SBA General Body Meeting
August, 28 2013 – 6:30 p.m. 114 Katz Hall, Carlisle / 114 Katz Building, University Park

Agenda

I. Call to Order
   • Roll Call
     o Jason Samuel
     o Matt Bosakowski - Excused
     o Kaitlyn Charette
     o Brian Brodeur
     o Bobby Anderlik
     o Kyle Peasley
     o Aaron Schwartz – Excused – late – arrived for election bylaws vote
     o Jack Tebbetts – Excused – Late – arrived after tabling vote
     o Erin Hayes
     o Liz Ashbaugh
     o Brian Rans - Excused
     o Sean Jorgensen
     o Megan Rooney
     o Garrett Lent
     o Guy Bowe
     o Marcy McLaughlin
     o John Higgins
     o Jared Kephart - Excused
     o Jeff Gdovin

II. Approval of Minutes
   • Garrett motion to approve.
   • Jeff second.
   • All in favor - 14
   • All opposed - 0
   • PASS, 14-0

III. SBA Committee Chair Appointments (5 min)
   • Jason – The only addition is adding on co-chairs from Carlisle that were not available at last years meeting. I am opening up the floor for those.
   • Garrett – Motion to approve in omnibus fashion.
   • Marcy – Second.
   • Discussion
     o Kaitlyn – Should I make a motion to appoint another cochair for social chair? I think this is more than a one person job in UP and probably in Carlisle as well.
     o Jason – Because of surprise resignation we need another cochair. But I want to find someone at organization fair. All social chairs last year were 3Ls and all in Carlisle were all 2Ls. Vice Versa this year. We need proper turnover where
people are groomed for the position in advance so they can continue. SBA will flow seamlessly.

- Kaitlyn – So we should recruit a 2L?
- Jason – Yea. Any other discussion?
- Liz – Quick question. I didn’t know there was a surprise resignation so do we need to update the document then?
- Jason – Yes, because it occurred last night at 10pm.
- Liz – I don’t want to approve it if someone resigned if that makes sense.
- Kyle – Who was the resignation?
- Jason – Jennifer Tripodi.
- Kyle – So we want a new appointment to make up for that? Or do we want three total?
- Jason – I think we just strike her name for now and recruit at organization fair. I think it is possible for us to delete the name, I’m not sure if it needs a new motion.
- Jeff – Motion to strike Jennifer Tripodi.
- Liz – Second.
  
  - Jason – All in favor?
  - Aye - 14
  - Nay - 0
  - PASS, 14-0

- Jason – so now back to committee appointments. Vote
  - Aye - 14
  - Nay - 0
  - PASS, 14-0

- Jason – Very well, moving on.

IV. Approval of Budget Committee Bylaws (5 min)
- Brian – Basically the only changes from last year are that I reinstated participation form requirement. I also took out the part where new organizations can only get $250. If they have a good plan and it gets agreed upon by committee then we can a lot more for events.
- Jason – Ok thanks Brian, we can put it to a motion first then discuss changes.
- Garrett – Motion to approve the Budget Committee Bylaws.
- Jeff – Second
- Discussion
  - Marcy – I have a question about new organizations getting possibly more than $250. I would hate to see more money given to a new organization and no one show up to events. Can we say that the initial budget is no more than that, but they can supplement it with more if they have a lot of participation?
  - Jason – Correct me if I am wrong Brian, but that budget was only for the first year, but then the second year they could get more. Right Brian?
  - Brian – Yep.
  - Sean – I see the addition under page 3 – SBA may consider the following factors, specifically any email policy violations. I’m just wondering what the issue is and
the email policy regarding 7 or 8 emails. Are we having this affect orgs now or is it just a warning for in the future?

- Brian – It is basically just a warning. We didn’t keep track last year of email violations. This is just a warning that we can take into account violations in the future with your funding.
- Jason – Any other comments or questions? Seeing none, put it to a vote.
  - Aye- 14
  - Nay - 0
  - PASS, 14 – 0.

- Jason – Moving right along.

V. Approval of Election Bylaws (5 min)

- Jason – Kaitlyn would you want to talk about this?
- Kaitlyn – Sure. Hey everyone let’s talk about the dates for this first. Here are the changes: on the 4th at the organization fair, we are going to have prospective SBA members give info to 1ls at the tables. Sept. 6th, is the date to get signatures in and it is due at 5pm. Campaigning starts Friday and they only have until Monday night. We need a 24 hour timeline for elections. Then they would come to the meeting on Wednesday.
  If anyone has any concerns let me know, we can delay the process if necessary. I don’t want to wait another 2 weeks though.

- Garret – Motion to approve.
- Jeff – Second.

• Discussion
  - Marcy – What was the decision to do away with the candidate forum, just lack of participation?
  - Kaitlyn – Currently it is Monday September 9, at 6pm. Sorry I forgot to mention that. We are tentatively going for 6pm, but it may change.
  - Jeff – As far as you are concerned about time, I did it in less than an hour so it shouldn’t be too hard.
  - John – What about if no one runs. That happened in Carlisle last year and I ran. The problem was that no one knew that no one signed up. We should let people know of vacancies. Are there any provisions for that in the future?
  - Jason – What we did last year was after the candidate timeline ended we sent out an email about who was running. But as far as I know there are no provisions for what happens if no one running. We just appoint someone at the next meeting. Hopefully we don’t have that problem next year. But if you guys as SBA members in Carlisle, push this at the org fair to your 1ls. I know they got a heavy dose at orientation, so keep pushing it.
  - Kaitlyn – I will be asking a lot of you to work your SBA table at Carlisle so please help out. Just an hour or 20 min. I know you are busy but I would really appreciate it.
  - Jason – Any other comments?
- Sean – Is it standard to have the candidate forum after the election is open?
- Jason – Actually no, not after voting starts.
- Sean – If I read it right voting starts 5pm Monday and forum is same day. Can we just move voting back to 7pm?
- Kaitlyn – Yea that works!
- Jason – Yea. Anyone else?
- Kaitlyn – So 7pm Sept. 9 to 7pm Sept. 10.
- Jason – So we need another motion to strike and edit bylaws as sent out.
- Sean – Motion to amend bylaws to state 7pm for election time
- Aaron – Second
  - Jason – discussion?
    - All in favor?
      - Aye- 15
      - Nay - 0
      - PASS – 15-0
- Jason - Now onto approval of bylaws as amended.
  - Aye- 15
  - Nay - 0
  - PASS, 15-0
- Jason – Excellent, moving on.

VI. Budget Committee Appointments (5 min)
- Jason – These are not fully complete yet and I am interested in taking anyone who wants on. Currently we have Matt, Bowe, and Marcy. We need one more person as a member on SBA currently to be on the budget committee.
- Garrett – I volunteer myself as tribute.
- Jason – Thank you Garrett, he will be our second person from UP. These are the 5 voting members on the budget committee now. Others can be there and help, but these are the 5 voting members.
- Jason – All in favor of approving budget committee appointments?
  - Motion by Jeff.
  - Second by Liz.
- Jason - vote
  - Aye- 15
  - Nay - 0
  - PASS, 15-0
- Jason – Awesome, now onto the ad hoc transition committee

VII. Renew Ad-Hoc Transition Committee (5 min)
- Jason – I am conflicted with this. There are some students who are interested in this, but the transition was moved to 2018 and we have no clue the challenges they will be facing. But there are several interested students so I left it on there
for at least another year. If students want to know what is going on they have the right to have it on there.

- Liz – Motion to keep committee for another year.
- Jeff – Second.
- Discussion

  - Garrett - At the end of the day the student input has no real input, except maybe with journals. So while I understand the want and desire for transition committee, I honestly think student discussions and encouraging that is something we should do instead of SBA having a committee.
  - Marcy – Since the split is pushed back I think it would take on more relevance if the committee was delayed a year. I think it will create strife and issues currently on something we can’t affect now.
  - Emily Ward – this is a crucial year as far as ABA approving the split. I think it is important that we have an input on that issue. I also disagree about faculty listening to us.
  - Garrett – I agree, but at the end of the day our input is really not something that we can do to affect change. Only journals are something we truly have a say in. At the end of the day we can meet and address our concerns, and it is good that the faculty wants to hear our concerns, but it really has no impact on where the school is heading.
  - Aaron – Maybe you can clarify what you are advocating for – are you saying postpone the committee, indefinitely? Or are you just saying you have concerns.
  - Garrett – I think that this is something that we shouldn’t really do as a committee, but the student body at large.
  - Aaron – So, I guess my follow up then is what is the purpose of the committee? Because to me coming in blindly to SBA the purpose is really to get the information to the SBA about the faculty and how the students should be responding. I see it as an informative committee rather than an actual committee. The purpose might be the issue rather than the committee though.
  - Garrett – That makes sense, but last year on the committee we were very much running into walls. So yes, if we use that committee as an informative function it may be more useful, but not as an active committee.
  - Brian – Just as students in Carlisle, I believe it to be informative, but the student body as a whole finds it important. We would really like to see it renewed and keep it going.
  - John – I get the point that we were frustrated and running into walls but I think of the 1Ls who are incoming and how they will be impacted. I think it is a mistake to dismantle the apparatus we have.
  - Marcy – I appreciate the point about it being informative, my concern is that it would be a good idea for SBA to host monthly informative
sessions where the student body is invited. It felt exclusionary last year, and I think information should be out. I just don’t know if having an SBA committee is the right way to think about it.

○ Sean – I am kind of in Aaron’s shoes about this and I’m new. Looking from the outside, I think it is at least important to have people go to these meetings as advocates and ears for the SBA. Both campuses are very important. If we want to put a little stipulation on there that the committee is not the advocate but the conduit, then I think that might help.

○ Marcy – Don’t Jason, Kaitlyn, and Matt attend all faculty meetings? Maybe we should have them report back on what is happening rather than 25 people on a committee.

○ Jason – As president I sit on faculty meetings and VPs show up to Deans’ meetings.

○ Erin – I guess I am having a hard time finding out what the problem is.

○ Emily – We had a forum with Dean Houck and talked about the transition with a good attendance. I think it is very important in Carlisle. I think SBA has the responsibility to advocate for the Student body.

○ Liz – I’m just speaking from my experience having been on it last semester, I don’t think it was particularly effective. I wanted to be an advocate. My feeling was that that was not really an option for us and we don’t have an authority as students. So in my opinion it caused more problems than it solved. Many came up and asked me what is up with the secret transition committee. In reality, we had no more information than anyone else in the student body. I think the Deans forum meetings are incredibly useful because everyone can go. I also think the SBA president and VPs serve a great purpose at the smaller meetings. My feeling is that it wasn’t particularly effective.

○ Brian – Nobody is actually forced to be on the committee. I believe the possibility should be there for people who want to be there.

○ Aaron – I think the ineffectiveness of the committee last year could be a lot more due to the administration than anything else. Dean McConnaughay wanted to “spare us” a lot of the nitty-gritty of the transition, which I don’t know if that will be the same with Dean Houck. I think there is every reason to incentivize people to try.

○ Bobby – I also sat on the committee and honestly thought that it was a waste of our time. We were not able to accomplish most of the goals we set out to because we are students with no power.

○ Unclear - We were able to accomplish things in Carlisle.

- Garrett - Motion to table for next meeting with fresh 1Ls.
- Aaron – Second
  - Jason – discussion?
    - Kaitlyn – There will be more representation next week.
    - Aaron – And more information.
Vote for table for next meeting
- Aye- 8 in UP; 3 in Carlisle
- Nay – 2 in UP; 2 in Carlisle
- PASS 11-4

Jason – effectively tabled until our next meeting on September 11.

VIII. Public Comment (15 min)
- Jason – Sorry for not doing this earlier.
- Emily – I am really disappointed in SBA for tabling something that Carlisle wants so much.
- Kyle – Tabling isn’t the same as eviscerating the topic. Garrett made a great point in bringing up that the 1Ls and LLMs in the discussion.
- Aaron – I don’t think you guys should be too concerned. I think the majority of people want this committee to exist, so you will be fine.
- Jason – very reassuring.
- Jeff – you are doing a fine job Jason.
- Jason – thanks Jeff.
- Liz – There were a couple students who asked about Barristers. I wanted to bring it up. I know the email I received was sent to UP only. I don’t believe it is a UP only event but I wanted it clarified.
- Jason – I was going to address this, but yes, no sooner was this email sent out then I replied that this should have gone to all students. All events are open to all campuses. It was an unfortunate mistake. It has never been up for discussion to have separate events.
- Jason – Any other comments or concerns?
- Aaron – Maybe better reserved for another time or day, but what is the transportation provided by the school for barristers by the school and the accompanying alcohol policy. Can we loosen the requirements on even a small level? I would imagine it would increase participation.
- Jason – This is appropriate. The first year this happened that we should not have alcohol on the bus was a result of the 2011 snafu. Last year people brought it on the bus by sneaking it. We can talk to the Deans about getting it relaxed for alcohol on the bus. We can bring it up to them as long as people can promise to be responsible.
- Jason – Anything else?
- Erin – I actually heard rumors about discussion about canceling some of the social events. About one dance per year. Is there any ground for those rumors?
- Jason – No, those events will remain. We did have an e-board meeting about how we are structuring those events or how they are planned, but not canceling them. All events we have now will be there in a few years when you graduate.
- Jason – Moving to officer reports.

IX. Officer Reports
- President (5 min)
• Thank you again to everyone for letting me be your president and I think we are going to have a great year. That said, welcome back to law school and for the 1Ls, welcome TO law school.

• Something brought up to me for our social events: all events are going to be ADA accessible, no excuses or exceptions. Every event that we hold as a student body will welcome all students who pay good money to be here. If they are not ADA accessible, then they are not going to go into that venue for SBA event. No one should be excluded.

• There is going to be a restructuring of social events. I want to see more involvement from student orgs. Last year there was a lot of money that got held back in reserve to fund SBA student events. I think it would help people get involved if student orgs plan events. This will have to be a discussion we have later. Any changes would not go into effect until next semester. We have a lot of dormant orgs that do nothing all year so I think we should encourage them to be active. This is not to say SBA will pull funding, but by allowing different orgs to run events, with their national umbrella organizations and UPAC, they can get more funding. This means we will have better events than those just made through SBA funding. This is nothing formal yet, but it is something I plan to bring to the SBA in the future.

• Also, for all student organizations, if you are going to be having large events, all those need to be routed through the communications office of school through Ellen Foreman and Crystal Stryker. The school is concerned about the reputation of the school when we bring in big time speakers who speak to an empty audience.

• On another note, I had a great time at the ABA annual meeting with SBA presidents from all across the country. I was able to have good discussions and make great connections for ideas. I want to plug ABA - all students should get involved in that program. There are a lot of career opportunities available. Our students are not taking advantage of the great opportunities that the ABA can give us.

• Hats off to VPs on successful orientation. They did a great job. Because of that we have been brought back to speak on professionalism and honor code. This is huge because it was taken away in the past so it meant a lot that we as the SBA could speak at orientation. For now, we know we are invited back next year, so great job to the VPs.

• If you are on Twitter, follow the law school twitter page. You can find it through Jason_Samuel. A lot of students are on twitter so it would be important to get students to follow that.

• **Vice Presidents (10 min)**

  • This should be pretty brief. Thanks again for everything with your help. Email policy – everyone in Carlisle got it. If there is any confusion, come talk to me.
• Org fair – everyone in UP, I mean Carlisle, is familiar with that by now? What Matt and I are trying to do is get SBA involvement at our table at the org fair. I beg you all to be there.
• Jason – Ill be there.
• Kaitlyn – Thanks Jason. This should be a big success. A lot of our groups are signed up at both chapters.
• Kaitlyn - Elections, we have talked about that already, so I will spare everyone. Thanks.
• Jason – Matt is not here to give the Carlisle report, so moving onto Treasurer.

• Treasurer (5 min)
  • The SBA’s estimated budget is $41,000 which is only 2k less than last year. I have rooms saved for next Friday to have all the org leaders come in and I can give the whole spiel to them. I want Aaron to come to that and talk about ABA funding as well.
  • Hoping to see everyone there.

• PSU Senator (5 min)
  • The first senate meeting is Tuesday Sept. 10. I will let you all know about that at our next meeting.

• ABA Representative (5 min)
  • First, Brian I would be happy to be there for the budget meeting. Do you know what time?
  • Brian – room 114, Carlisle and UP Friday Sept. 6. 5:30.
  • Aaron – I hope to start an externship and Friday might be one of the days I go to Harrisburg, so that could be great. I will keep you posted by email.
  • I guess I want to start with talking to Carlisle. I cannot be in 2 places at once and there is quite a lot going on with ABA. It might be a great idea to make a sort of understudy in Carlisle that helps me out to get the message to Carlisle. That way you have all the information or some way of disseminating the information to you. I guess that depends on if someone wants to do that position. I will send an email out to Carlisle.
  • I went to the meeting in San Francisco with Jason and it was a lot of fun. I learned a lot about what ABA can do for our law school. They have a lot of money for orgs. If you can make an event relate, even tangentially, to ABA, then you can receive up to $500. Requests take about 4 weeks in advance, so submit early, but the money is great. The requester must be a member of the ABA, so that is a great incentive to join.
  • There are a ton of leadership positions in the ABA that our students can join. This is great for a resume as a leadership skill and gets great connections with members of the ABA. Also, you are always meeting new attorneys in the ABA and grow your personal network. I sent an email about positions the other day, so check that out. Lastly, to speak more about the networking opportunities, the ABA has tons of subcommittees and sections, so if you want to practice in a certain area, a great way is to contact those sections and
get involved through research or task forces. Sometimes they are important or unimportant, but you can sift through and get involved with attorneys and grow your network.

- There are always paper submissions for the ABA too. Nate Foote for example just submitted a paper for criminal litigation session that he wrote for a seminar. There were 3 submissions total, so not that competitive. But he won, got published, got a free trip, and $1,500. So if you are writing anyway, this is a great way to get published. $25 per year, $60/3 years. Figure out how to make it work for you.

X. Adjournment

- Jeff: Motion to adjourn.
- Kyle: Second.
- Vote:
  - No opposition UP
  - No opposition Carlisle
  - 16 Yes; 0 No
- Meeting Adjourned.