Student Bar Association General Body Meeting
Tuesday, January 29, 2013  7:30 pm
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
   • Shandra Kisailus
   • Elizabeth Asbaugh
   • Matthew Bosakowski
   • Kyle Peasley
   • Jordan Feist
   • Jordan Johnston
   • Courtney Monson
   • Erin Hayes
   • Brian Rans
   • Matt Regan
   • Marcy McLaughlin
b. Minutes Approval

Laura: Great, we have quorum. Alisha sent out the minutes and we have them posted on the website. Does anyone have a motion?

Jason: Motion to approve the minutes.
Jordan F.: Second.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

II. Public Comment (15 minutes)

Laura: Great. I’ll now open the floor to public comment. I see we have new faces tonight and I encourage everyone, JD or LLM, to bring up anything at this point.

Carolyn: First, the library is very cold and, its nor just me, everyone says it. Second, I would like to put up three student members for removal from the social committee Liz Aaberg, Samantha Ramos. Alaina Dickens.

Laura: I’ll look into library. And Andrew and I looked into the by-laws on how to remove committee members and found out we have to have a motion made, it needs to be seconded, then we have to send the members notice within 24 hours and then give them the opportunity at the next meeting to present their side. Carolyn, could you explain some of your reasons?

Carolyn: On social committee, we have had multiple events and I have sent emails to all committee members asking for help. There has been a severe lack of participation and not one of them have responded except one, who has asked to be removed. And I have asked for tabling for events and no one has volunteered, SBA members have had to step-up. I have sent them emails saying we would remove them and I have not heard back from anyone.

Laura: Jenna said she doesn’t want to be on it right?

Carolyn: Yes.

Laura: So, we don’t need to remove her, just the other three. That being said, any motions to start the removal process?

Joe: Motion.
Jordan F.: Second.

Laura: OK, we’ll send them notice and at the next meeting we’ll vote.

Missy: The walkway at the door is really slippery. The parking lot is not, but I’ve seen people fall or almost fall right by the door, so could they put more salt there to make it more safe?

Laura: I noticed that yesterday, so I’ll ask again and see if they can put salt down. If you notice that no salt has been put down, please go to Sue and let her know to ask that they go put salt down.

Brian: I don’t think it was just me, but the Dean’s email was surprising. Can we ask for another Dean’s forum to see how to go about finding a new dean? I talked with Professor Backer and he said that we need a new President first and that could take a long time. We might nominate a temporary Dean in the meantime, but the new President will probably want to appoint his own Dean and that would take a long time.

Laura: That makes sense. I’m going to wait on this until we talk about the transition committee discussion, if that’s OK.

Cody: I was just thinking, the removal of committee members - is it really worth the time and effort to do it? What’s the angle? I mean, I understand, but why hasn’t it ever been done before?

Carolyn: I don’t know why it hasn’t been done in past, but if I’m not getting responses, they shouldn’t be here.

Anna: I know there hasn’t been any emails yet, but one of the members of the graduation committee posted on Facebook about not having the receptions on Friday before graduation anymore and several people have already talked to me about it. I’ve explained the reasoning - that graduation is now at both campuses, so there is no need - but I wanted to bring it up that there is already a lot of push-back about not having the receptions.

Laura: I, too, feel gipped on not having the reception. However, I talked to Dean Elikn about it and the reason they began doing it in the first place was to have the students who were at the other campus than the one hosting graduation be able to show their parents around the school they went to. It is now cost prohibitive because of having graduation at both campuses and the A/V stuff. Also, the reception that happens on graduation day has become more substantive, there is a full lunch, and it is seen as a replacement. I will let Dean Elikn know about the push-back.

Anna: I just wanted to bring it up so if people hear anything they can refer them to the graduation committee.

Andrew: Um, what about toilet seat covers?
Laura: Really? I don’t know. Dean McConnaughay has shown interest in getting this done, so I don’t know. I will ask again and will push for a percentage of likelihood of getting them. In the meantime, be nice in the bathrooms.

Matt B.: I’m going to bring up again the recycling outside of classrooms. I know its an old issue, but there is significant demand and I’ve been asked about them.

