Student Bar Association General Body Meeting

August 29, 2012 - 8:30 p.m.
114 Katz Hall, Carlisle/114 Katz Building, University Park
Agenda

I. Call to Order

a. Roll Call

• Laura Magnotta
• Anna Strawn
• Jason Samuel
• Alisha Falberg
• Andrew Sherman
• Wanika Fisher
• Joe Negaard
• Carolyn Brown
• Melissa Padalino
• Cody Graham - Unexcused
• Shandra Kisailus
• Elizabeth Asbaugh
• Matthew Bosakowski
• Kyle Peasley
• Jordan Feist
• Jordan Johnston
• Courtney Monson
• Erin Hayes

Laura: Just a note on Matt Bosakowski’s schedule. Since we had so many problems figuring out when to have the meeting, I asked if anyone was willing to be flexible and Matt said he will be
trying to adjust his schedule and will be working with us and being flexible around his conflict. So he might be late some nights, but he’s going to try. This will not count against him as far as attendance. Thanks Bos!

b. Minutes Approval

Laura: Motion to approve last meeting’s minutes.

Wanika: Motion to approve.

Andrew: Second

No discussion.
No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

II. 2L Class Representative Appointment

Laura: As I said Steve Smith is no longer a student at this school, so I’ve chosen, pursuant to the SBA constitution, someone to replace him as 2L representative. I have chosen to nominate the student with the next highest number of votes in the election last spring. I would like to nominate Brian Rans to be 2L class representative for the 2012-2013 academic year. Motions to approve?

Wanika: Motion to approve.
Jordan F.: Second.

No discussion.
No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

Fantastic! We welcome Brian and [he] can now vote on everything for the rest of the meeting.

III. Public Comment

Laura: Moving on to public comment. First, we will be doing official parliamentary rules at the next meeting when the 1Ls get here, but, for now, please raise your hand when you wish to speak and no side conversations please. I’m going to be strict about this. Now I open for public comment.

Jordan F.: I want to raise a concern brought to me by people about the cafe hours. I know there was a survey last year, but I have class everyday at 8am and that’s where I’ve been getting these complaints - its not open before 8 now and that’s why I’ve been getting complaints. People want extended hours - based on survey last year - but not at expense of shortening earlier hours so I just wanted to raise that issue.

Anna: I think our cafe is open before 8 because I got coffee there. Are our hours different?
Laura: Yes - the one in Carlisle is run by law school and the administration there primarily, but UP’s is run by Campus Catering by Penn State and the law school has very little control and say over what goes on. We had the survey last year and met with the head of Campus Catering, manager of the Side Bar Café, head chef of the UP café and talked about extending hours and the issue is that they have expense issues and if they extended the hours they would have to hire more people and that would cost more money to pay hourly wages. So we are going to re-approach it and we may have to change it back, so please put feelers out about changes in café, especially hours, and report back, and if students are not happy, we can revisit and readjust.

Jason: Is the complaint that people can’t get coffee? If so, we could put the Keurig machine out like we do sometimes?

Jordan F.: I’ve heard coffee and breakfast and I know that there are 8am classes this semester - the 1Ls have class at 8am - I’m not sure about class hours last year. But I know that people have been saying both coffee and breakfast.

Laura: OK, please just get a feeling then of what students want.

Brian: Aren’t there students that work there?

Laura: Some are, but most are full time and they have a problem with getting work study students because its far from the law school and it doesn’t make sense for students to come all of the way out here for, like, 2 hour shifts, since its far away from the undergraduate campus.

Jordan J.: The catering facilities are all run by Penn State and, like Laura said, the scheduling is tricky. I used to work there.

Wanika: SBA and GSA are having our mixer on September 6 or 7 - I’ll send an email out and if you’re interested, get involved in GSA. And if your concerned about bigger issues with stuff and with the Board of Trustees and everything, get involved!

Elizabeth: I’ve been hearing students mention things about CALI award distribution. Right now they’re distributed in our mailboxes, which is not the most private way to distribute academic information and people are concerned that others can just walk by and see that they got a CALI. Students are concerned about people knowing they got an award and feel uncomfortable about academic exposure - is there something we can do about that?

Laura: Is it the same in Carlisle?

Anna: Yes and you can tell who it is.

Brian: Aren’t the names listed on-line?

Laura: Yes, but it’s still a concern about academic privacy.

