Student Bar Association Meeting  
March 19, 2007

SBA Minutes

I. Attendance
   A. All present except:
   B. Quorum

II. Cumberland County Bar Assoc.
   A. Jason Kutulakis: member of the County Bar Assoc. board. Met with young lawyers of Cumberland County. Now law students are allowed to join. Can help your careers by gaining practical experience. Accredited law school students who reside here or attend school here. Fee is $25 to join on an annual basis. Would remain active until you get your bar results. Young lawyers group is very active. They do a casino night once a year to raise money for charities, this year it was Hope Station, has been project SHARE in the past. On the third Thursday of every month they have cocktails for networking and mingling. They have a summer picnic in July at Allenberry, there is a golf outing. Annual meeting every January. Law students are welcome to their bar assoc.
   B. Chair of young lawyers — under age 35 or in practice for 5 years or less. They do community activities. We can join as social members. There is a great willingness to mentor on the part of the bar assoc.
   C. Cumberland County Bar Association is recognized as having one of the largest participation rates, although it is a relatively small bar. They amended by-laws to get us involved in their bar assoc.
   D. Good turn out from the judges.
   E. Invitation also goes out to the PSU campus students. It is open to all PSU-DSL students.
   F. Matt — how about students who might go to other areas? JK — yes we are open to all students even if they will not stay in the area. Door is open to all.

III. Race Judicata — Chris Dos Santos
   A. April 14 in Carlisle. Registration table is set up in the café. It raises money for ALS, the cost is $20 and you get a free shirt. They need volunteers to sell tickets in the café.
   B. cjd205 to contact Chris. Tabling will be this week and next.

IV. Approve minutes from before break.
   A. Approved with one abstention.

V. President's report
   A. Elections are happening next week

VI. VP report
A. If you see anyone campaigning early stop them and tell election commissioners.
B. They have their water cooler to be installed soon.

VII. New Business
A. Brent — Readership Program
   1. NY Times is delivered, and there is a local newspaper. Law school wants the Wall Street Journal. We could get a discount for students and faculty, could add to the list of SBA discounts.
   2. Ryan — this would be useful and is a high quality newspaper useful to law students, faculty reference it a lot.
B. Charece — group leader meeting. "bridging the gap" program.
   1. The meeting went well and students seemed more willing to work together. A lot of organization leaders had a hard time finding people to be group leaders.
   2. Connie — plan more of these meetings because they allow group leaders to meet face to face as a supplement to teleconferencing.
   3. Ryan — great job Cherece, please send the feedback fro the event to the SBA.

VIII. the new constitution is up for approval.
A. Ryan — If we approve it tonight it will go on the ballot when we have executive officer elections.
B. Matt Cronin — this is a whole new constitution, not just an amendment. The new constitution takes into account the dual campus system. We met as a committee, and each member was assigned an article to work on. All members are preset, so we can talk to them.
C. Ryan — thanks to the constitution committee. This was a goal of the SBA for the year to have a new constitution. We had not foreseen many of the issues that came up this year.
D. Matt — begin by moving to approve the Constitution pending
   1. Ryan — second.
   2. Now we'll debate.
E. Preamble
F. Art I Sec 1
   1. Sec 2
      a. Eddie — shouldn't we be representatives to the PSU at large as well as the law school?
      b. Matt you may offer friendly amendment
      c. Eddie — make friendly amendment to say we are also official representatives to the University itself.
   2. Sec 3
      a. Eddie friendly amendment to add duly after elected in D.
      b. Matt — propose to change senate to house of delegates in C.
         i. Brian — that could require change in other places.
            Matt- no it should not be a problem.
c. Wayne — E-senate will need to be changed to house of delegates.

3. Sec 4
4. Sec 5
   a. We will have 2 libraries
   b. Brent — we had to house the constitutions in the SBA office.
   c. Ryan — this was more a transition issue, but if we ask them they will keep them. They didn't want them to be lost.

G. Art II Duties and responsibilities of the board
1. Sec 1
   a. Sarah — Constitution should be capitalized.

2. Sec 2
   a. change wording to "Vice President — Carlisle" and "Vice President — University Park"
   b. can we do a blanket exception? Yes. Changes will go everywhere.

3. Sec 3
4. Sec 4
   a. is there an issue when the schedule of events needs to be planned? A reasonable amt of time? An assurance that it will actually be done.
   b. Ryan — plan could be subject to change. Many organizations
   c. Schedule of events is interpreted to be the schedule for student events.
   d. Josh Shulman Sec A. people have concerns not board meetings. Change of to for.

5. Sec 5 — duties of board members
   a. question on authority to sign checks. Matt Muckler — concern that there is no limit on the amount. Wants some way to limit so it doesn't give them authority to take out any amount of money.
   b. Matt Cronin — there is identical language in the sec D.
   c. Brent — budget guidelines address this situation. Is it possible to reference it in this document.
   d. MM — could reference the bylaws specifically.
   e. MC — will add "pursuant to budget guidelines" and this change will go through the document.
   f. JS — we should be as clear as possible where something could be open to interpretation.
   g. Eddie — Sec 5A7- "the board".
   h. Duties of the president — Bernardo — the president no longer has the authority to approve the budget. Ryan should really comment on this. This is a huge substantive change.
      i. Ryan — the treasurer appoints all members.
      ii. MC — clarify — the current constitution say the president shall approve and review, now it just says that
the budget committee gives it to the board and not the president and the board. Another change-- in next article. The current constitution allows president to appoint president to appoint all members of committees. Now the president makes nominations and the board approves.

iii. Ryan — I strongly disapprove making committee chairs subject to approval, this could be burdensome on the body. I sent out a lot of emails asking for volunteers for committees.

iv. Ryan — president should appoint committee members.

v. Bernardo — treasurer is not competitive, and is low profile.

vi. Brent — board has to approve, and president has veto power as well.

vii. Ryan — taking the president totally out of the budget process

viii. MM — it was our intention to disperse the power to the SBA that the president had. I might be in favor of an amendment that the executive council would get to vote.

ix. Sarah — question — are you talking about the vote on the proposed budget?

i. MM — yes. Treasurer works with the budget committee. Then it goes in front of the president to approve or disapprove. In stead of president it would go to the exec council instead of the SBA.

x. MM — motion to have the executive board approve the budget before it goes to the SBA.

xi. B Carbajal — motion to have the original constitution wording

xii. MM — the president still has the power of veto.

xiii. Ryan — the budget has to be approved by the 6th week.

xiv. Sarah — administratively it is easier to have the president approve, and it does not give too much power because it still has to be approved by the SBA.

xv. Connie — the President and Treasurer just have to agree.

xvi. Matt M — worried that the president and the treasurer might not agree and they could fight. He is wary of having a veto.

xvii. Brent — propose amendment to give president the power, have the president defer, to the budget. Shortens
the process time. For simplicity sake the president usually just glosses it over.

xviii. Andrew — can the veto be extended to a line item? I can't imagine them having that much of a disagreement.

xix. Wayne — are line item vetoes constitutional? Not in the federal gov't but we could do it.

xx. Vote — MM's amendment to have the exec board vote.

xxi. Does not pass.

xxii. Vote Bernardo's amendment passes with 11 votes in favor

6. Sec 5 B vice president
   a. Eddie — monthly calendar — should it have a time limit?
   b. Amala — there are certain activities we do every year.
   c. Sarah — monthly language is time-frame enough.

7. Sec 5 C — Secretary

8. Sec 5 D — treasurer
   a. Sarah C — it says within 6 weeks, would propose adding from "the beginning of the academic year".
   b. says that the treasurer is responsible for compliance with laws.
   c. motion to strike that part if it could hold the treasurer personally liable.
   d. Josh — friendly amendment to change assure to aid the SBA in complying with state and federal laws.
   e. Ryan — maybe we don't need the provision in there.
   f. Amala — the treasurer doesn't do the taxes.
   g. Motion to remove subsection 4 completely.

   i. Motion passes, one abstention.
   h. Eddie are there standards for requesting interim financial reports? Majority, one person . . . Matt C — would probably fall under Robert's rules — would move for it and vote on it.
   i. MM — budget committee doesn't have to meet 2 nd semester.
   j. Sarah — do we have an SBA accounting policy manual.

   i. Ryan — not aware of one. Probably psu stuff we could use. Basically it is the budget guidelines.

