

# SBA MEETING 9/2/08

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## **SBA Reps In Attendance:**

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| a. Ben Smilowitz (BS) | g. Adam Daniels (AD)  |
| b. John Kim (JK)      | h. Chris Argyros (CA) |
| c. Sarah Saadian (SS) | i. Drew Barber (DB)   |
| d. Gabe Vidoni (GV)   | j. Peter Hitt (PH)    |
| e. Michael Tehan (MT) | k. Tara Triflon (TT)  |
| f. Jorge Colon (JC)   | l. David Tanner (DT)  |

## **Meeting Began at 9:31pm**

Sarah Saadian motioned to begin the meeting. Jorge Colon seconded. Meeting began at: 9:31pm

BS: One of our goals this year was to have a more active SBA and to get more people involved, so I am very happy with the turnout today. Let's start with some introductions. Explain what you are interested in, your year, and division, if you want to share it. Then we will discuss goals for the year, committee members, faculty committee appointments, elections, among other things. So, let's introduce ourselves.

(Everyone introduces themselves)

BS: I'll start every meeting with public comments. So if you wanna say anything?

Adam Daniels: I commend Ben for an excellent job running this meeting so far.

David Tanner: There is a \$500 registration limit for the budget? Does this apply even if it precludes participation?

Gabe: You should include the information on your budget anyways. Of course, we will consider your request and reevaluate if it totally precludes you from participating.

Ben: We can find other ways to fund your event, so that we don't break any rules. For example, if you co-sponsor with another organization, then this may not be an issue. Also you are an SBA rep who can change the process. It may be something worth discussing.

Gabe: Shoot me an email, so we can discuss it.

Adam Daniels: Can we move this meeting to the faculty meeting room, so that we can sit in a circle, to help facilitate discussion.

Ben: Okay, why don't you look into that and get back to us.

Jamila Ball: You mentioned faculty committee appointments? What do they do? Practically speaking.

Ben: We will discuss it later, its on the agenda... can you stick around? Anything else.

Ben: Okay. Goal s for the year, transparency, having more student involvement, better communication with students on faculty committees. Remember, last year the faculty was considering a change to the grading system, and it didn't come to the SBA until the end of the year. The ended up not changing it, I believe, in part because there was so much student dislike for the proposal. Hopefully, this year, with more communication there won't be that gap that left the issue unknown to us until the end of the year.

John: I'm the chair of the social committee. We do mixers, fall ball, football tickets. I'd like to have more community events for the greater Hartford committee or other schools. It's a good way to build community on campus and off.

Ben: Reminder, you can do more than one committee if you like.

Gabe: My goals for the year are simple: efficiency, transparency, and to improving the process. My mission is to work together to build this community and assist in promoting involvement across the board.

Sarah: My goals are very similar. First to take excellent notes so that students can see what their representatives are doing and saying, and second to help behind the scenes to help facilitating things to make them run easier.

Ben: Okay. Budget committee appointments. I've spoken with some people, and I'm putting forward Gabe Vidoni and Sarah Saadian. The secretary is involved to minimize conflicts between student group funding because she will maintain a calendar. My other two are Jorge Colon and Drew Barber. Do you accept your nominations?

All: Yes!

Tara: I think there can be 7 members total

(Everyone looked at the bylaws and determined this to be true, that up to 7 members can be on the committee).

Ben: Any other nominations?

John: Drew Barber!

Drew: Can we say that you don't have to be in on every meeting?

Ben: of course, you can have breaks when you need them, but for the most part, it is important to have the same group of people working together to make these decisions.

Ben: Can we have a motion to vote on the committee?

Mike Tehan motioned to vote. Jorge Colon seconded.

Ben: I think we should move forward on this because the longer we put this off, the more it hurts student groups who are trying to move forward on their events.

Chris: Was there an email about these meetings?

Tara: Or the nominations process?

Ben: I talked to SBA Reps personally, but many had time commitments. We also have a small SBA b/c we have missing members.

Tara: Can't we put this off until 1L elections?

Ben: Well, we'd have to wait 2 weeks because the Treasurer has a wedding to attend next weekend.

Tara: Well, we didn't really know about this in time. Are we rushing it when it doesn't need to be?

Gabe: I think it would really create a headache in terms of scheduling if we did push it off.

Ben: I really can't see this being done before 1L elections, timing wise.

Drew: Is there anyone else that wants to be on it? I mean, I have interviews all day Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday that conflicts with this?

Ben: there will be breaks in between if that helps. We can get it passed now, I'd prefer that.

Tara: Do we have a quorum?

