

February 8, 2006  
SBA General Meeting  
Start: 9:33

Motion to Begin Meeting  
Granted.

President's Report.

Plan for tonight: vote provisionally to approve the posted budget requests.  
-not voting officially on the entire proposed budget.

Administrative matter:

Move to approve the minutes from the last two meetings.  
-seconded, all in favor, none opposed.  
Minutes approved.

Election issues.

-graduation speaker from the graduating evening and day classes.  
-deal with electing executive board right after spring break.

IT issue.

-prefer to table that to next meeting.  
-tabled.

Old business?

-no.

Treasurer's Report

Sent out email for proposed budget.

Did recapture some moneyh from last fall.

-some of it went to Katrina trip,  
-maybe even another such trip in the spring.

Total amount was 59,000 in total proposed budget from all groups.

-total budget for spring is 30,000.

-several groups had to be cut because we are being consistent with budget guidelines from last semester.

Next time, approve budget for the spring.

VP's report

Happy hour event to be held (hopefully) next Thursday at a new bar on Pratt.

Ski trip is a go.

Need to set dates on upcoming events.

General Business.

**Discussion for Possible Funding for “Race in the New Millennium” Conference, (narrative follows)**

REGINE: march 3<sup>rd</sup>, 7 speakers confirmed, it is a conference that we want entire law school to come to. Reason for the conference is because that race should no longer be a black and white issue and should be a multi racial issue. It is good to have racial diversity to foster the academic atmosphere. Same goes for the workforce. First panel in the morning. Broad panel, some professors that have worked in different areas. Bring forth forward looking message. Key note speaker, partner from N. Carolina. Second panel, afternoon, on USA patriots responding to racial injustice. Specifically, it addresses life after 9-11 and the consequences. Joint effort from BLSA and LLSA, other organizations want in too. George W Crawford Black Bar, CT Hispanic bar, young lawyers section of CT bar, people who have decided to have make personal donations (professors, people from the community, etc), waiting for Ok from African American council of Ct and the Puerto legal affairs commission of CT. huge conference, cost around 7G. Want to alleviate the cost. Sponsorship from South Asian may just be their members are going to show up. Actively trying to get professors to give incentives to their students to attend. RSVP lunch at around 60, up to 80 people.

JOHN: when?

REGINE: Friday march 3<sup>rd</sup>.

JANE: Rainbow center at Storrs should chip in, they are large and well-funded. One of their directors is a 3L here.

REGINE: question, according to an email, it appears that we SBA does not fund lodging.

DAN: for conferences, we pay for registration fee but not travel or lodging. For competitions we pay the registration fee and then some extra for travel and lodging. We haven't paid for lodging and travel for speakers here. We can pay for other things like copying etc. We gave each group in their proposed allocation, \$1,089 each for the conference (BLSA and SALSA).

**RON: what do you do when law journals ask for money for symposiums? Is there any way to increase the allocation?** Even though this is a group thing, it is on the student's front webpage today. Everyone should come.

**BRUCE: Sticky issue. Regular law school conferences and symposia have had different funding guidelines. This year we made bright line rules. This is one reason why we are doing well financially. Journals don't get anything unless they can prove that they need it. That's our standard. The SBA has the discretionary power on a full vote to override that.**

GANDHI: Did we fund speakers for entertainment law society?

DAN: Overrode with vote and paid for it, but speaker could not attend.

BRUCE: So it is possible.

JOHN: Just a recommendation, could be changed on a full vote.

BRUCE: We are doing this provisional vote to give an idea or basis from which they can act.

ROBERTO: LLSA wants to second Ron's request to increase the amount of funding. Law school has been facing dilemmas in the rankings and it is important to bring in people of reputation to speak. Hope to find funding by any means, hope that SBA will help. Part of the role of the SBA.

ERIC: question. If we include the \$2,100 that is being kicked around, how far from goal of 7G?

REGINE: We would be at least 3G short. A lot of our organizers don't have a lot of money. \$200 per organization. We have about 5 of those. Apart from funding request, we have to feed them the night before. We also have to find money for that.

**BRUCE: question. Take the \$2,178 proposed and the \$1,000, how much has the dean's office pledged?**

**RON: Dean's office is hoping that the SBA will help out because it is a student lead school wide function. Deans' office may be open to help, but they have other requests too.**

**BRUCE: Issue has plagued the SBA. Trying to find out who will pay. SBA doesn't want to give away money without an assurance of success. Dean's office also hesitant. Talked to Nell about special events about diversity, they have fund for events of this nature. Deficit is about \$3,800 and the dean's office can and will come up with the money.**

**RON: I had a conversation with the dean last week and she is concerned that moneys are running out, and there is not an unlimited tap. Hope is that the SBA will be involved because of the nature of the event. Again, there are other requests to the dean's office.**

FALLON: diversity events seem to get pigeon holed, and on UConn's campus it has to happen. So many other campuses do this, SBA should be eager to support this in any way. It is so critical to our community.

