

SBA Meeting 04.03.06

Commenced: 9:45 PM

Ended: 10:45 PM

- I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT
 - A. Election of Treasurer will be done next meeting instead of this one. Notice will be sent out about the opening.
 - B. Next meeting is Thursday, 04.20.06.
 - C. Funding Request: (Fallon Depina) SBA BBQ for orientation. Wants student groups to get more connected w/1Ls. Orientation was inside a lot and it wasn't really fun/worthwhile. Hard to get student involvement. *Proposal*: get student org fair on the 1st day of classes, ben & jerry's, etc. Community-wide community service project. Clean-up. PILG community service project this year, but it could be simpler and more community involved. Community-wide cookout—for everyone, but 1st years would definitely attend. Potluck possibility. Integrate upperclassmen w/first years. Provide social/amicable environment. Truffles would charge \$5 a person. 250 ppl estimated. DJ would be there. Total would be \$1650. (Copy of proposal given to Danielle). Can give to social committee under social budget, or it can be submitted under a group's name and proposed to the SBA as a whole.

- II. VP
 - A. Spring Fling. Successful
 - B. Student/Alum reception. Jason Crawford in charge. Invites sent. Alumni still have time to respond. Wed April 19th 5:30-7:30. Will send to student list for RSVPs. Will be cash bar. Maybe will get intro speaker.
 - C. Carnival. April 20th or 29th. Want it on Saturday for maximum community involvement, but Friday would evoke more administrative participation.
 - D. Law/Med mixer probably won't happen b/c their suggested date is right before our finals. They are very inflexible in their dates, so it probably won't happen. Also, we'll be having another big social event at Tisane's later this semester.

- III. CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES
 - A. Not posted in hardcopy or electronic yet, but incoming president is asked to forward some of the changes. They should be presented this evening. People who drafted it (Owen, et al) are available for consultation about this.
 - B. Carrie Field. **Has submitted proposal to amend by-laws.** (letter from Carrie about by-law amendment re. Public interest.). Hope is that this will be a permanent committee under our constitution. Form standing sub-committee on public interest/pro bono. This comports with last year's SBA's push to further public interest and pro bono initiatives at the law

- school. We've done some by financially assisting PILG and CPILG, but the SBA can take more substantive action. Bruce: Vote to accept proposal. Tanya: Seconded. Dan: How many people on committee? Bruce: Free form. Meg: I've been working on this, and we don't want the spirit of last year's letter to die away. **Vote: All in favor. None opposed.**
- C. Constitutional language changes. Owen: A couple different problems committee decided to go after. The first thing was the problem of the LLM reps and the elections, and the people that go abroad. Jon Connaughton: problems w/attendance, esp with people who went abroad. Amendment proposed that if people who aren't going to be here for 2 semesters in Hartford during term won't be eligible. The LLM elections would be in the Fall. Right now, it's not clear for them to be in the Fall. It's what we do, we have it in the Fall, but it's not in the constitution. Bruce: Non-binding vote on this? Then next SBA can have our guidance on it. The vote doesn't have any legal effect. It just shows our support.
- D. (Owen) Then, there is the Treasurer problem. It should be a 2L and it doesn't necessarily need to be a school-wide elected position. Dan: it should be a 2L so the outgoing treasurer can close the books. Need to sign off on the last day, June 30th. The 2nd year could be working elsewhere too. Bruce: The treasurer has a fiduciary duty b/c we manage 120G a year. The incoming treasurer can't swear to the accuracy of the books unless they can really talk w/the outgoing treasurer. Owen: This ties in with the broader goals of accountability for student groups. Treasurer should both open and close the books for each year. Bruce: I know there are 3L candidates this year, so perhaps it could go into effect for the next year, not this incoming SBA. Dan: I would be opposed to making it a rule, b/c I was the only one running. Jason: I don't think it should be a rule. It could restrict a lot of candidates. I don't think I want to force a 2L to do it. I would also like to know why the Treasurer is an internal candidate. Bruce: The idea is that b/c the SBA as a governing body has its own duty to the student body, it needs to have faith in its Treasurer. Governance issue. Any change on that regard should be looked into. See other schools' constitutions.
- E. (Owen) Election time-table. Bruce suggested moving back to beginning of semester. Want the officers elect to serve for whole semester, know what they're doing. The concern is a shadow government. Bruce: The incoming SBA can vote on this. We should move forward to at least the early part of the semester. Law school board of trustees have board elects. Incoming exec board can have approximately 1 semester to transition in, get to know SBA, not have vote, but familiarize themselves w/process. Eric: Would this change the date they take office? Bruce: No, they'd be ex officio. They wouldn't have a vote. They'd be officers elect. The only thing that would change would be the election date. Owen: We should have a definite date, if we're going to propose it. Dan: 3rd Wednesday in February. Jason: Is this for the Exec Board or the reps? Bruce: Exec Board. I think it should be a substantial portion of the Spring Semester.

