

SBA Meeting – November 13, 2007  
Meeting began at 9:31 pm

**Motion to Approve Meeting Minutes – October 30<sup>th</sup>**

Yays: 18

Nay: 0

Abstention: 0

**Confirm Newest Diversity Committee Member**

Newest member, Rubina Dawud, introduced herself to the group.

**Motion to confirm her; Second the motion.**

Yays: 18

Nay: 0

Abstention: 0

**Diversity Committee: Unconscious Racism Issue Update**

Representative from the Diversity Committee will update the SBA so that we're informed as to what's going on.

Charleen: The Connecticut Law Review held a symposium on unconscious racism. The make-up of the panel was pretty diverse but there weren't any Hispanics. Professor **Okendo** sent out an email saying that he felt that Latino issues were disregarded. LLSA sent out an email reiterating what Professor Okendo said. Prof. Okendo called for a boycott of the event. Law Review stated that they never took race into account when creating the panel. They just went off of subject matter to fill the panel. There has been a lot of talk in the campus. Some of the conversation has been through emails. The diversity committee had an open meeting. The unconscious racism problem was discussed at the meeting. Members of the Law Review came and expressed their views. LLSA hosted a brown bag lunch as a follow-up to the Diversity Committee meeting. Professor Okendo and other Hispanic professors and staff members were in attendance (**figure out how was there, law class next semester**). The Diversity Committee attended the meeting as well. We talked to LLSA, law review, and professors. Now we are trying to figure out how to address this issue and how to move forward. We want to be able to give ideas so that this situation doesn't happen in the future. The Diversity Committee is still drafting its response.

Gabriel: Was there any opportunity, prior to the email going out, for students and faculty to voice these concerns?

Charleen: The theme and panelists for the symposium were sent out months ago in an email from Law Review. Professor Okendo just learned about the event about a week or two before the event. It appears that he learned about it from a superior court judge in Hartford.

Christine: Just playing devils adequate. If the name of the panelists were sent out a couple months ago, if it was such a huge concern, should this issue have been raised then when the email was sent out about how to get people to come in?

Sarah: Law Review sent out an email to the faculty to gather names of people who may become speakers at the symposium. Law Review didn't send out confirmed panelists until the invitation went out.

From the crowd: Students and faculty were asked last year to provide input.

Christine: We all knew about the symposium last year. You knew it was coming this year.

Charleen: Professor Okendo is not on the faculty email list. Maybe that's why he didn't get the notice.

Jane: Professor Okendo chooses to remain on the Storrs email list instead.

Fallon: Were Latina or Latino professors asked to be on the panel?

Charleen: Charles Lawrence recommended two Hispanics who were invited to be on the panel. These speakers were recommended for their scholarship, not because of their race. So, Law Review did invite two Hispanics.

Fallon: Law Review just wanted a Crit theorist.

Jane: The way I heard it explained was that there were two Hispanics invited but they couldn't come. Everyone was invited to speak based on academia, not because of race. Law Review wished that this issue had come up sooner.

Charleen: All professors were contacted in general. Karaayn Gustafson became very involved because her interest in this area and her academic scholarship in this area.

Gabriel: It's problematic if there wasn't an opportunity for the issue to be addressed or that it was ignored. It was a significant step to call for a boycott. Seeing now that there was opportunity for the issue to be addressed, it's equally concerning to step forward to say this, and ask for a boycott, without any context being given. From what I've seen, there's lots of sensitivity given to race on this campus. I'm concerned about that the facts surrounding this situation are not out in the open. This is creating further boundaries among groups. People walk away from this situation with feelings that are unjust.

Charleen: This will be addressed in an email to the student body.

Ben: I agree with (Gabriel). The fact that so much planning has gone into this, and that we are in Hartford, a community that is largely Hispanic, it's sloppy planning to not have a panelist that reflect this population. I'm glad this came up before as opposed to after

Charleen: Any comments or questions please contact the Diversity Committee. We welcome and want to hear any of your comments.

Fallon: Thank you.

1. Journal Funding Petition--Committee Sign-up
2. Curriculum Suggestions
3. Request for Additional Funding:

### **Treasurer Update**

Fallon: We've been able to recoup monies in excess of \$400. We were able to fund the Environmental Law Society. The system has begun to work.

Tara: What did they request? Approximately \$200?

Fallon: I think so. Jeremy has all of the number but it was enough.

### **Moot Court Board: Request for Funding**

Michael: The Competition is taking place this spring. Registration fees are due at this time. Seven teams are going out to six different competitions. They don't want to wait until January. Five teams: UNC \$500; Vanderbilt \$250; UCLA \$300; UC Davis \$300; Tulane \$500. Two teams are going to an ABA and the fees are being fronted by the school. \$1850 in total. The host competition funds didn't really get used from this fall. \$1852 will be left over from that competition. Hastie's came in under \$250. We don't need more money; we just want to use the money that the SBA had allocated for other events from this semester.

Fallon: The money that you didn't use? Was that for events that didn't occur? I'll put it to discussion and for a vote. Not sure what spending guidelines say about shifting funds.

Dan: It's not a problem (last year's treasurer)

Michael: The only money we need is \$1050 (registration fees and hotel fees). Moot Court Board receives money from the school for travel.

Guau: Your asking for \$1850 for this semester and \$1050 for next semester (ABA)?

Michael: Yes

Fallon: It's tricky because the sign-up is now even though the event is next semester.

Ben: I'd rather do it with Jeremy here. The process has changed. I'd rather hold all groups to the same standard. I don't want there to be any indication that next semester allocation's will happen (prior to second semester budget requests).

Fallon: No allocation is guaranteed until next semester when we go through the budget process again. Even though we are voting on this, we are still waiting for funds to come in. This is a lot of money.

Christine: The money they are requesting to use is money that they've already gotten.

Tara: This is money that you already gotten?

Michael: We recouped \$2000. We're just asking to use that money towards these registration fees.

Peter: I'm treasurer for two student groups. Why didn't you request this for this semester's budget when you knew the deadlines were this semester?

Michael: We were counting on people to front the costs. We didn't know when the fees were due. We didn't know how many teams are going and who was going to shell out money.

Fallon: Like any group who failed to use their money, they are able to request monies. Moot Court Board is first in line.

Michael: We are requesting the money for next semester but we want it now.

Jar: The sole purpose of the request is to put money in the pocket now?

Fallon: Why didn't the other groups do what our group did and use the schools credit card?

Michael: Some groups didn't know you could use the school's card. Plus, one competition didn't even take credit cards.

Peter: 15 days from the time you spent it or from the time of your event.

Fallon: Any other.

John: Motion to table?

Fallon: We can table this until the November 27<sup>th</sup> meeting when Jeremy is going to be here. He has a family emergency which is why he's not here.

From the crowd: Motion to table voting: seconded.

Fallon: We'll discuss it at the next meeting.

**Hockey Team: Request for Funds**

Dan: Two teams play, \$7000 registration fee. \$5500 owed to students. 19 players at \$300 fee for people to play instead of the \$200 they originally thought. We are simply asking for whatever you can spare to help bring the cost back down to \$200 a person. Three years ago the SBA funded the entire thing. If the cost isn't lowered certain people won't be able to play. \$1700 will make it so that every player could pay \$200. If the extra 11 persons (30 players in total) were playing, it would lower the cost per person to \$200.

Gabriel: Is there any precedent for this? Were we originally given the figure of \$200?

Fallon: We based funding off of the number of participants. That's how we budgeted for costs. One of our goals was to try to keep it so that if other teams got more than the other each person was shelling out a comparable number. \$1700 is a large number, is there a smaller number?

Dan: If you ask me for a number I would say \$5500. An extra \$1000 would lessen the cost by \$55 for each player. It's hard to give a number.

Christine: With this each member would pay \$245.

Fallon: Jeremy is developing the calendar for budget requests for next semester. Approximately three weeks prior to the semester starting is when early budgets will be accepted.

Ben: This is an issue Jeremy needs to be here for. Totally sucks. That's a lot of money you're spending. It can potentially fund five events (at \$200 each) for something that could benefit the entire school. Maybe you should have recruited better.

Maggie: Is there anyway we can look at this in smaller quantities? Maybe we look at given them a portion? Then at the end we can look at the remainder to see if we have anything else? If we've got the money I would love to give it but I don't want to disadvantage the other groups.

Fallon: We have voted for an amount of money. We can put that to a vote. We can also put to a vote whether we want to vote on the money.

Peter: Do we know how much money we having the pot?

Kelli: We recouped a little over \$3300 from Fall Ball.

Peter: Since we have \$3300 in the pot that leaves plenty of \$200's in the pot for other groups. For those who have concerns.

Kelli: If we are being consistent, should we vote on the requests as they come in to be voted on in a line?

Fallon: Whatever events they didn't use (Moot Court Board), they get in line first. Hockey team comes after the Moot Court Board.

Tara: I echo the sentiment that we table this for Jeremy to know what we have. I'm not opposed to figuring out a number. There's a lot of \$200s in \$1700. Maybe \$850.

Fallon: Since we've tabled the Moot Court Board's request, we've preempted ourselves for all other groups.

Kelli: Keep in mind it's November 13th. Yes, there are a lot of \$200 events but how many groups are going to put on a program between now and finals that will need a ton of money.

Gabriel: Maybe it's moot. Should there be different procedures for new requests as opposed to bailouts?

Fallon: The issue is that the suggestion to change or amend the process is the way to approach that issue.

Fallon: Whatever money we didn't recoup, they would only get the money that's left over.

Ben: Most groups don't know we have this much left over. We should tell the school we have this much left over. And let groups submit additional request. I would rather support PILG grants than the hockey team.

Fallon: Environmental Law Society got the money they requested. Keep the comments to budget request. If you want the process to change, we will take about that later. That's not the conversation before us.

John: Table this issue. Let the treasurer look at it. If we don't have much time left, it doesn't really matter. Maybe we really can recoup all. There's nothing wrong with table the request.

Jane: Here's a historical perspective. If your going to make your decision based on numbers you have to do that based on the number. You have one more meeting this semester. Usually after Thanksgiving the SBA doesn't meet until the next semester. Fallon it's up to you. The events calendar between now and the end of the semester don't show any activities. You need to consider the money. Are you getting bang for the buck? Two organizations have already put out money. If you put out \$500 do you really want to be told that you have to wait for the treasurer to come back?

Kim: The number of student groups hosting events on the same day is being addressed at this moment.

Fallon: It's up to the general body to make the requests. We can still take a vote even though some people are uncomfortable about Jeremy not being here.

Michael: If you have money in the pot I'll stick around. Is it possible to submit a full year budget as opposed to having to submit budgets every semester?

Fallon: That decision will be determined by the next year's budget committee. They have discretion to determine the funding scheme. We can encourage that early and solicit concerns from student groups.

Michael: It would have made more sense for us to submit a yearly budget as opposed to a semester budget.

Fallon: Many groups have huge symposiums in spring. They don't know the associated costs that early. There was a motion to table reimburse. I would like to open the discussion up as to how you would like to proceed: vote or table the issue.

Jared: Timing, your timing, hockey takes place over early September to December. Will you be requesting funds next semester? Maybe we want to wait for Jeremy.

Fallon: To be clear, even though the event is in the future the request is now.

Jared: Were talking about February. We want to put money back in their pockets now but they event won't even occur to the spring. But hockey is going on now.

Fallon: Moot court's request is for money that they didn't use. Right now we have more money than Moot Courts' request.

Kelli: We didn't use all of the social money that was allocated for this semester.

Fallon: People can come and request additional money. Whoever's on the list first will be receiving funding first. We have money to pay for all of the requests if we so shall choose.

Fallon: Motion to vote on everything or to table?

Collin: Would Moot Court still be tabled? So we would be untabling the table? All or none?

Peter: Motion to vote on untabling everything.

From the crowd: Second that motion.

John: Motion to reconsider the tabling of moot court, that's it?

Fallon: Would you like to vote this evening for budget request for both groups this evening?

Yays: 13  
Nay: 5  
Abstention: 0

Fallon: We're voting.

**Vote to grant Moot Court Board's request for \$1850**

Yays: 13  
Nay: 3  
Abstention: 2

Fallon: The Hockey team requested funds in the amount of \$1700.

Motion to vote to amend the amount requested? Second the motion.

Ben: We can decide to vote on the request.

Michael: I can leave?

Fallon: This is all contingent upon what Jeremy says the number is.

Ben: I suggest half of \$1700...\$850

From the crowd: I second that amendment.

Fallon: Vote to amend the original number?

Maggie: Is there any reason why we shouldn't amend it to a lower number? Can the Hockey team come back and make an additional request later?

Fallon: This (amending the number) would not prevent the Hockey team from coming back.

**Vote to amend the amount requested by the Hockey team.**

Yays: 5  
Nay: 13  
Abstention: 0

Fallon: We're not amending the number. We're back at \$1700.

Fallon: The next is vote is whether you would like to approve the request for \$1700?

Jared: \$1700 is on the floor.

Motion to allocate \$1700 to the Hockey team. Motion seconded.

**Vote to grant the Hockey team's request for \$1700.**

Yays: 13

Nay: 2

Abstention: 3

Fallon: Hockey team get's the amount requested. This is all contingent upon what our final numbers are. There are no committee meetings tonight.

Fallon: Part of the issue with this whole funding thing is that journals get administrative costs from us that could go to other groups. I would like to a see a petition put together so that all administrative costs are covered by school. The journals bring prestige to our school. It's ridiculous that SBA funds these costs for the journals. I would like to put together a committee of interested representatives to brain storm ideas. I just want to get the committee together; nothing has to be done tonight. This wouldn't even benefit the SBA until the next SBA groups is elected. I'm sending around a sheet for all of those who like to be on a committee.

**Miscellaneous**

Jane: Parking to our right that is not flattened. The school doesn't want people parking there yet. Don't want people parking there yet because of sink holes. We have to wait for state issued gravel to arrive before we can park. For those of us in the room without SUVs, the school preordered ramps but they are on backorder with the State. Once the ramps come in and the gravel comes in we are good to go.

Pam: Are the parking spaces no longer the extent? Will more (parking spaces) be made available?

Jane: Once they start they'll know more of the type of machinery that they'll need to bring in.

Pam: What's going to happen with paved area?

Jane: That's their prep area for rocks. We are trying to figure out how this area will not affect (finals).

Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded.

Meeting ended at 10:44 p.m.