

SBA Meeting – November 27, 2007  
Meeting began at 9:33 pm.

**Vote in the Meeting Minutes - October 9 and November 13**

**October 9<sup>th</sup>**

Yays: 17

Nay: 0

Abstention: 0

**November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Yays: 15

Nays: 0

Abstention: 2

**Funding Request: Mock Trial Society**

Michael Nichols: MTS is the largest organization on the campus. Nearly or over 100 persons participated in the Davis competition for first years. A quarter of school is participating in the competition in some fashion. Both are committed to diversity and pro bono (beefed up). We go out into the community to help students in low income areas in Hartford and Waterbury and tell them about law school and mock trial. This is a concerted effort. We have the highest percentage of diverse students in MTS this year. SBA has the task of spending a little bit of money on a lot of student groups. Organization that have activities off of the law school campus help to shape the image of the law school. In the future please recognize that the groups that go off campus help to shape how prospective students and employers view the law school. I created a supplemental budget to help describe what I'm looking for. The budget will reflect that we requested that five of our competitions be funded through the SBA. Three of the competitions were funding by SBA in a significant way. The Lone Star and St. Johns competitions were not funded. Our priority request is for those competitions since we received zero dollars. Money came out of pocket. We hope to have them (students) reimbursed. We are seeking money from private donations, West Law, and the Dean. I think we'll get some private donations in the future. Our priority request is for \$2,750. We understand that there may be no way to fund this. It may be conditional as you are playing with money that you get back from other student.

Mike: Three competitions that we did attend weren't funded in the entirety. We are trying to obtain the rest of the costs and any unforeseen increases. The LA comp had slightly different issues, still out of our hands. To get to full funding we are asking for \$1311.08. This request is second in line. The priority is the first page.

Mike: \$4000 is a lot. All we can do to do is demonstrate what our needs are. We would appreciate any money you give.

From the Crowd: In reference to the St. John and Lone Star competitions, was the increase in registration fees due to increase in participants? We agreed not to fund the alternates. I'm curios if having alternates go increased the registration fees?

Mike: Previous years we were given enough money to bring our alternate. This year we were given no money. Only one alternate was able to go because it didn't cost anything extra.

Fallon: Please walk us through the locations. We didn't fund certain lodging if it were within the location exclusion.

Buffalo, NY  
Washington, DC  
Los Angeles, CA  
Queens, NY  
Austin, TX

Mike: The students who ended up going to Buffalo and Georgetown were able to save money in the travel. Two Los Angeles students paid for their flight out of pocket. It saved the SBA \$300.

Ben: A few things. I want to support this but I think this is setting a bad precedent for us. Groups can request money in the beginning. We would have more money in the spring if we didn't have all of these back door requests. You don't have an itemized. Not all of the students groups know that this money exists. They can't ask. We need to have the same standards apply that we used in budget requests.

Fallon: Point of clarification. Jeremy sent numerous emails about the funding request. All money we allocated was given to student groups. If they don't use it would come back and be reallocated. We told all of the student groups that choose to come. I support the funding scheme as it is. I don't know if you aware of how it works

Jeremy: What they were actually allocated: roughly \$6000 for the semester. Budgets for all student groups was \$480,000 - roughly \$58,000 was the spending for this semester.

Mike: I don't feel like it's a back door attempt to get money. It's just money that we requested in the beginning. It's not like we've added new competitions. We choose as a group to attend these competitions. We are the largest student group and have a quarter of the student body participating. The budgetary process is not supposed to roll over from semester to semester, to my understanding. Students pay fees every semester. Your supposed to use it all.

Gaurika: In terms of the money, what do we have and what have we collected back?

Jeremy: We have about \$700 that is guaranteed to be collected. \$30,000 was spent. \$20,000 in recouped funds. Generally, these requests will come in the last two weeks.

Christine: I disagree with Ben about this being bad precedent. It show's that there is a process. Jeremy has done a good job of letting groups now of the process. Ben, if groups don't know, then let them know. There's a booklet that discusses certain things. We can't

hold peoples' hands. I do wish that there was a more itemized list (fees per person). I think that would be helpful.

Mike: There are four persons per competition. I can understand that. I may have some information for you if you ask the question. If you want that document please let me know.

Tiffany: I can get that information. I have records of all the receipts, including itemized flights. I specifically took a red eye and flew back at 5 am so that we could get the cheapest trip.