- Eric: What about the 2nd meeting of the Spring Semester? Bruce: The Wednesday before the 2nd meeting of the Spring Semester. Further discussion? None. **All in favor for non-binding vote? All in favor.**
- F. Record-keeping. Bruce: Amend by-laws to give SBA/Budget Committee to require/deny funding based on the quality of their financial record keeping. If the SBA holds itself to a high level of financial accountability, then so should the groups. We're in the works of getting space, so student groups can store their financial info there in lockable space. It accords with sound principles, and is a redundant form of accounting. Eliminates problems when requests come up and people don't know numbers or what people (SBA, Deans) have given them in the past. Owen: Requiring binders to groups? Bruce: Informal practice, doesn't need to be in the by-laws. Motion to require high standard of accountability according to financial records, with the proviso that this next year will not be held to highest standard. Tanya: I have a problem with it b/c sometimes you have a completely new board, and they have no control over what prior leaders of the group have done. Bruce: but the SBA is held to this standard. If a person was able to come up to the SBA and explain they are unable to account for certain things, it's a full and fair disclosure, it's transparent, and the SBA wouldn't deny funding. It's still discretionary. But if the treasurer stands up and explains that mistakes were made and they were going to amend procedures, then there's no problem. Fallon: Spur of the moment events might have problems. They would be further penalized for events that would benefit the whole campus. Bruce: this initiative is to, in part, fix that problem. It would create more liquid dollars from groups that don't spend all of their allocated money. That's good, solid, sound financial investment. Dan: I say next year we change the reimbursement process for each group to submit copies of payment vouchers. Then if anything gets messed up with people not getting checks, or not getting enough, then the treasurer could find it easily. Fallon: is there any current stipulation about initially working with treasurer of groups? It seems to make more sense that if you're going to be harsh about it, there should be some training or information. Bruce: Then the amendment should include that space for records will be provided, and information about the applicable bylaws. Dan: I am going to spend at least 3 sessions w/the new Treasurer. I didn't get enough information, and meeting more would have helped. Jason: So the new wording should say "reduce" not "deny" funding. **Everyone in favor, except Hugo, who is opposed.**
- G. Dan: If anyone is waiting for SBA checks, we got new ones, so they should be in next week. Monday or Tuesday. Big disbursement of money then.
- H. Bruce: SBA photo. We actually have a webmaster and we should archive our pictures. We're also getting the plaques done within this summer. This Spring, please make yourself available to get picture snapped. Tanya: Let's just do it at the next meeting. Bruce: Yes, let's do that. At

the next meeting, I'd also like to give a short state-of-the-SBA address. I think it's prudent.

IV. TREASURER

- A. Financial Statement: Dan: Gave out total of almost 19G in March. March and October, we pay out the most money. WE got about \$2250 from Spring Fling. About \$2300 of unallocated money for this semester.
- B. Request on table for \$601 by Gavan and Raul. Lambda/BLSA diversity event. Intitially requested \$1900. Admissions have informed that minority law student numbers are down, as well as those who have accepted. Want to attract minority law students to come here. Alumni/Prospectives/Current students invited to come. A real continuum. Gavan: Do I need to reallocate the Lambda funds in specific paperwork? Bruce: No, just write something up that you're reallocating. Raul: This is for the entire community. 80-100 people. BLSA, LLSA, LAMBDA will be reaching out to the whole community. Jazz band, hors d'vours, heat lamps on patio bar, etc. Classy event. **Bruce: This is show up and eat and drink correct? Raul: Yes. Morgan: Is this for everyone, or just the law school? Raul: Law school, alumni, and prospective students. It's a show of support to attract applicants to come here. Bruce: Move to vote. Last time, Gavan came and asked for \$1900, and now they're asking for \$600 and this is the type of thing that SBA is trying to encourage—taking the action to find money elsewhere, in addition to SBA.** Outside funding: Admissions--\$100, Career Services--\$200, Confidential Source--\$500, Lambda--\$400, LLSA--\$100. Total: \$1300. Morgan: SBA gives \$300 and Social gives \$301. My experience in reserving rooms is that you pay for a certain amount of people for food, and then the room is included. Raul: They switched \$300 of the room reservation into food. Morgan: You could get more food out of them more money went to food. Bruce: Motion to close discussion and vote. Jason: Seconded. **All in favor.** Jason: Motion to adjourn. Bruce: Seconded.

C.

Members Present:

Meg Maugeri
Stein Heilmrich
Jason Crawford
Jon Connaughton
Hugo Tomasio
Joe Smiga
Eric Reed
Owen Kloter
Dan Saltus
Sam Krasner

Fallon Depina
Gahndi Lindor
Bruce Adams
Morgan Scott
Tanya Bogdanovski
Dan Desjeunes
Kiley Gosselin
Justin Li

Members Excused:

John O'Donnell

Members Not Excused: