

SBA Meeting – September 25, 2007  
Meeting began at 9:31 pm

**Discussion – law school recent event**

Fallon: We need to discuss the ‘Birmingham debacle.’ Students approached me about the comments Professor Birmingham made during his Remedies class. He has a reputation of offending people with the things that he says. Professor Birmingham was talking about slavery and reparations during this particular class. Students were namely offended by the comments that reparations are not necessary and that slavery was not that bad. These comments were clearly offensive. Professor Birmingham followed these comments with a lecture about ‘Pimps and Hos.’ He then showed the film “Pimps up, Hos down.” Professor Birmingham then paused the film with a woman spread eagle on the screen.

Tara: The effects of this discussion were not intentional. The class was offensive in a variety of ways. Professor Birmingham was trying to incite debate. One or two individuals took it the wrong way. Some of the class discussion made the conversation worse than it should have been or would have been. She does not think that this outcome was Professor Birmingham’s intent.

Comment from crowd: What was the relevance of his lesson plan?

Tara: That’s just Professor Birmingham’s thing. There’s really no point. There’s nothing to take from the lesson. The conversation was interesting. Professor Birmingham said that, as a professor, he’s trying to incite conversation as well as trying to determine how to quantify the remedy for these individuals.

Fallon: After this episode certain students don’t want to attend class. Why have a reparations conversation along with “Pimps up, Hos down?” Representatives, please talk to your constituents and urge them to talk to the SBA and submit their opinions about this recent event. Charlene Merced is the chairman of this year’s Diversity Committee. Please encourage your constituents to talk to the SBA or to submit their thoughts to the Diversity Committee. There is a way, as a professor, to discuss issues like this with sensitivity.

Tara: I will ask Professor Birmingham to submit something to the SBA regarding why he did this. I believe Professor Birmingham’s intention was to teach about life in general. He taught about reparations for slave and then related the conversation by discussing sexual slavery.

**Election Committee - Update**

The fall elections are schedule for September 28, 2007.

1LD – eight persons nominated  
1LE – fours persons nominated  
LLM – one person nominated  
3LD – one person nominated

- Concern was expressed for students who may/may not be able to use the computer because of the Jewish holiday being on Friday. Question was posed to the SBA general body about whether to move elections to the following Monday, October 1, 2007. Pam said that she can contact Storrs and ask to move the election to Monday. Matter is open for discussion.

Christine: There's nothing wrong with holding the election as scheduled. If a student is absent because of the holiday, the student can do submit an absentee vote that can be sent to an impartial person or to Jane Brown. It really seems like we need to have the vote. We are all adults. If you want to vote, you can.

Pam: Voting will begin at 7:00 a.m. I think that the ballot cite is open for 24 hours. 7 a.m. Friday to 7 a.m. Saturday.

1L student: Are you going to send out instructions to the student body on how to do this and when to vote?

Pam: I will send a reminder along with the link on Thursday.

From the crowd: The Constitution, expressly, does not allow absentee voting. Does the SBA E-board have to decide override this?

Fallon: The main concern is logistics. I don't know how practical it is to move the election from Friday.

Maggie: Is there not a way we could try to move it to Monday? We understand the desire to have the body by Monday, but logistically, is it possible to have the election moved to Monday? Why would moving the election be such a big deal, especially if we aren't having the meeting next week?

Pam: I will ask Storrs to change date.

Kelli: Is the holiday just Friday?

From the crowd: People will probably not vote on Saturday either. Holiday continues from Thursday until Saturday.

Fallon: Our next SBA meeting is October 9th. We are taking pictures of the current SBA at this meeting.

Pam: I will ask Storrs can they move it to Monday. If not, what's the best time?

Fallon: We've met constitutional guidelines.