Laura: The response is the garbage receptacle outside the cafe and you should walk the extra 20 feet.

Matt B.: I know, but people don’t want to.

Laura: The amount of time people spend talking about it could be spent walking to it.

III. Transition Committee Appointments and Discussion (10 minutes)

Laura: Moving on. The transition committee appointments and discussion. I will move this over to Anna. We have two people we want to appoint and we need 1Ls. If anyone hears of people interested, please report to us.

Anna: Its only been two weeks since we have instigated this committee and I didn’t want to take too many steps without the rest of the committee. So, the main thing that has happened has been that there is a meeting scheduled here with Carlisle faculty and Carlisle students and I want to set up one in UP. The reason we are doing it separately is because it is personal to each of the campuses and the faculty want to hear from students about why they chose the campus they did and what can be done to make their campus stronger. I think now that I have a co-chair up there, we can make it happen up there. It’s a wonderful opportunity and I have also had some people tell that they are interested in helping on the committee. I hope to set-up a meeting with co-chairs soon and start having the committee meet regularly soon, so we can begin to work on main tasks of setting up files for student organizations with constitutions and by-laws and stuff, and setting up them at each campus. If you have any questions, you can ask me now or email me.

Laura: In how Dean McConnaughay has explained this process, it will be faculty driven not administration driven. So, I think that it will be helpful for students to get involved and for students to know what is going on and have a voice and get answers for how they see things happening and when.

Andrew: So, I guess I’m wondering if you’re planning on having any over-lap between the two campuses so that everyone will be on the same page - we need to bring everyone together at some point, don’t we?

Anna: The student-faculty meetings will not overlap because people will probably be more open with everyone if they are not being simulcast. That being said, the faculty does meet frequently, as does the SBA, and the committee meetings soon will. That is where the overlap will happen and I will report to SBA as to what is going on. But there are good reasons for the student-faculty meetings to not be simultaneous.
Andrew: What about the faculty that teach at both campuses?

Anna: I don’t know. I’ll talk to Professor Gildin because I don’t know how they are going to divide themselves or decide which meeting they will go to.

Jordan J.: In terms of the committee and gathering student organizations, how much say will the students have in terms of where student organization will go or how much power this committee will have?

Anna: We will be fairly influential. The goal is to have all organizations be available at both campuses, at least initially, so that new students who are interested in any group will be able to start it. As far as students organization that are or are not under the SBA, we, as the committee will be helping the organizations make plans for replicating at each school and we will help them with any questions they have on the process. For other issues, such as law reviews, where faculty has more control, we won’t be able to have much control, but the student perspective will be there through student representatives, so their voice can be heard.

Laura: And I have expressed to the Deans and at the Faculty Meeting that we expect that students will be part of any committee, so students voices will be heard and they can come back and report to the SBA. I am nominating two co-chairs: Jordan Feist in UP and Maria Carnicella in Carlisle. Both have expressed interest in the position.

Courtney: I know that other students have expressed interest - when should I bring that up?

Laura: To be a co-chair or committee member?

Courtney: I’m not sure, but I know they want to be involved.

Laura: The two we have appointed have talked to Anna and expressed interest in this position and so they are the ones we are going to appoint.

Anna: That’s fine and I know these two have talked to us and we want 2Ls.

Laura: Right. I’m satisfied that these people are qualified and we will later invite others to be involved and we need to also look for 1Ls.

Jason: Motion.
Andrew: Second.

No opposition in Carlisle.
No opposition in UP.

IV. LLM Committee Appointments (5 minutes)
Laura: Moving on. I know we have several LLM’s here tonight and welcome. I know there have been some issues with getting signatures because not all LLM’s have classes together and only one person has even attempted to get them. So, I’m going to make appointments this time, at the next meeting, and we are hopeful that in the future it will be easier to get signatures, since they all have legal writing together in the fall. Welcome to all the LLM’s that are here tonight and thanks for coming and for taking on the role. We’re excited to have you and on February 12, you’ll be official members of the SBA! Now we will vote on appointing members to the LLM Committee. I will open the floor for any motions.