9. Sec E — ABA rep
   a. Amala — the ABA website says a lot of things that they are supposed to do. Do these things need to be specified.
   b. Brent — most of the stuff on the website is marketing, and it does not apply to all schools. Mostly marketing.
   c. Eddie — I agree with Amala, maybe it should say they have to comply with the ABA guidelines.
   d. Ryan — maybe something broad, saying they should stay abreast of ABA issues. ABA is trying to market their own organization.
   e. Connie — perhaps an aspirational statement.
f. Connie — friendly amendment saying that the ABA rep should stay abreast of issues.

g. Andrew — add to the friendly amendment that they should make a report to the board.

h. Matt. Maybe should say they shall aspire to.

i. Sarah — Propose "Shall keep the board of informed of current ABA news, events and opportunities". (Sec E 3)

j. Amala- could we also add that they have to go to the annual meetings. MM — this could become outdated, it could become awkward. Amala — it is referred to the annual meeting of reps.

k. Eddie- wants it to say that they shall attend the meeting.

l. Ryan — there could be conflicts — there were significant work issues with some people.

m. Brian Bevin — I am not here often, but I think it is inappropriate to refer to the person. I think the suggestions are well-merited, but we should not bring up personal issues about how people did their job.

n. Bernardo — add other such duties as the president reasonably requests.

10. Sec F — PSU Senator.

a. friendly amend — Andrew — ask them to report monthly. Keep board informed of faculty senate news and information.

11. Sec G Class reps

12. Sec H Honor code reps

13. Sec 6

a. Bernardo — we should discuss this because it is a big change

b. Amala — it is standard that the president does not have a vote.

c. Ryan — no preference, but the pres should be able to vote in case of a tie.

d. Heather — quorum. Should they be able to vote in case.

e. Maybe it is worth having the president vote.

f. Bernardo — motion — strike except for the president.

   i. Passes 8-4 1 abstain.

14. Sec 10 — constitutional language

IX. Art III Committees

A. Sec 1

1. Matt Muckler Standing Committees

a. Friendly amendment to strike Minority Multicultural Committee, redundant with diversity committee.

b. Alumni relations committee

c. Should we have committees redundant with the alumni committees.

d. Concern that there are a lot of committees that were not active. We tried to make committees more accountable.
2. Ryan — what is the administration committee?
3. Matt C — pulled career services committee. Very redundant. Faculty and career svcs committees already.
   a. Rebecca — they have students on committees, it was too duplicative.
4. **Ryan — friendly amendment to get rid of administration committee, and put back in the admissions.**
5. Ryan — two committees I would like to have
   a. Admissions committee would be good as a standing committee.
   b. IL trial competition. Should be a standing committee.
6. Sarah — wants committees reordered to be in alphabetical order.
7. Eddie — did the old constitution have a student faculty relations committee
   a. MM — this is probably mistake
   b. Sarah — wants to put back in.
8. Amala — alumni relations committee — is this absolved because of Blue and White society?
   a. Ryan — they do the Race Judicata. They should do a lot more and be more active. Students should spearhead the effort.
9. Joe — there is no library, construction, or ___ committee.
   a. MC — those are not standing committees they are ad hoc
10. Bernardo — maybe we should have Carlisle community relations and PSU community relations.
    a. Ryan — probably one Community relations committee is enough.
11. every committee would have to have bylaws and do this every year. Could be about the number of members.

**B. Sec 4**
1. Maybe better to have the president just appoint it, instead of nominating them.
2. Ryan — difficulty in getting people to go on the committees.
3. MM — concern of power of the president.
4. Sub 1 — president nominates and SBA approves
5. Sub 2 — chair selects committee members. Amala- could do away with #2.
6. **Sarah** — chairs are selected during summer, and this would be an extra step.
7. **Ryan — friendly amendment. the president shall appoint chair and committee members to all standing and temporary committees.** And strike sec 2.
   b. passes with 10, 1 abstention.
8. **Andrew** — would like the board to deal with vacancies.
   a. "positions must be filled within two weeks of any vacancies"
b. this should go into art VI, which deals with vacancies.
c. specifically for appointed positions.

C. Sec 5
1. Wayne Boomer — proxy voting.

D. Sec 6 — budget committee
1. Bern — need to remove that the president will vote in event of a tie.
2. Sarah — need period at end of sentence.