### **Budget Committee - Update**

- The Budget Committee introduced themselves to the group.
- John Kim, Ernesto Castillo, Melissa Rizzo, Jeremy Mooney, Fallon DePina
  - We all met and reviewed the budget. We debated about the budget and every committee member had an equal voice in the vote. Please do not get the impression that one person decided the entire budget. WE worked as a team.
  - This semester we had over \$150,000 in request. The SBA is working with \$49,000 in funding for the Fall semester.
  - The SBA E-board met with Dean Paul last year shortly after we took office. The Budget Committee will meet with Dean to set up a petition committee.
    - Moot Court Board, Mock Trial Society, and the journals should largely be funded by the administration. This would leave more money for the student groups. As of now, these other groups take priority in budget considerations.
  - The actual budget process: We met on multiple occasions and discussed each student group application individually.
  - We cut out budget request aspects that the SBA couldn't fund, such as registration fees in excess of \$500. All restrictions are noted in the budget guideline document that was given out during the beginning of the semester (blue-covered document).
  - After the initial cut, it was a judgment call.
  - We decided not to fund tailgates for any student group. There's really no academic value for this activity.
  - We tried to cut as many funding requests for food as possible (e.g. pizza for meetings).
  - We placed a huge emphasis on fully planned projects.
    - Those who didn't list speakers really didn't get the amount requested. BBQs and other events without any real details didn't gain much consideration.
  - The more comprehensive the language in the request, the more funding student groups received.
  - We also gave preference to those events that were held on campus and that involved the community.
  - We did fund budget requests for food when the event involved panels and symposia.
  - It made more sense to give that money to another group if the event was smaller and was conducive to a potluck.
  - The Budget Committee had a hard time in configuring the budget as everyone had amazing events planned for this semester.

### **Budget Inquiries from Student Organizations**

#### **Soccer Club**

Soccer Club: We're not here not to complain. Basically, a discrepancy appeared on the spreadsheet. It stated that each person would have to pay \$30 out of pocket and that 30 people would be paying excess money. But there are only 12 people who play on the

team. The cost per person would be like \$8. We saw that another team had \$30 out of pocket expense and thought SBA used that as the median. However, after talking with the budget committee the Soccer Club understands the formulation of the funds awarded. The Soccer Club is happy with the money they were awarded. They think they can push some of the money (expenses?) to next semester. The Soccer Club may be looking for more money next semester.

Fallon: Is it possible to spread the 'extra' expense to other people?

Soccer Club: Yes. Our second semester fees are due on January 6, 2008.

Fallon: How much would this reduce team mates' contributions?

Soccer Club: I'm not really sure. The contribution is going to be the same regardless. We're trying to give the people who want to play an idea of how much they have to come out of pocket. We are not opposed to paying out of pocket.

Jeremy: I'm going to discuss the budget process when it came to sports. We tried to make it as fair as possible. Either student groups received the same amount of money or each student group paid the same amount of money out of pocket. With a team of 12, can you possibly rotate people through out the team?

Fallon: We also looked to the amount of people playing and based funding on the number of participants.

Jeremy: The basketball team got \$2,000 for the semester. Most of that cost was gym time. \$500 was provided for registration (WNEC tournament). We had a request for four teams of 12. The SBA only paid for one of the four teams.

### **Environmental Law**

Environmental Law: The initial amount of \$200 will be used towards our meetings. We generally have outside people come. Our main projects on campus involve trying to get funding for the school. We were given \$80,000 this past summer towards something that would help the school out. Wants to know if they can they get funding for postage and copies.

Fallon: What would the figure be?

Jeremy: We cut out funding for tailgates. We didn't know that your meetings had a particular purpose. If we thought events could use discretionary money, we thought groups would take the funding from that. It would be easier to request money for specific events. So long the event is something specific. The event has to have an academic purpose. Your request for additional funding has to get put on the budget. Email Kim Cones.

Environmental Law: Professor Strasser wants to send some of group members to a conference. \$135 for registration fee per person. Plus, a fee for accommodations.

Jeremy: You would essentially be cut off at \$500 for registration fees. You should take this matter up with Professor Strasser and the Dean first. Then come back to us and ask for a reimbursement.

Fallon: If you have a request for a panelist, please name the panelist and give specifics because that's what we would put to the general body for a vote.

Jeremy: The rules for funding are on the website.

### **Academic Career Society**

Academic Career Society: We want funding for pizza for meetings.

Jeremy: The SBA didn't fund pizza for any student group meeting. We probably wouldn't do it for your group either but you still have to submit a budget request to be put before the SBA.

### **International Law Students**

Jeremy: You have to submit requests for a specific event to the SBA general body for a vote. No discretionary fees will be funded because the deadline for funding has passed.

### **UConn Law Connections**

Fallon: This matter is already taken care off.

### **CILP**

CILP: We have three lay outs scheduled for the fall. We only received funding for one proof day. We need funding to feed people. There are supplies and food that are necessary to make layout successful.

Jeremy: The Budget Committee tried to keep in mind the general interest.

CILP: Our charter does not allow us to request funding from outside sources of the school. We operate under the presumption, per charter, that we cannot receive funding from outside of UConn law. CILP is dependant on the school and SBA for its funding. The Dean has never funding a proof day, ever.

Jeremy: There are extremely expensive symposiums planned for this school year. We generally funded one proof day for the other generals. We felt that the third proof day was a self-imposed obligation. Throwing in the third proof day, in addition to the symposium, was too much.