Jason: I move to nominate:
Buket Arpaci - Class Rep
Zhanar Abuova
Aysel Cetinkaya
Kristi Sutton
Hamilton Martin

Andrew: Second.

Cody: Did you say JD’s?

Jason: Yes, the LLM committee is comprised of both JD’s and LLM’s. There are three JD’s and two LLM’s, at least right now.

Laura: We will send out an email asking if anyone else is interested and the members will have a lot of deference to see where it will go, since this is a new committee. It’s exciting!

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Welcome! We’re excited to have you here! Yay!

**V. OutLaw Alternative Spring Break Trip Allocation (10 minutes)**

**SECTION 1: ALLOCATION/REALLOCATION REQUEST**

Name of Organization: Outlaw

Name of Event: Alternative Spring Break

Date/Time of Event: March 3-10

Location of Event: both campuses

Brief Description of Event: Alternative Spring Break to New Orleans, Louisiana

Person Making Request: Miguel Lilly
Position in Organization: Vice-President

Estimated number of attendees in University Park: 4  Carlisle: 4

Is this event co-sponsored?: no
   If yes, by whom?

Estimated Cost of Event: 5068.48

Has money previously been allocated for this event?: yes

If yes, how much?: 560

Amount Requested from SBA: 1000

SECTION 2: ITEMIZATION

Item 1: Housing at Project Nehemiah -- 1400

Item 2: Airport Pick-up and Drop-off -- 150

Item 3: Flights -- 3358.48

Item 4: Airport Parking -- 160

Item 5: --

Item 6: --

Item 7: --

Item 8: --

Item 9: --

Item 10: --

Is there any additional information you would like us to consider for this allocation?:

AIDSLaw of Louisiana, a partner of the NO/AIDS Task Force, will be hosting eight law students for a week of legal service in New Orleans, Louisiana. The service trip is planned for March 3-10. During the week students will work a typical nine to five workday. This will provide an opportunity for networking and resume building. As with last year's trip, each student will be required to provide an $80 contribution to the trip. Dean Elkin has already provided $420 to secure our housing. Sourcing for funding will also be made through UPAC.
Laura: Because the request was over $500, it has to be voted on by the whole SBA instead of the committee. Bradley is here to talk about it.

Bradley: Hi! For those of you who don’t know me, I’m Bradley Tritsch and I’m a 2L here down in Carlisle. First, normally this trip is through PILF, which has more money, but this year it’s through OutLaw. We went last year and recently this program was on NPR. It will be four students from Carlisle and four from University Park. The work will be general non-profit work, like doing in-take and filling out forms and whatever the attorneys come up with. It is a 9-5 job for a week. It is an opportunity to network with attorneys and other law students, last year there were students from Duke, and in addition, it is an opportunity for students to work in the HIV/AIDS sector and PSU doesn’t have a real presence there. The break down of costs is as follows: [see proposal above]. And to clarify, UPAC funding is not available to any Carlisle student and we requested 75% of cost from UPAC. The rest was figured out based on how much Carlisle students would have to pay over UP because of UPAC. The cost of the trip is expensive, so that’s why we are requesting the money from SBA.

Laura: What exactly is the SBA money is going toward?

Bradley: It is offsetting this cost, but I’m not 100% sure. Just to be clear, I’m representing OutLaw because Miguel couldn’t make it to the meeting.

Andrew: One concern is that SBA is not allowed to fund transportation, so the $1000 - the only thing that is not transportation is the housing and how much is Carlisle and not UP?

Brad: $700 for each group.

Andrew: So, everything will divide in half?

Bradley: Each is $700.

Andrew: What about the money from Dean Elkin?

Bradley: I don’t know.

Anna: Is this an additional request?

Laura: No, this is a new request. The one on the report is last year’s allocation. Based on what Andrew said, the most we could fund is the housing for Carlisle because SBA cannot fund transportation.

