respond to particular concerns with individual constituents, but could just pass the concerns on to the executive board.

   d. Q&A phase (5 min).

      i. Daniel asked if a constituent already had a relationship with a particular senator, if they could change their senator. Khalil said not really, would still like to have senators reach out to a lot of people, but this would definitely not replace already established informal relationships.

      ii. Dave asked how students would be notified about who their senators were. McCormick said that the list would probably be posted on a list and send the link to the student body. Also encouraged senators to write personal emails to their assigned people to notify them as well.

      iii. Ron asked whether the sunset provision, where the bill would expire at the end of 2009-2010 year, would have the program end after the spring semester. McCormick said he was envisioning debating a similar program in the future, taking into consideration the lessons learned from running this program this year.

      iv. Art asked whether the e-board would determine the list. McCormick said that's how he would envision it. Art asked about the content of the emails to be sent out, Khalil said it was subject to modification and discretion.
Christina asked whether the clause saying that senators should pass up issues to the e-board was a great added value or made a functional difference? Khalil said that the point was to have the issues passed on to the senate and not just the e-board. McCormick thought there was a lot of value added from creating first points of contact.

e. Debate (5 min).
   i. Khalil said he liked the idea.
   ii. Nick said he liked the idea because it allowed people who didn't have an established way to reach senators, and didn't do harm.
   iii. Gillian said that she supported that sentiment as well, pointed out the sunset provision, and would not do a lot of harm while addressing a great need.
   iv. Leslieann said she was hesitant to sign on to the resolution because the anonymous comments box would serve the same goal.
   v. Meredith said the anonymous box was good, but it's nice to put a face on the Senate and have an actual person for students to direct their concerns to.
   vi. Jorge said he liked it, worried about addressing so many people's concerns, but was in favor.
   vii. Ron said that there was value in having an actual person to be a contact and talk with instead of just a comment box.
   viii. Motion to vote. 27 in favor out of 33 present, motion passes.

5. New Business.
   a. Bike storage. Jean said she was in touch with Julianna at CLS Wellness, said that campus security will impound your bike for $2/day but currently not allowed to stored in CLS housing. Jean supported making it an issue for the Housing committee to address. Ron said that there were space concerns for bike storage, and it was an item up for discussion. Jessica said if anyone was interested in working on the bike issue, to contact Jean.
   b. Eric briefly talked about the Wiki and G-Drive, brief straw poll. Said that he thought the wiki was a great idea, but very low participation. Asked for the Senate's opinion on the project before investing a lot of time into the Wiki.
   c. Njoya asked for more elaboration on the project. Eric talked about the current static G-Drive, uploading outlines at the end of every semester, instead of live updates through a Wiki.
   d. Elisa said that she thought it was a great project, but thought a lot of people didn't have enough spare time to contribute with the project.
   e. Meredith said it just wasn't everyone's interest, some senators wanted to get involved in other ways.
   f. Jae said that he was wondering if people would be willing to share their work with everyone at the school. Eric said it was a realistic concern and wanted to get a sense of the culture at Columbia before investing Senate resources on this project. Concerns about one's own personal work product and the grading curve.
   g. Shana said that sign up email was a bit confusing. Said that personally she would support getting the project set up and started, but would have to look to the student body as a whole to see if the project would actually grow and develop.
   h. Art said the email was confusing as well, and said the previously expressed concerns were very valid. Said people were either going to be inclined to do it or not, but the opportunity should exist for those people who wanted to do it. Optimistic about getting the ball rolling.
   i. Gillian thought the real issue was whether there were enough people to get involved and whether the project would be feasible. Said as a philosophical matter, it would be nice to encourage more openness and sharing.
j. Eric said that the IT committee would also be bringing a resolution in the future, so the potential for debate was also there.

k. Camilo suggested that we communicated to our constituents that they could get involved in the Wiki project.

l. Ravi said there was a pressing concern among the LLMs regarding the van driver's license. Asked whether they were any new ideas. Jessica said that it would be placed on the agenda for next meeting. Eric said that Yael as University Senator could bring it up before that body's jurisdiction; McCormick said that a resolution by the CLS Senator supporting the measure as well.

m. Njoya said that he met with other Senators to talk about the establishment of an immigration and asylum clinic. Asked for whether they were suggested about getting feedback from the student body, like an online survey. Jessica said he could work with the executive board on that issue.

6. Announcements.
   a. Khalil said that his happy hour at Pourhouse would be tomorrow at 6:30 to 7:30 pm.
   b. Meredith said her happy hour was currently scheduled from 8-9 pm on that night, but would try to get it moved up.

7. Adjournment at 10:19 pm.