JANE: haven't spoken to Dean Newton. I would be shocked if Dean Newton's office would shell out 3,800. So much money has never gone to any one event or student group. Will be told to go back to the SBA and they have to move before we can talk.

REGINE: Appreciative of budget, but concerned that we are time sensitive. 3 weeks away from the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Been working for a long time on this. Just because we are in a time constraint, and we also want it to come off as professionally as possible, **I would like to ask a decision to be made and only ask Dean Newton for \$3,800 as a last resort.** I think a definite number right now is the best thing for us. Already have reservations, just need the money to pay for it.

ERIC: how much money do we have in the discretionary fund to draw from?

DAN: we have had a lot of allocations to moot court, graduation party, etc. basically it is hard to tell where we are right now. I would say that we do have enough money though from the beginning of the year.

ERIC: sounds like we can kick around about 7G.

BRUCE: yes, liquidity, its true.

DAN: two big things are moot court and graduation party, 30G in money we just allocated to student groups. Last spring a large amount of the money came back. A goal was not to have a 30G cushion into next year, but to send over a cushion.

BRUCE: remember that I found a 40G debit from the reserve account. I found some evidence of that credit, we had at one point reserves of 55G, which are now down to 14G. idea that we could take our reserve and recredit in an investment minded approach so that we can become a healthful organization to fund organizations such as this in circumstances such as this.

OWEN: is the goal stopped if we start giving out extra amounts to people?

BRUCE: Just wanted to reiterate since we were all balancing these considerations.

ROBERTO: Funding these sorts of events is another important investment in our reputation. All of our speakers are coming from other areas of the country. Good for spreading our name. We have an opportunity to bolster the rep of the law school in other areas of the country.

**DAN: Number we allocated was to be consistent with our guidelines. If we get overridden by the SBA as a whole, then so be it, we are more than happy to help.**

BRUCE: What I want to do is to see if there is a need for discussion with the requestors before we move to close the discussion?

**OWEN: Suggestion, make that same statement to Dean Newton. She perhaps more than us should be concerned about the school's reputation.**

RON: Dean has been very gracious so far. This event is for the whole student body. More than one group has been involved. It is a student led, student-organized event for all students. We hope that SBA would help us out.

BRUCE: Question, what sort of event would be more properly funded by the dean than by the SBA?

RON: Say that BLSA had an event with its own membership, something that is tailored to meet the needs of groups underrepresented in the legal world, and was not open to the whole student body, it would be something that the Dean's office would be more willing to help with. Something more narrow in focus.

BRUCE: If you propose an event, that is open to the whole campus, that that is an event that the SBA more properly funds?

RON: Case by case thing. SBA has a duty to fund events that benefit the student body as a whole. So yes. Just my opinion.

ROBERTO: We don't expect that the dean's office won't participate. But because it is an event that is for the student body, we believe that the SBA should play a larger role than the dean's office.

MEG: Question, compared to past events, could you describe the past events, number of speakers, etc.

RON: We've had huge programs. We had Randall Pinkston, event was huge and open to the whole campus, two years ago we had a partner from a large NYC firm. But this is larger on all scales than anything in the past. Cutting back on everything else to have it. This event will have a larger impact on campus than anything that we have done in the past.

**BRUCE: question, then move close and to a vote. In your conversation with the Dean, to what extent has she given you any assurances? Like, "if the SBA doesn't give you enough money, we'll look after you."**

**RON: No. if we leave with only what we've got, we probably won't have the conference as planned. Maybe the Dean will change her mind, but at this point, it doesn't look likely.**

BRUCE: Move to close.

John: seconds.

BRUCE: In SBA discussion.

HUGO: Worthwhile event and we should fund more than we have considering our situation.

OWEN: Dean's office should come up with some more money.

ERIC: If this is the type of event that we are supposed to fund, this is it. Want to discuss matching the funds beyond the amount given with the dean's office.

FALLON: As the SBA, if you are not concerned with the issues to be discussed, it is important that you do. We are supposed to represent the students (of all sorts). This is something that is important for us to stand by.

**BRUCE: Inclined to agree with the public policy issue here. However, I characterize the request into three issues: propriety of the event, our investment minded approach to fiscal management (want to build set up and maintain a healthy fisc), and the most compelling issue is the precedential value. I believe in our consistency in approach throughout this year and this has set our reps on a path that will carry the SBA going forward in a healthy approach. This value is not so strong that we cannot fund an extraordinary request, but if we do, I encourage the SBA to make VERY clear that this is the sort of request that will act as the threshold sort of event (to substitute the previous precedent of the entertainment law conference/symposium). If we do put aside our guidelines and vote to go over the amount, I would still caution the SBA to be conservative in doing that. Spoken to the DEAN and I have the impression that she will not let this event fall by the wayside. Julia Dunlop is also involved. President's perspective is that the Dean's office will come up with a substantial enough amount that then the requestors will come back with a request for 500-600 dollars.**

MEG: Agree with the president. Yet we might want to consider what cases we might break with guidelines over. This is of exceptional value to our school. Could be a limited exception. Suggest funding a conservative amount more than we are now.