Sean: I have two questions: you said the last year the trip was funded by PILF? Why not this year? And the next question is how did you pick the people? I’m an active member in OutLaw and I have not seen anything and isn’t it getting a little close to the date?
Bradley: There has already been two emails to the school and applications were due in January sometime. To answer why this is not through PILF, it was never funded by PILF, just sponsored, if that helps.

Cody: You’re asking for $1000 - where is the rest of the money coming from?

Laura: UPAC and a little from Dean Elkin.

Bradley: We’re hoping UPAC will cover all of the request for UP and we will have to find another way if there is more needed after whatever is given from SBA.

Wanika: Question for Andrew: if we allocate funds to a group and they cannot do the project, do we recoup the funds?

Andrew: We’ve never had a situation like that and I’m not sure if its in bylaws, but I think if they didn’t do it, we would just recover the money because they would never use it.

Wanika: Motion - $700 for housing.
Courtney: Second.

Jason: I don’t think I like this because it’s a lot. It’s a huge chunk of money given for benefit of 8 students. Other organizations only get $50 for pizza and that’s for 20 students. I think it’s a lot of money and I don’t think we should spend all of our reserve just because we can.

Laura: I will say this is a smaller percentage than what they are asking for and a little more than what they got last year and they no longer have PILF.

Anna: I know its only 8 students, but I think this is a really great cause and I don’t think there are really that many things that we do as a whole student body. I not putting down other groups, but this is a really great opportunity and this is public interest and its not reckless spending. We have a huge reserve.

Courtney: It sounds to me like its more than just a great public service opportunity, but also a great way to get our school name out there. We’re sending competent and public interest oriented students. It’s great networking and really form bonds with attorney’s in other places, not just in PA, and it gets our name out there.

Kyle: My view is, I don’t disagree with Anna or Courtney, but the amount that it is right now - I have to agree with Jason - for me to agree, I would have to drop it to at least $500 because there are only 8 students.

Jordan F: As a budget committee member, we see this a lot and its creates precedent. Its not much more than last year, but next year are we going to increase it even more? And so I would just say keep it in mind.
Alisha: I have to speak up because I find these arguments a little ridiculous. How can SBA say that it doesn’t want to give a group $700 to help students do alternative spring break when it has given this trip money in the past and they are only asking for a little more this year? It should not matter that 8 students are going. That should not be part of the argument because this SBA gives thousands of dollars - $2000 or more - each year to PILF to help support its auction where PILF raises money to give fellowships to about 8 to 10 students every summer to work in public interest jobs just like this. That only technically benefits a small number of students, yet SBA has no issue giving PILF thousands of dollars every year. Why? Because this is for a good cause! It’s public interest and its promoting our school and how our school is committed to public interest. It should not matter that there are only 8 students going.

Matt B.: As a budget committee member, we really have nickeled and dimed the budget this year and we have been very conservative. I’ll admit when I saw the request I was jumped out of my seat, but when I see the value of the service, I understand. I’m not casually going about it, but when I look at the service, I would say OK.

Jordan J.: I’m also on budget committee. I agree with what has been said, this is sending our students out into the world and there were students who went last year and they really liked the experience. And I think it means something that they asked us to come back and we have the means, so we should send students.

Andrew: Can we just go over the money again? Where is this $700 coming from procedurally?

Bradley: I’m a little confused.

Laura: Is the $1400 the total amount paid including Dean Elkin’s money?

Bradley: Housing is a flat $1400, with UPAC giving $700 and the rest is our request.

Laura: What about the last sentence, which says that Dean Elkin has already contributed? How does that fit in?

Bradley: I’d have to ask Miguel.

Cody: Do we know how much UPAC is giving? There may be a double dipping issue?

Bradley: Correct me if I’m wrong, Laura, but don’t students pay a fee that goes to UPAC in UP?

Laura: Yes, all students pay some money for student services and then UP pay more that goes to UPAC.

Bradley: So, with that in mind, it seems that it is not double dipping.

Laura: Agree.

Joe: Move to extend time.
Laura: Second.

Joe: I had a very similar question to Andrew’s. I understood that the Dean helped with housing, so it does seem like double dipping because the Dean has already contributed to housing? Has the Dean already paid for the housing?