Mike: I take for granted how much we know each other. Four out of our six e-board members are here.

Jane: You have a 100 people in the organization. There are 627 students this semester. You are the biggest organization. In the by laws, registration fees were not allowed to be paid? Jeremy, please correct me.

Fallon: That's in the spending guidelines. As far as I can remember, registration fees were covered (up to \$500). One of our concerns is how many students benefit and get to participate. Keep in mind also how many students are active in the organization and care about it.

Jared: Putting what thoughts there are about the budget process, given what we're working with here. Can I solicit your input (Jeremy)?

Jeremy: It's not appropriate for me to make a recommendation. There will be a lot of groups that will spend under what they got (40 groups). Little chunks of money here and there from each group. The process that were doing based on the condition is just that. We don't give more money than we get back. We'll prioritize which groups have requested money. If MTS is in front of them, we will have to prioritize 3 or 4 groups. We set aside \$10,000 for this semester for the SBA. Fall ball, Halloween. We only spent \$4500 out of what we allocated for the semester. Overall budget, that's about \$5,000 that we saved/recouped in the SBA.

John: I'm support what Christine said and disagree with Ben. This doesn't sent a bad precedent. It sets a bad precedent if half of our budge isn't spent. But I don't think that we should vote on this tonight. We shouldn't penalize them for being active. If they need some help we not give it to them.

Fallon: This is the last meeting of the semester. We need to vote. The funding scheme is based upon what's available.

Jeremy: We can vote to approve the funding based upon the SBA funding guideline. We can approve funding but that won't be reimbursed if it doesn't meet guidelines. In terms

of the student fees, it's divided up by semester. In terms of being fair, for students that are here and pay there fees, we should use it. But we should be irresponsible.

Jared: Is tonight the deadline for special requests?

Jeremy: We've only gotten four requests. I can't foresee more events.

John: Motion to allocate funding per SBA guidelines.

Jeremy: We should vote on them separately (two separate votes).

**Motion to vote on first priority request.** Second the motion.

Yays: 17

Nay: 0

Abstention: 1

**Motion to vote one the second priority request** (as long as it follows the SBA spending guidelines and there is an itemized budget resubmitted).

Yays: 16

Nay: 0

Abstention: 2

**Funding Request: Soccer Team**

John Burberry: President. I am the e-board. 100% of our members are here. Small groups. 12 members play in the league. Six on each side. We're a smaller club. People who do play. We got really nice uniforms that we paid for. We have another session we're trying to register for. We have a couple more games in this session. I have the break down. You gave us \$100. Our first sessions cost was \$875. Next session will cost \$875. \$250 is registration fees. \$500 is to rent field space over eight games. \$80 for referees. This would spill over to the spring. This money is needed. We would ask for \$875 for one more session in the spring (three in total this year). Any money you can give us would be wonderful. Anything beyond that we would pay out of pocket.

Christine: Can you work it out to use the school's space?

Fallon: That's not our space.

John: This is an indoor league.

Fallon: The soccer field is West Ends. That's why you always see little kids playing out there.

Jane: It's our land but we let them use our space. We have a contract with them.

Kelli: This is not for practice space. This is for a league play.

Ben: What are the dates for this season?

John: I can go online. It starts before we go back to school.

Fallon: I remember that one of our concerns was participation during the break.

John: We'll have full participation. Our members will be there. This is what we live for, we just need the money.

Christine: Have you publicized the games?

John: We did last year but no one showed up.

Ben: If you don't advertise then how do students know about the group?

John: I sent out an email earlier this semester. I have the record; I can get it for you.

Christine: Even though no one comes you should still publicize.

Fallon: Any questions?

John: Thank you.

Ben: If most of the games are next semester, does that role into next semester's budget?

Jeremy: Not necessarily. If it (happened) this semester we'll pay it this semester's funds with consideration for next semester

Ben: How much did soccer team get?

Jeremy: \$800

John: I heard that the Hockey Team got money last week. How much?

Jeremy: \$1700

John: How many members?

From the crowd: 19

**Motion to vote on the Soccer Team's request.** Motion seconded.

Yays: 15

Nay: 0

Abstention: 2

From the Crowd: Additional vote to prioritize requests - Last week Moot Court and the Hockey Team's requests came in around the same time. This week it's the same thing. We need to vote to establish priority.

Jeremy: The Environmental Law Society has already been paid.