Jordan F.: You can ask to take off your name from on-line though.
Laura: It’s a concern, so we’ll bring this up at the dean’s meeting that will happen every other Monday and we will see if we can come up with another way to distribute those more privately. Anything else?

Missy: A few things: requesting again that tax is offered pass/fail - not sure if there is anything we can do about it. Another thing: students are requesting Red Bull and I said that we can’t get it because we have a contract with Pepsi, but they asked for anything else other than Amp, and maybe something sugar free if possible. Lastly, is there anyway to get printing for student organizations? There is a request from students to get organization printing allocation like for students.

Laura: Tax - I’ll check with deans about that, especially Dean Riley, but from what I understand the choice to offer pass/fail is up to the professor, I think, but I’ll bring it up to determine the process of how to get classes offered pass/fail. Red Bull - you are correct that we have a contract with Pepsi and are prevented from selling any other products. Even when have student organizations have events that offer food and drink, they have to be Pepsi. We can see if Pepsi has any other options. Is there a sugar free Amp?

Missy: I don’t know. Apparently there’s a Monster that has a low cal and a sugar free. Is this possible?

Laura: I’ll check, but I’m pretty sure we can’t. Printing for student organizations - we spoke to the deans about this because it came up before with law review and moot court. The deans are hesitant because these are not academic endeavors and if you chose to participate, you’re responsible for the printing, but I’ll check to see if there’s something we can do. What’s being printed?

Missy: Like flyers and posters and stuff like that. I know when I was in undergrad they had special printing for stuff like that.

Anna: I’m speaking for Alisha since she’s typing, but she says student services does printing like that for student organizations.

Laura: That makes sense. I’ll check with Holly and Sue and find out the actual policy on this, but it seems that if it is something for the whole school, then they would be willing to do it, but I’ll check. It may be addressed at the budget meeting and I will check.

Wanika: Penn State in general does do printing but it has to be in the HUB, so the law school does not count. And I will bring this up again - toilet liners - I bring it up at every meeting.

Laura: And the deans will agree that we bring it up all of the time. I don’t know why we don’t have them, but we got hand dryers last year, so maybe this will be the year for toilet liners! Bathroom hygiene is a problem in general, so we want to do what we can to improve this and why not start with toilet liners.
Brian: Has the New York bar association given a deadline about when they will be ruling on when they will be getting back to us on our application on an exemption for AV classes?

Laura: I’m not sure.

Anna: I was going to say this for my report, but I’ll bring it up now - can we spread the word about being extra good about pushing buttons and not talking in AV classes - I know sometimes we have problems with that - when the NY bar comes to observe our AV system, so that we make a good impression?

Laura: Do you know what classes they will be in?

Anna: I don’t know what classes they will be in, but if we could spread the word I think that will be helpful.

Laura: I think we have a good cross-section of people in SBA, so I think if we all tell 5 people what’s going on and spread the word, I think this will be helpful not only for this issue, but for the quality of AV classes at the school in general. So spread the word that it’s an important thing to do, but I’ll definitely bring it up at the deans meeting to see what’s being done. Anything else? No? Moving on.

IV. Committee Chair Appointments

Laura: I know we voted in a bunch of committee chairs at the last meeting last year, but I would like to add 3 to those we voted on last year. First is Alex Sipe - is that her married name?

Shandra: Yes. Sipe is her married name, Byble is her maiden name, but she goes by both.

Laura: OK, well, I would like to add Alex Sipe as co-chair of Admissions in Carlisle, Jessica Parisi as co-chair of Orientation in UP, and Maria Carnicella as co-chair of Social Committee in Carlisle. Motions to approve these new committee chairs for the 2012-2013 academic year?

Courtney: Motion to approve.
Wanika: Second.

No discussion.
No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

Laura: Congratulations to them! They’ve already started to get to work on some things and I’m sure they’ll do a great job.

V. Committee Member Appointments

Laura: Moving on to committee membership. Students can be added to committees at any time during the school year, and can get involved at any time. I’ll be sending out an email and at the
organization fairs Anna and Jason will have a committee booth and will be asking people to sign up. Hopefully we’ll get a lot of participation this year.

NOMINATIONS:
Budget
Jordan Feist
Jordan Johnston
Matthew Bosakowski
Shandra Kisailus

CPDO
Shandra Kisailus
Kevin Schock

Social Committee
Jordan Johnston
Kaitlyn Charette
Elizabeth Aaberg

Speakers Trust
Dave Dambreville
Matthew Bosakowski
Aretha Soderstrom
Emily Ward

Race Judicata
Kathryn Modeer

Mock Trial
Bradon Toomey
Joshua Christensen

Academic Committee
Tara Franklin
Kathryn Rimpfel

Community Relations
Katie Rimpfel
Josh Bam
Ben Gitchner
Esch McCombie
Matt McDonald
McKenzie Clark
Bradley Tristsch
Kim Spackman
Matthew Kudrich
Megan Janowaik
Carrie Babiasz
Kara Stoley

Jason: Motion to approve.

Wanika: Second.

Kyle: I don’t have any debate, more of a question: first, how did those names get put on the list and how would 1Ls go about getting involved?

Laura: I’ve asked the committee chairs to put forth a list of people they know and want to work with and I have also had some 1Ls contact those chairs to get involved in the committees. Also, I’ll send out an email and there will be a sign up booth at the student organization fair.

Shandra: I just wanted to point out that I made a mistake when I sent you some of the names for the mock trial committee - [gives correct names and spelling] - and I just wanted to correct those mistakes in names.

Laura: Any other debate? Seeing none, I’ll put it up for a vote.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Great! Congratulations to all and I am sure their chairs will be happy to have them on board.

VI. Committee Bylaws Approval

Laura: I sent out all of the copies of the by-laws that were sent to me. I did not include Speakers Trust Fund or Mock Trial because I did not get the final drafts in time to send them out for this meeting, so we will wait until we have them perfected. Most of the changes were not that different, so I’m going to do this in omnibus fashion. We will approve all the other by-laws except budget, because Andrew Sherman will take care of those separately. So, I would like to approve the changes for the Career Planning and Development Committee, Community Relations, Diversity Committee, Graduation Committee, and Orientation Committee. We are going to vote now.

Jason: Motion to approve.

Jordan J.: Second

Anna: Alisha wanted me to mention that in the Orientation Committee by-laws it says just “chair” and it should be “co-chair.”

Laura: OK - Courtney?
Courtney: No, I was just making sure Alisha got her comment in.

Laura: OK.

Andrew: For Career Services and Development, I noticed some punctuation and grammar issues. Like in Article 4 - it has subsections and they are a little hard to read. Could it be fixed maybe?

Laura: So, its just a formatting situation?

Andrew: Yes.

Laura: So, I am going to suggest that someone make a motion to amend the Orientation by-laws to “co-chairs” and check on the subdivisions in Career Services and Development.

Jason: Move to amend the committee by-laws to the changes made.

Anna: Second.

Laura: Vote on amendment to the motion bylaws.

No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

Laura: Now we can vote on the motion as its been changed.

Jordan F.: Question on the by-laws: in the Community Relations bylaws there is a highlighted section?

Laura: I was just making it clear that that was the change.

Jordan F.: Well, I was wondering how the change is possible - it says “at least one co-chair shall be enrolled at each of the two Penn State Law campuses (University Park and Carlisle) campus” - it sounds strange.

Laura: It means that there will be one co-chair from each campus.

Jordan F.: It just confuses me - I think there’s something wrong with the wording.

Laura: I suggest that someone make a motion to amend it to say one chair from each campus.

Jason: I move to reflect that the Community Relations by-law change to say co-chair from each campus.

Andrew: Second.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Joe: Motion to extend time by 5 minutes.

Motion and second.
No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

Laura: Now, on all of those amendments, is there any more debate? No. All vote.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Laura: Moving on to the budget, there are some significant changes and I would like Andrew to talk about them some more.

Jason: Motion to approve budget guidelines.

Andrew: Second. So, basically the participation section, section 8, didn’t work at all for Chad last year, so we are taking it out completely. There will be no more sign-in sheets required at events and leaders will not have to hand anything in. They can just estimate attendance like in past years because last year did not work. I also made some grammatical changes. And for the P card we need 2 weeks notice if you plan to use it. You must notify Holly or Sue so they are in the loop and you must keep them in the loop with your event or you will not get your funds. So those are the biggest changes.

Laura: We met with Sue, Holly and Doris about our budget. They are a huge resource to help us plan with knowing numbers and helping with events, so the earlier they know about an event, the more they can help the student organization. If they were to find out the day before the event happens, they just can’t give as much time, support, and effort that they can and want to give to the organization. Also, if you have a speaker coming you have to report it to Career Planning so they know, and so the administration knows, and so that we look good as a school welcoming the speaker. Budget guidelines up for vote.

No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

Laura: Just a reminder that the budget meeting is on Friday at 11 and it is required that a representative of the board of each committee or organization must be present for the organization to receive SBA funding. Now move for Election by-laws approval, so we can get our 1Ls involved.

Jason: Motion

Matt: Second
Laura: Any debate?

Jason: The biggest change is that we updated the bylaws to reflect that we will be changing the dates every year so they remain current and we included a specific section about the election of 1L reps which was not in there beforehand. The dates will be the 6th and the 7th from 5pm to 5pm.

Wanika: Do you know how many 1Ls there are?

Laura: I don’t know the exact answer but I think 150 something.

Jason: 167 was the number I was told.

Wanika: When they do elections are they impacted by population? They’re not affected by population, right?

Jason: Correct.

Laura: Typically there is one representative for each section. There will remain 3 1L sections in UP this year, according to Dean Elkin.

Brian: Are we doing anything about voter participation this year? It was low last year.

Jason: We will get into that when the elections for the e-board occur.

Elizabeth: I had questions about the dates listed in here, which is the year we are in, however, there are 2013 dates for next year and one says 2010 - so could we update it to make them all consistent?

Laura: Typically we update them before each and every election, so those dates are estimates of what will be going on. We don’t know what will be going on in April of next year, so those dates are just serving as a place holder for now – does that make sense?

Elizabeth: If the heading is for this year, then why are the dates for next year? I’m having a hard time understanding why there are 2013 dates when it’s for this year.

Jason: Right – it’s for this academic year and those elections will take place in this academic year for next academic year.

Laura: What does the document actually say?

EA: “Election Bylaws of the Student Bar Association of the Dickinson School of Law of the Pennsylvania University, Completed August 2, 2012” - so to me it sounds like these are the bylaws for the 2012-2013 year.

Jason: Yes, that’s right, but we can fix the typos to amend the dates in the bylaws.
Elizabeth: I’m not sure if maybe I’m not making sense as I’m saying it? The 2012 and 2013 year is this year, but the dates reflect next year, but the heading says this year.

Jason: But the dates reflect this academic year - its 2012-2013. We can’t stop it at the end of 2012.

Laura: So, I suggest that someone motion to amend it to say that the bylaws are for elections that occur during this academic year?

Kyle: Move to extend time by 5 minutes.

Joe: Second.

No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

Jason: Motion to approve the election by-laws with those changes.

Carolyn: Second.

Laura: Any debate? Seeing none, we’ll put it to a vote.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Great! We have everything done so we can get our 1Ls done and in place! There’s been a lot of interest already this year.

VII. Executive Council Reports

a. Presidents Report

Laura: Thanks to everyone for coming out to field day and the welcome back parties! It’s important to me for SBA members to be at these events, since they are SBA sponsored, and it shows support for organization putting them on. As leaders, it also encourages our classmates to do so, which gets participation up and that’s great. I’m going to be talking about the coffee maker in the basement here [UP], so after hours there will be coffee available. Anna, Jason and I will be begining our deans meetings on Mondays and they will be every other week and we’ll report back what they say. Sports Legal Society’s softball tournament will be happing on Labor Day and I saw the email that Carlisle is trying to get a team together, which is great! Its a lot of fun and its for a good cause. Even if you don’t play, you should donate to United Way and come and enjoy the Wegman’s lunch. I want to commend our Mock Trial Committee. They are putting together a 2L mock trial that will hopefully be this fall and that’s great because there is not much opportunity for 2Ls, besides moot court, for oral advocacy. Also, I learned that LLMs pay into student activity fees through Dean Elkin and they are not represented in SBA.
We have a very large class of LLMs this year, which is a significant portion of student body, and they are not represented, which, to me, is like taxation without representation and that is not right. So, we are trying to amend our constitution because it’s not fair to them that they are paying and not having a say in how the funds are allocated. We are trying to get an LLM class representative and an honor code representative, just like JD students. I am going to put together a committee to put together some proposed Constitutional amendment language to include in the Constitution requirements for LLM representative positions and a standing LLM committee to explore the needs of LLMs and to explore the needs and experience of the LLM student body. So, we are working on means of how to do this and to amend our constitution, which will be a really great addition to what we do.

Matt: As far as LLM representatives, how many do you envision having?

Laura: Essentially the same as we do with JD students: 1 representative per section, and they the number of students that usually make up one section, so proportionately speaking, they will have the same as we do.

b. Vice Presidents’ Reports

Anna: I’ll go first, just a few things, we had 2 or 3 great events last weekend for welcome back - UP had a field day which looked like a lot of fun and both had great attendance. I sadly couldn’t go, but I saw pictures! We have a Barristers date set. It’s October 19 and we have a venue, the Carlisle Ribbon Mill, which is where we have our PILF auction and students really like it. I’m really excited. Also, the chairs of the IM sports committee are working hard to get a Carlisle team and hopefully we will have one. I’m going and an excited. The Community Relations committee is starting off strong. In Carlisle there is a seat on the borough council for the law school to have a representative. We are currently accepting applications for that seat and its open to 2Ls and 3Ls. If you’re interested, you should talk to Maren Miller. And my other committees are still in organizational phases. The student organization fairs are September 5 in Carlisle and September 12 in UP from 12:30-2:30. No 1Ls have class during those times, so they’ll all be on campus and are the target audience. Its kind of fluctuating still but there will be about 25-30 organizations represented.

Jason: We had good participation from our law lion ambassadors this year - thank you for serving! 1L elections are coming up. Candidate statements are coming up. They’re due Friday and campaigning is Monday through Thursday and the election is Thursday to Friday from 5pm to 5pm. The candidates forum will also happen that week. Career Services and Development is holding small group sessions every week. They are designed for small groups, so stop on by and everyone is welcome. The topics will be emailed out beforehand. I’m looking into the student crosswalk being repainted so students have a safe place to walk. Also, I’ve been sitting in lobby when I’m available to answer student questions and address comments and I encourage SBA members to do this if you have the free time.

c. Treasurer
Andrew: So, obviously this Friday is the budget informational session for organizations for procedures and guidelines, especially new sections and those that were deleted. I emailed the budget committee to finalize the whole budget so we can approve it at the next SBA meeting. We have about $49,000 this year, which is $6,000 more than last year, which is good since we always get requests for about double our budget. I signed off on the welcome back parties and they were great success - still waiting on receipts for that - and I signed off on the food for SLS softball tournament. We will tally all of that into the total when we meet to finalize the applications. Last, I would like to ask budget committee members to stay to vote on funding for the GSA mixer on September 7th - so if could stay a few minutes after.

d. PSU Senator

Joe: Yesterday was the first meeting of the year. I’m on the library and IT committee this year because our library takes up half of our school and IT is important to our school with AV classes and all. So, I want to have more communication. Bring anything to me, I am your tool. I can bring up at IT subcommittee, or the student committee or general body. The meeting was mostly introductory and what wasn’t introductory was on the scandal, which is not really related to law school.

e. ABA Rep Report

Wanika: I actually have stuff to report from the annual ABA meeting in Chicago. We are members of the 3rd circuit and we talked about ABA health insurance for law students. There is one, but we are lobbying for more, like dental and vision. Also, ABA has a $500 budget for new events at the law school and you can request that on-line. Since we haven't really used it, pretty much all our events will be new events. On behalf of Laura, I went to a meeting for SBA Presidents and learned about resources available, like covering travel costs. I will be tabling at organization fair and all of you should be members of ABA. Carlisle, I’m still looking for people to table in Carlisle because I have class - if anyone is available, please let me know. There was some drama in Chicago. A lot of ABA student division people are 3rd tier law schools and a big issue was reporting. There are apparently some bad schools which are not reporting and getting kicked out and there is an accreditation issue as punishment. I don’t want our school to get dis-accredited, so I talked a lot about how the ramifications are too harsh, so I talked a lot about that with Rutgers and Harvard representatives and we are trying to work on that. The ABA president talked about the new areas of law for students and that there are no jobs for new law students and law student debt and talked about SBA advocating for cyber law and national security law and lobbying law schools for more classes in those areas because we, as younger students, can do it and older lawyers can’t. Same with human trafficking. So, those are areas she thought that new law students can infiltrate.

Jason: Motion to adjourn.

Jordan F.: Second.

VIII. Adjourn