Fallon: All five of us grappled with this. We know that other journals have outside funding. We asked student groups which events were priorities on their list. We tried to give as much funding to the symposium.

CILP: We received less funding this year than we did last year. We have three proof days because we are putting out more. We can't raise enough for both the symposium and the double issue. We are asking the school for additional \$12,000 for the symposium.

Fallon: Do you have a figure for proof day?

Jeremy: In knowing that you didn't receive enough money last year, why have a larger symposium this year?

CILP: The symposium is not larger than last years. The symposium is scheduled for the spring. We don't know who we are bringing. We had to put down travel cost but didn't know who's coming. We may not need all of the money. Some costs may have gone up. The difference between last year's request and this year's is that we don't know which panelists are coming.

Fallon: We are concerned about the request for funding for Max's. We are aware that since there's a mandate for that kind of thing, we assume that the school foundation will have money for this.

Fallon: Additional \$300 for proof day?

CILP: Food plus supplies. Yes, \$325 for each proof day.

Jeremy: Between public interest law group and journal, there is a disproportionate amount of money going to public interest. We gave money for four \$4,000 scholarships. That's a considerable amount of money coming from the SBA.

Christine: I am bothered when student groups are not creative. Go to other student groups and ask them to contribute office supplies. Ask the law school community to provide you with supplies. Have students donate office supplies and reams of paper. Be creative. It's fine that student groups complain about the funding. If you want to make it happen, you will make it happen. If you want a box of paper, I'll donate a box of paper. Bring your lunch on proof day. Have students donate to your group. There's no problem giving to you. You have to be creative because you're not always going to get funding.

CILP: We appreciate what the SBA says about school funding journals. Until then, journals rely on the SBA for funding. It leaves CILP in an iffiy position. If we don't get it here (SBA?), they have to get it there (the school?).

Fallon: The Budget Committee will definitely talk to administration about picking up cost.

Melissa: All the journals want to do more issues. It's a huge thing. The school will not fund more than two issues, except for law review. It's a slippery slope. All journals want

more proof days and double issues. This doesn't mean that the SBA should fund these groups more. Proof day is funded equally.

CILP: The difference is if you wanted to get outside money you can. CIPL is not allowed.

Melissa: That's debatable.

Fallon: How would you fund the additional funds for postage and printing?

CILP: Printer mails the editions out, really no extra cost. Printing is in the contract.

Fallon: To be fair, across the journals, \$300 was the cut-off for layout expenses.

From the Crowd: Where would the extra \$325 come from?

Jeremy: Perhaps next semester's funding or from potentially recouped funds from student groups that don't spend all of their money this semester:

B: How much funding was recouped from last semester?

Jeremy: Around \$1,000.

Fallon: Keep in mind, we are not sitting on \$100,000. We only get half of that amount each semester.

Jeremy: There's no more money until groups don't spend their allotted money.

Jared: I move to allocate the additional \$300.

**Vote:** All in favor of providing the funds to CILP?

Yays: 12

Nays: 1

Abstention: 0

SBA is giving the money assuming that we have more money later this semester.

Pam: Does the SBA have its own money?

Jeremy: SBA has \$8,000 for the Halloween party and Fall Ball. Some of the social committee budget gets recouped in Fall Ball.

Kelli: We used the money to pay the upfront costs for vendors. That money is ear-marked for the DJ and buses. Some of these funds will free up with ticket sales. The Social Committee has absorbed certain events: Continuum, Salsa night.

Jared: Last year, Dan was met with some angry feelings when groups only received \$200. Irish American, federal society, democratic only got \$200 this year. Is everything ok?

Jeremy: A lot of the funds were stricken out for things we can't pay for. We needed more specific budgets.

Fallon: People are always going to be upset. One group's budget wasn't organized. Some groups didn't submit an inquiry as requested. We were really fair.

Melissa: The Federal society got \$400

Ben: Is it ok if we give funds to the Christian conference? Do we know what it is?

Fallon: We funded registration fees. If you're open to the student body, you'll get funding.

Jeremy: For those who didn't get money, those who didn't submit an inquiry and didn't show up today, there's really no sympathy for those groups. You could have come and pled your case today but you didn't.

Maggie: There's typo for PILG. We received \$200 discretionary funds plus monies for fellowships.

Jeremy: The money noted includes the \$200 so that we wouldn't have scholarships in the amount of \$3900. Fellowships are noted as \$4000

**Motion to approve budget:**

Yays: 14

Nays: 0

Absenteeism: 0

If committees need to meet, do it now

Otherwise motion to adjourn. Motion seconded.

Meeting ended at 10:31.