X. Art IV meetings
A. Requirement of 6 meetings is a change from 8 meetings.
   1. There is an attendance requirement.
   2. Vote on 8 instead of 6.
      a. vote fails.
B. Constitutionally required notices of meetings might be too cumbersome.
   1. Ryan — sometimes room requests are not answered till the end, or agenda requests come in very late.
   2. Matt C — notice — if something changes it is ok, don't have to strictly comply. It just gives the student body time. Agenda was requested by student.
   3. BernC-
   4. Josh — let's not take things too seriously. Let's get a life and move on. Ryan- it is important to
   5. Repealing sec 3- do not pass.
C. Sec 10 — president's veto power
   1. Andrew — wants to add line item veto on budget — doesn't pass.
   2. Connie — did president have veto power
   3. **Matt M — motion to remove section 10 — passes**
   4. Amala — does this affect another section in Art 2 Sec 5 a 8???. Yes this would also remove that part.

XI. Art V elections
A. Sec 1
   1. Brent — why this requirement of board members on the election committee?
      a. MC — the people running the elections should be
      b. Brent — what we have done before is to use 3 rd years who are not assoc. with SBA because they are impartial and not invested in the election. With this there would be two election commissioners, one at each place.
      c. Brent — FA to strike sentence requiring 2 additional board members.
      d. Friendly amendment — (Brent)
      e. MM- **election committee members must not be candidates**.
      f. at least 4 additional **members not voting in that particular election**.
      g. we want to allow 3 rd year students to help with the election, and 2L and 3Ls to help with 1L elections. Basically as long as they are precluded from voting they could be on the committee.
h. in the case of a VP being a candidate, the president shall appoint a board member to replace him or her.

B. Sec. 6
1. Amala — alternative method for class reps to propose: the number of people elected should be representative and each campus should have not more than 3.
2. Every class shall have class reps from each campus, not to exceed 4
3. This could be an issue in the future, is it possible to address it later and put something in the bylaws.
4. Eddie — I am not sure how the ratio would work.
5. Brent — the constitution should not prohibit all-stars from getting elected if they are who people want.
6. Brian B-
7. Brent argues for no change.
8. Amala's motion does not pass.

C. Sec 7 — MC — requiring that 1L class reps are within 5 weeks from beginning of academic year. We have built in a gap between the budget approval. This ensures that they will be elected before the budget.
1. Eddie — 1Ls voted on the budget at their first meeting and this was not optimal.
2. MC — it's not perfect but it was as good as we cold come up with.

D. Sec 8

E. Sec 9 — will not allow people who are elected at one campus serve at the other campus if their job is campus specific.
1. MC — wants to get rid of special election, and have board fill the position.
2. Special election — keep the article as it is — passes.

XII. Art VI

A. Absences — and attendance
1. Ryan — wants to allow people 2 absences
2. Muckler wants only 1 absence or not letting president to excuse.
3. Connie — keep as written
4. Muckler — remove sec 8
   a. 5 for, 6 against — will keep as written.
5. Josh — change 2 absences to 1.
6. Amala — people have a responsibility to go to meetings if they are elected. An important part of their job is to vote, it is a major part of the position.
   a. Josh the political process takes care of this.
7. Josh FA: — 1 absence and president has the power to excuse absences.
8. 
9. Matt C — if you exceed the absence limit, you are just subject to people trying to remove you, will add accountability but not necessarily will happen.
10. MM — motion to vote to have just one absence.
a. amala we should debate because we have reduced meetings from 8 to 6.
b. brent — we could have a lot of meetings per semester. This could be burdensome.
c. 5 in favor, 6 opposed.

B. Sec 8
C. Sec 15 — will add provision after 15 about filling committee positions.

XIII. Art VII Amendment and revision
   A. Sec 2 B — requirement changed to a % of student body.
      1. SBA members are all of the student body.
   B. Sec 3 change to 10 academic calendar days.

XIV. Art VIII — will transfer
   A. Upon ratification this constitution by 2/3 voting members, will be effective immediately.
   B. Reason is to be a 2/3 count of all votes cast in the general election.
   C. Brent — do we need to get 3Ls to vote?
   D. This gets rid of the 3L problem of messing up the vote.

XV. Matt M — revisiting issue of attendance.
   A. Cannot vote on something we already voted on.
   B. Connie — in interest of efficiency we should not revote.

XVI. Vote to suspend Roberts rules — suspended.

XVII. Striking section 8
   A. 6 for 7 against.

XVIII. Go back into Robert's rules
   A. ok we are back into Robert's rules.

XIX. Motion to approve the constitution as amended.
   A. 10 for 2 opposed.