Alisha: If so, can we just move the Dean’s money to transportation and then have SBA pay for housing?

Andrew: We’re trying to figure out how this works.

Bradley: [Calls Miguel to clarify questions] $420 was used as a down payment to secure the housing and Dean Elkin is expecting to get reimbursed for that money, so there is no double dipping.

Jordan J.: Motion - $700 (not $1000 because SBA can’t fund transportation)
Andrew: Second.

In favor - 16:
   Carlisle - 7
   UP - 9
Opposed - 7 (UP)
Abstain - 0

Vote passes by a majority. OutLaw’s request was approved for $700 to help fund the alternative spring break.

VI. Book Buy Back Program Resolution (5 minutes)

Laura: Dean Elkin said we could do whatever we would like with the books. I am asking people from each campus to find out what we should do with them. I’m going to talk to the library and see if they can do anything with them. Dean Elkin asked if maybe students services could have some books for students to borrow, like hornbooks that are not dated if there are any. So, I’ll send out an email. I’d like two volunteers to decide what to do so we can ship them off.

VII. Executive Council Reports
   a. Presidents Report (5 minutes)

Laura: There was not a Dean’s meeting yet and we have one on Thursday, so I have nothing much to say and we will work on the faculty-student meeting up here.

   b. Vice-Presidents’ Report (15 minutes)

Anna: I also do not have much. Mostly transition committee stuff and UP had their welcome back party and it looked like it was fun! I wish I could have made it up.
Jason: The diversity committee is planning an inaugural banquet soon at the Penn Stater, so stay tuned for details on that.

c. Treasurer (5 minutes)

Andrew: So, with that request approved from OutLaw, we now have $5659.12 in the reserve. We should have closer to $6000 again soon though because the UP welcome back party did not cost as much as we allocated. Carolyn confirmed. I noticed we had some confusion with supplemental request forms, so I actually completely overhauled the questions. Its now more clear where the form is and what each box is for and when we read it here it will help us, too. The process is more streamlined and the document that the budget is on is now on the SBA budget info page.

d. ABA Rep Report (5 minutes)

Wanika: I just sent out an email. Basically, circuit leadership is up, so if you want to be president, secretary, treasurer or any of that fun stuff, submit your application by February 1st. Also, if you’re interested, let me know if you’re interested in any resolutions currently on the ABA floor, like human trafficking, that’s big in the ABA right now. Let me know. And I will be calling out names next meeting, so sign up!

Anna: Question about that. There are people here who are just wondering where the requirement that we need to be members comes from. I’ve looked and it’s not in our constitution. We would like to know, so we can let future members know that they have to do it.

Wanika: I can research and write a memo for you, but we need to be members because we are sanctioned to be a student government and through that membership is how it’s done, like if I have to vote by proxy for Laura, so if we’re not ABA members we can’t vote. That’s how they regulate it.

Anna: I just also thought that our governing documents should reflect it.

Laura: We’re a chapter and I agree it should be reflected.

Joe: How does it apply to LLM’s now that they are on SBA? Do they also need to be ABA members?

Laura: Interesting question. We will look into it.

e. PSU Senator (5 minutes)

Joe: So, actually a senate meeting - a series of meetings - have happened today. I've been there since 9:00am. First, state patty’s day is coming up and they wanted to stress that everyone should stay safe, limit alcohol consumption, and have a designated driver. Also, there was an issue with a sorority. Overall, there is a lot of concern about PSU culture and minority equality and incidents on campus. It took me by surprise. There was a joint statement that Wanika took place
in, so if have questions, ask her. A big deal for 1Ls will be happening. ISIS is going to completely change, so student aid, class sign-up, course schedules, all is going to be a completely new system and it will be implemented when the current 1Ls are 3Ls. And there has been increased hacking of university service networks, so be aware. I don’t know how to stop it from happening, but don’t do it.

Wanika: I just want people to know that the other night the N word was written on MLK posters and its a tough environment up here and I want you all to be aware and to not have this happen in the law school.

Joe: It took me by surprise - crazy.

VIII. Adjourn

Jason: Motion.
Anderw: Second.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.