HUGO: What amount was proposed?

**DAN: \$4,350 requested. \$2,178 was the proposed allocated.**

**BRUCE: we have 1G and then some nebulous amount from the Dean's office. Maybe the Dean's office has conditionally pledged something.**

ERIC: what kind of history exists with money from Storrs?

BRUCE: Rainbow Center has funding for stuff. We encourage groups to get money from Storrs, but we don't have good records of their successes.

OWEN: Idea of precedent. I think that its dangerous to establish it based on one event. Maybe we should have a committee draft this out instead of using an event as the example. Objective in a bad way to base it on one event.

HUGO: One of our guidelines is to promote activities and diversity.

BRUCE: It's in our preamble of our constitution. See preamble. The event clearly falls within our constitutional charge. Frankly, on its merits, it is better than a pizza party.

SALTUS: Make math easy, if SBA allocates 3G tonight and allows the Dean the opportunity to match. In other words, \$800 more. Doesn't go too far out of bounds with precedential value.

HUGO: motion to allocate \$3,678.

Morgan: Second.

Bruce: Motion to fund \$3,678, open discussion.

HUGO: I just wanted to bump it up.

ERIC: the discrepancy is still about \$3,330.

BRUCE now that a motion is on the table, it bears opening up the discussion to the proposals. Motion.

Morgan: second.

REGINE: We have to host the guest for dinner. The estimates for the tickets and all that, are all estimates, so we may have to add some more here and there. For example, the ticket from Colorado is \$650. I am already a little off because it is different from my research.

BRUCE: Where does the 7G come in?

REGINE: \$4,350 was the request, the night before would be dinner for all guests: \$1,500, plus a few hundreds for discrepancies in estimations, say around \$500. So we are about \$700 off the 7G estimate.

BRUCE: question is begged, who is paying the \$1,500?

REGINE: This is why we are looking for moneys outside of the SBA.

BRUCE: Including alcohol?

REGINE: This is definitely not money from the SBA for this. None of the money requested will go towards the dinner. Our need from the SBA is \$4,350 and none of that goes to money or alcohol.

BRUCE: Just want to make sure that Hugo's motion is appropriate.

HUGO: My motion had to do only with the \$4,350 request.

ERIC: Move to amend to \$2,500 pending what we then see the dean's office give.

OWEN: second.

Discussion on friendly amendment.

JANE: if Dean Newton's office chooses, they can pay for the dinner. We need to all be aware that these numbers are coming from Julia Dunlop's numbers, they are a typical of wining and dining. We may not need to do that sort of thing. Dealing with the 4G is a realistic thing.

HUGO: I don't accept the amendment:

Vote on the amendment to defeat Hugo.

BRUCE: vote on Hugo's motion. As it stands with no amendment.

-to increase what we have already allocated by \$1,500. Total of \$3,678. This will then be in the proposed budget for next week. This is in order to give the groups the ability to rely. So please don't change your vote later.

All in favor of Hugo's motion to increase . . .

7 in favor: Morgan, Hugo, John, Justin, Meg, Fallon, Dan

6 opposed: Eric, Owen, Samantha, Dan Saltus, Bruce, Joe Smiga

\*Gandhi sits this one out.

Hugo's motion carries.

**BRUCE: Motion that the SBA pass a resolution that this is an extraordinary funding request and it consciously goes against our funding guidelines.**

**DAN: second.**

**SAMANTHA: this is a good idea because there will always be worthy activities, its important that we make this clear. Need to set a precedent that we are not just going to give more just because your group shows up,**

**JOHN: we go by the guidelines, but this is why we debate. If the SBA as a body thinks that we should do it, then we should.**

**JANE: advising viewpoint, seen SBAs go tanked into the spring because of stuff like this, so you have to have standards. But you are spending 12G on a graduation**

party, that's a lot. If you are using that as a basis, I look at it as how many people are getting benefit out of how much is spent. Even more so then this activity seems fair. Try and look at it that way.

**JOHN:** good point. We have excellent guidelines and that's why we have a voting process. Close vote shows the extraordinary circumstances.

**BRUCE:** amending the above motion to include this part of the meeting minutes in the manual for the budget committee.

**Morgan:** second.

**BRUCE:** move to vote.

-owen abstains, all else are yeas.

Meeting closed.

**In Attendance.**

**John Connaughton**

**Hugo Tomasio**

**Joe Smiga**

**Meg Magauri**

**Justin Li**

**Owen Kolter**

**Eric Reed**

**Samantha Kranner**

**Dan Saltus**

**Fallon Depina**

**Gandhi Lindor**