Fallon: There's the Hockey Team at \$1700 (conditional); Moot Court at \$1850. Side note - they were the group that didn't spend \$1900 of their budget. Doesn't cost us that much more. \$875 for the Soccer Team. \$2750 first property request from Mock Trial Society.

Fallon: We need one vote for Moot Court and the Hockey Team. We need a vote for Mock Trial Society.

Maggie: What is "first come, first serve?" If we know the order in which they requested funds, what are we voting on?

Jason: If you'd rather go back and look at e-mails first and see the times that they were requested.

Jared: I move to prioritize the request based on the email date and time.

From the Crowd: I second the motion.

**Vote to prioritize funding requests by e-mail receipt date and time.**

Yays: 16

Nay: 0

Abstention: 2

From the Crowd: No need for a second vote

### **Committee Updates**

#### **Constitution Committee**

Jared: We don't have a report.

Fallon: Have you been working on it?

Ben and Jared: We've been working on it in pieces. We'll present something early next semester.

#### **Technology Committee**

Kim: Need to add the meeting minutes and photos taken earlier this semester.

Fallon: I'm going to table adding new members to the budget committee for next semester. If it's new members in an excess of three slots, name in a hat thing. This is to make sure that everyone who wanted to be on the budget committee can be on it.

Jeremy: Keep in mind that you not joining the committee to change the process. That will occur next year. If you interested in changing the budget process run for Treasurer next year.

Fallon: When people submit there request, we really want people to put specific dates. For SBA events, we can see the conflicts in advance. Of all activities on camps two-thirds are funded by the SBA.

John: I'm concerned about the library hours. Any students who are interested, we want to create a survey and poll the student body. Take the results and advocate for more hours. Given the staffing on the weekend, doesn't seem like that it would cost that much more. Maybe for an additional week preceding finals, we could have the library hours extend. I'm sending around a list. We'll keep you updated.

Fallon: Talk to staff. That's a decision made at Storrs.

Jane: That's not made by Storrs. But we go through this every year. The library can only be open when we have security. You're not only looking at library staff and security. It's based on body count. We've had them open for more hours, with only two or three additional bodies. I encourage you to explore it. We've provisionally opened the library and students haven't been there.

Fallon: Security is here at 8:00 am but the library doesn't open until 1:00 pm. Why can't it be open?

Jane: I think only one person is here then. The other person doesn't get here until second shift

Fallon: Trinity's library is so much nicer than ours. It has everything. If we can get some thing with them to get access to the library during final times that may elevate our struggle.

Christine: How difficult would it be to have the library open with less staff? Even if we have 2 security guards.

Jane: Insurance purposes.

Fallon: Some state thing to. I heard that we can't be only open to our students.

Jane: Yes that's true. We can't deny access to the public and only open it to our students.

John: Rumors from year before, they opened the library lounge for later hours, to use with a key card.

Fallon: Someone lied to you.

John: I worked in the library last year. After 8:00 pm there were only 10 people here.

Fallon: Once people realize that the library has limited hours, they don't want to deviate from the system they've set up.

John: Haven't they tried to extend them earlier in the year as opposed to only at finals?

John: Two hour extension starts next week.

Jane: I think that's the way to go.

Fallon: It's annoying that it closes at 5:00 pm on Saturday and opens at 1:00 pm on Sunday.

Fallon: Is anyone interested in sitting on the education policy committee? They need another member.

John: What does it do?

Fallon: On the Faculty Committee, there are two student members. We talked about descriptions for different classes. Adding new certification programs and new classes. Professor Bauer asked if anyone had any curriculum suggestions. If you have comments please email me. Any thoughts, questions, concerns?

Jane: The thing they're working on the most is the B median. Find someone who is really dedicated and will go to the meetings. It's important for an SBA member to be on the committee and be active. Go back and keep everyone informed.

Fallon: In regards to other person who sit on faculty committee, I'd like for you to fill us in on what goes on at these meets.

Kelli: Social committee, don't leave with out seeing me.

Christine: If no one is interested, sign me up.

Fallon: E-mail me and I can get you the time for the meetings.

Maggie: Are we doing free coffee and tea for students?

Jane: Bingham McCutchen is paying for coffee and snacks one day. My office, the SBA, and the cafeteria are paying for the coffee and snacks. It's about \$500 a semester.

Fallon: If no other comments, motion to adjourn. Motion seconded (from the crowd).

Meeting adjourned at 10:36 pm.