(Sarah counts the members present - 12- out of the 13 total SBA Reps, to determine that there is a quorum.

Drew: I just don't think I feel comfortable with this.... It's a lot of time. I just don't think I can do it.

Ben: Can we move on? Can we have a vote?

Peter: I think there must be 5 according to the language.

Ben: Maybe our Constitutional committee should take a look at this.

Peter: I motion to suspend bylaws in this instance.

Adam: I second.

Ben: The extenuating circumstances of having so many vacancies has lead to this. All in favor?

VOTE: 12 of the 12 present

Ben: Now, a vote to approve the budget committee?

Mike Tehan: I motion.

Peter: I second.

Ben: All in favor

VOTE: 12 out of 12.

Ben: Student Task Forces and Faculty Committee Appointments. These are the faculty committee: LIST THEM

They meet with varying frequency. Some do nothing, but I don't know which ones. You can only be on one faculty committee, you can also be in the SBA, and student task forces , or each individually. Except you cannot be on the Student diversity committee and the SBA.

The new task forces are a new idea, this is the first time we've had them. They will have hearings on the effectiveness on the status of these things. I may make suggestions, but they run the show. And they bring up topics that don't get discussed at this school. I expect the members to either be SBA reps, members on faculty committees, or regular attendees of SBA meetings so that there is regular communication. The faculty committee members are expected to come to our meetings.

Faculty committees are like the legislative arm of the school, they make policy here. Every that involves policy here generally goes through them. The administration and Dean implement that policy. If you are interested, send me an email with why you are interested in those committees, and list your top 3 or 5 choices.

I will send out at least 2 reminders before the due date. Encourage your friends to do this, because I want to engage students.

The social committee, chaired by John. You should join that too.

Any questions?

Jamila Ball: What are the task forces?

Ben: Task forces- lists them.....

I hope that all members of PILG and other pro-bono interested students join these task forces as well. The Student Task forces backs up the student rep on the faculty committee to help come up with ideas.

Nate Folkemer: The facilities committee decides any structural changes to the school. The faculty group that changes desks, puts in new windows, etc.

Ben: I named Nate because he is an environmental student expressed interest in being on it. Dave Tanner was on the committee last year.

Dave: I don't think that is much of an issue, we really listened to student ideas and input.

Ben: So send me your top 5 committees. I can guarantee if you are interested, you will be on something.

Sasha Maldonado: LLM students?

Ben: I probably won't appoint an LLM to pro-bono, but to students who have already tried to push these issues already. But LLM students should apply to anything they want. So spread the word.

Sarah: When will you be making your appointments?

Ben: the deadline is the 5<sup>th</sup>, and I'll probably extend it. If a committee will meet sooner, we don't want to miss it.

Ben: Election committee update.

Sarah: Okay. I put up the nominations sheets, the deadline is Thursday at 12pm. And I am in communication with Storrs about setting up an online vote.

BEN: Also, This SBA is not so diverse, so encourage people to apply because we want an SBA to be diverse in everyway possible, and representative of the student body.

Jamila Ball: What is the process? An announcement?

Sarah: After nominations close, I will collect a 50 word – or so- blurb and photo from each candidate. This will be on the online voting system. I will announce the election date. And we'll hold elections.

Ben: There is also an election for student trustee positions. It is a 2 year term, and you represent the entire Uconn system. You are elected by all the graduate students across Uconn. Nominations are due very soon. If you are interested you can ask me or check your email. If you don't feel like you are getting enough info, please tell us. Any questions on elections? Any suggestions that you have for your SBA for the next year? Are there things you wanna suggest? Colt? Football?

Tara: I think we should pass out chocolate.

Ben: We could have a rolling signup for bringing food.

Jamila Ball: I know for the upcoming elections, I don't know who my current reps are.

Sarah: When I send out the email about the elections, I can include a blurb about each rep who currently serves.

Ben: I strongly suggest that you write to your constituency to introduce yourself.

Adam: Could every rep put up a little blurb about themselves on the student website?

Ben: We will use TWEN for profiling reps, that's a good idea.

Ashley Schaffer: Is this when the SBA usually meets? Should we expect this?

Ben: There is a dilemma, because Rubin's class goes to 9:45. I don't want to conflict with classes. This time could change based on this. Mondays may be an option. But I'll ask students what they want.

Sarah: If you don't hear from Ben, though, you should expect meetings to be every other Tuesday, at 9:30pm in Knight 215.

Ben: And if Adam finds out that we can use the faculty rooms, then the location may change.

Tara: Motion to dismiss.

Peter: Second

**Meeting Ended at 10:35pm**