

SBA Minutes 10.05.05

Meeting commenced 9:43 pm

I. President's Report

a. Vote to approve minutes

Raised by Bruce

Seconded unanimously

b. Present strategic plan

We need to get office space and collect the student groups together. Even if it's just one big room for students to have meetings and have mailboxes. Some groups are in closets and some don't have physical space at all. We also need an enterprising representative to send to every University-based Storrs meeting to make sure they consider the Law School in their decisions. The med center is separate from the University and very separate. The regional campuses are wings on the mother ship. But we are different, and that message seems to be lost upon the University.

Envisioning elections at the beginning of the Spring semester, if that can be made possible through a constitutional amendment.

John O'Donnell: Can we make budget proposals for the Fall at the end of Spring?

Dan Desjeunes: That will be hard because we don't balance the budget until June.

Bruce Adams: We can have groups submit their proposals early, however. That way, the budget committee can come up with a budget proposal sooner, too. This is also why we set guidelines, so people know what SBA will pay for and what we won't. Also, read through the President's Report (Oct. 5, 2005), and let me know if you have any comments/concerns.

II. Treasurer's Report

Budget got approved. About how to get reimbursed—not just receipts! We need the voucher filled out, on the website.

III. Vice President's Report

a. Fall Ball

Moving along on Fall Ball. We just need to work on insurance w/Crowne Plaza.

Tail Gates: Dean Werling is not fond of them b/c of insurance concerns and catering. However, Morgan has found 20 tickets for the Rutgers game---should we get them and put them on sale? They are really nose-bleed seats. They are terrible.

Dan Desjeunes: They can just sit in the student seats once they get in.

Jon Raphael: Need to send out a more detailed Fall Ball announcement because people want to know about buses, etc.

Morgan: Wanted to wait b/c of insurance.

Bruce: Tailgate with just tent, BBQ and cooler, but no food?

Morgan: Potentially.

Jon Raphael: One was catered and it was expensive. Fun, but expensive. Nick just spent a lot of time putting the tailgates together.

John O'Donnell: What about something with the Alumni Assn?

Morgan: Hesitant b/c this would be going over the head of Dean Werling here and it would look like side business.

Jason Crawford: We're pretty set on the date of Fall Ball.

Morgan: DJ is set, buses are set, tickets will be printed this weekend. Jean will take care of tickets.

Jason: We just need to give her a metal box.

Hugo: Price of tickets?

Morgan: \$20/\$25 at door.

Bruce: are there problems with people not paying?

Morgan: It's a problem every year. Sometimes 1/3 of the people don't pay. We just need to make sure that there is only one entrance and people don't have to crowd by the bars.

IV. Old Business

a. approve last SBA mtg minutes

Done.

b. finalize committee sign-ups

Sign-up sheet passed around.

V. New Business

a. Announce elections and mobilize election committee

Bruce: We need a small forum of what we want to see done here and mobilize it. We need to see what students want and get them to believe in us. We need a unified voice to the administration. There needs to be a meeting in which students tell us what they want, so we can go to the administration to have them get it done.

b. Public Interest and Pro Bono initiative

VI. Additional

a. ADRS

Aaron Briggs: Wants \$400 to register for a client counseling competition. Deadline is Oct. 28th, but the competition is in the Spring. Would have put it in budget, but we didn't realize that the deadline to sign up was in October. It's in Pace University in NY.

Dan: Did we give you money for hotel rooms?

Aaron: I think so. Email me the budget proposal and we can vote on it.

Bruce: It's underneath the threshold, but we would like to discuss it.

Commentary by anyone?

Dan: We could recoup money in Fall and put it in Spring, but money is tight. We gave out a lot of it. We're at around 97G out of 107G

Bruce: We also gave out a lot of full-year budgets to the journals, etc.

Aaron: When would you be voting on it?

Dan: You have to give it to us first. But it will be a couple of days, once we get the request.

b. PILG

Issue with the use of the student email list. Saving the date for the auction. Dean Chill said he was concerned about the use of the student email list.

Dan: was it to the community list or student list?

Emily: Student, but it's a huge auction and it's for the whole school. I'm concerned not only for us, but for other student groups. I would like SBA to endorse our use of this so that I can go to Dean Chill and tell him. Could we contact the computer committee rep, b/c Dean Chill said these are issues that will be coming up in their meetings. But the UConn Storrs emails are less useful than this.

Jason Crawford: What about Anne?

Jon: He needs to explain what the student list is for if PILG can't use it?

Jason: How does that not pertain to student life?

Bruce: The list is not supposed to be for "come out to our party," even if it's for a student group meeting. Recognized student groups have a legitimate reason to get their message out to the entire student body. And you can't post info on paper, unless it's in the one tiny spot in the student lounge, and we don't have space for our student groups to come together.

Dan: Do we need to create *another* list? We want as many people to see these messages as possible, and this is what the student list is for.

Jason: There's also a limit to the amount of attachments you can send.

Bruce: We've all had problems with the student list.

Jason: And this is a commuter school—how are we supposed to get anything done.

Bruce: What if the administrators just had their own official posting list?

Emily: Sending out paper mail is expensive, inefficient. I don't see the problem with a save-the-date email about the PILG auction.

John O'Donnell: Yeah, Morawetz sent out his movie night info.

Dan: This is just another example of the Administration's lack of support for public interest.

Bruce: SBA sponsors PILG's use of the email list.

Jason: Motion for SBA to sponsor all student groups' use of the list for student activities, and SBA should send around a petition.

John O'Donnell: Second.

Bruce: Discussion.

Jon Raphael: At the very least, he needs to define the policy.

Bruce: Social commentary can go to the community list, and people can have the opportunity to opt out, but they shouldn't necessarily have the opportunity to opt out of group announcements.

Dan: Especially for something as important as the PILG auction. That's where all the money comes from.

Bruce: Support the use of the student list for legitimate group announcements and to submit a written letter of support to the computer list.

Jon: Seconded.

Bruce: All in support?

Unanimous.

c. Mock Trial Society

Emily Dean: MTS not accepted into the competition at Loan Star even though they do it every year and they are the 1st alternate. Emailed a judge running it and was told about invitationals, but these are harder b/c they are usually for established trial team schools. St John's in NY—a team just dropped out and a spot opened up. Also, another comp opened up. Now Loan Star had a team drop out and gave them a spot. I know you gave us a lot of funding, but if you could send us to one or both of these, that would be great. It doesn't look good for the school to get spots as a favor and then turn around and say no.

Atlanta: \$2,330, NY: \$2,050

We did the budget with alternates, but we can rearrange it w/o alternates. We don't need flights with NY, but we do with Atlanta. Registration costs are \$350 for all.

Jason: Did we give travel money for other comps?

Dan: ADRS had 2 comps. We gave \$150/student per flight, and up to \$150 for hotel. Could you do one hotel room for the 4 of you?

Hugo: When are these?

Emily: 3rd week in November, and St. John's is last week of October.

Bruce: have you prioritized these, if you could only go to one, or 2?

Emily: NY, Atlanta, b/c they are invitationals and they look better for UConn, and Lone Star screwed us over, so it would be easy for us to turn around and say no.

Dan: If it's 2 ½ hours or 150 miles, no travel expenses.

Emily: If we could do 2 out of 3, we'd send the team from Loan Star to NY—that's 3 females and one male. That's 2 rooms.

Bruce: Sub Atlanta for Loan Star?

Emily: Yes, that's our priority. NY is \$2,050, with alternates. We would look for the most economic hotel deal in NY.

Dan: We had a cap on hotel rooms at \$150.

Emily: Then I'd assume we'd do it like we did for flights where you pay the rest out of pocket. It's the cost of doing an expensive activity. Hotel is 2 rooms for 3 nights. But if our team didn't advance, then you wouldn't need to pay the other night(s).

Bruce: Anyone have anything else to say?

Dan: We can agree that you can sub Atlanta for Loan Star. Motion for allocation of \$1,450 for NY (\$150 room/night/2 hotel, plus reg fee and \$200 for exhibits.)

Motion.

Gandhi: Seconded.

Discussion:

Bruce: This motion would hamstring them from the TX competition.

Dan: From what I understand, you can allocate extra if it's left over. You can spread the money we allocate tonight if you want to pay more out of pocket as a team.

Jon: Is the money there now?

Dan: If everyone follows through with the money allocated, it's going to be a tight Spring. But we need to have some safety net. We need to think long-term and not use money in stiff account b/c we'd like it to be used for the Class Gift.

Bruce: To what extent is this going to be a regular thing? Obviously the intent is to plan out as far in advance as you can. This is a big dollar amount. What does MTS anticipate in the Spring?

Emily: It's much less hectic in the Spring. Only planning on 2, and one is local.

Bruce: Motion to restrict MTS to 2 comps in the Spring funded by SBA, would your group be amenable?

Emily: I would prefer not b/c if there is extra money and we could, that would be great. But if this an absolute condition, then we'd do that.

John Connaughton: It would be on the record, we could always just not approve it.

Bruce: Move to close.

Morgan: Seconded.

Bruce: Motion to allocate MTS \$1,450.

Motion carries. All present in favor, O'Donnell abstains.

Bruce: Motion to adjourn.

Morgan: Seconded.

Members Present: (Quorum met)

Bruce Adams

Morgan Scott

Dan Desjeunes

Tanya Bogdanovski

John O'Donnell

Jason Crawford

John Connaughton

L. Gandhi Lindor

Hugo Tomasio

Jon Raphel