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 - Excused
      • Jordan Feist
      • Jordan Johnston
      • Courtney Monson
      • Erin Hayes
      • Brian Rans
      • Matt Regan
b. Minutes Approval

Laura: OK, we have quorum, so we’ll move on to public comment. I’ve separated it into 2 sections so we can get toilet seat liners out of the way first before moving to the law school restructuring. Any regular comments?

II. Public Comment - Regular (15 minutes)

Sean: I sent out an email to the 1L class because they changed the 1L writing program this year to once a week instead of twice a week, like it was before. I sent out an email to get comments and I got a lot of feedback from students saying both ways, but mostly students want twice a week. Overwhelmingly. And I got an email from Carlisle asking about a petition they have going around down there and whether or not I would circulate it up here, but I wanted to discuss it here before I did anything to see if it was appropriate.

Matt B.: We got one here.

Sean: And I wanted to bring up one here and I was wondering if it was too late to do so - to effectuate the change - so I wanted to bring it up here. I heard that last year a scheduling change happened late in the semester, so I was just wondering if it might be possible.

Laura: I did not know about any change last year, but it probably won’t happen this year because it would affect a large number of classes – however many 1L writing sections they are. Why was there the change made and what are the arguments for twice a week?

Sean: I heard that last year students thought it was unnecessary, but now they want it back to twice.

Matt B.: My understanding is that there are two issues: the scheduling issue, and, I’m not sure if UP has this issue, but down here we have two teachers teaching it at the same time, in same room. There are a lot of contradictions between what the teachers are teaching, so having two classes with one teacher teaching each one would fix the problem. And keep in mind that it is 1L’s, so it would be easier to change or reschedule. But even if can’t reschedule, since there are two professors teaching, maybe we should separate into two sections again and then look into scheduling.
Courtney: Just to add to that, I thought it had to do with the staffing. Professor Brunner moved up to UP and so I thought that it was because there was now only Professor Marion down here now that they changed the section into one.

Matt B.: No, both Professor Marion and Professor Polacheck are teaching it.

Courtney: Well, I didn’t know that it evolved into that - I though Professor Polacheck was supposed to be supplementing.

Laura: So there are really two issues here. First, instead of having two sections in Carlisle, there is one with two professors and its causing problems. A separate issue is having it once a week for two hours. So I’m unclear what the objection is here.

Garret: It seems to fall on the day that a lot of us have other classes and some have another two hour block right after the two hours of legal writing, so that leaves us with a four hour block and students are unhappy.

Laura: I can already hear the argument against that: this is how it will be when you get a job.

Sean: In addition to that, emails said that since it is only once a week and the other classes are twice a week, that not as much importance is being placed on the class and students are pushing back the work for the class and not taking it as seriously as other classes that they have twice a week. And we only have one professor up here teaching, so its not the same issues as in Carlisle.

Laura: I don’t have an issue with passing a petition around here. I will say don’t get your hopes up though, because scheduling is done well in advance and it may be close to impossible to change room assignments, but I think its important for the administration to know the issue. So go ahead. Matt, is the petition down there to make two class periods or two class sections?

Matt B.: It’s divided into subsections: subsection A is to have two class periods and subsection B is to have two separate sections.

Laura: Work on continuing to collect signature and I’ll talk to the best person in Academic Affairs - probably Dean Gallagher - to see what can be done.

Matt B.: Please copy me on that email.

Wanika: I want to talk about classroom study space during finals. Will classrooms be available?

Laura: Dean Elkin and Dean Toomey already said that they will be open during study period for finals.

Wanika: Also on that note, can they be heated as well, because someone may be here during late hours studying and the rooms get freezing, so please keep in mind that people need heat in the winter.
Anna: Most of the rooms have climate control things - its in the back of the room I think. I see them in the study rooms and the library...but maybe not in the classrooms?

Laura: I’ll look into that.

Anna: Also, recycling bins. I think this has been brought up before. We do have it on each floor here, but the problem is that there are trashcans located right outside classrooms, so people throw away their cans because its more convenient, so can we get recycle bins there, too?

Laura: It was brought up before and the Dean’s feeling is that the distance from the door to the container is not so far as to require amending the aesthetics of the building to make up for that - aesthetics are important as we saw with the addition of the plants.

Missy: This is kind of going along with Wanika, but the temperature in the classrooms is cold and students have been wearing jackets in class. I’m in clinic, so I’m not here as often to say this - although its freezing there, too - but students have been saying the classrooms have been chilly. And the newspaper machine has not been working. Students have been using their ID a bunch of times, like up to 15, and many times they are not working.

Laura: Is it during regular class hours?

Missy: Yeah, like while they’ve been sitting in class they have to wear jackets, like daytime classes, but also classes that go late.

Laura: I’ll bring it up.

Jordan F.: Just a note on temperature, it was really hot up in 236 and we asked one of the tech guys if he knows how to do it and he said we have to put in a request and it takes 24 hours.

Laura: I think that’s true. OPP takes care of everything and its on a set thing: at a certain time the heat goes on and off.

Brian: There was a petition from a student organization to bring dogs to play with during finals and we want to know the feasibility of doing it outside.

Laura: Like outside of the building?

Brian: Yeah.

Matt B.: The school has a policy that no animals can come into the building unless they are service animals, and I don’t think we want to try and register services animals just for this.

Brian: Matt Castello started the petition and has amended it to outside of the building and wanted to know if we can do this, how feasible it is and who to ask.

Laura: I’ll ask, but I want to know who is going to sit outside with a dog in the winter.
Matt B.: I will!

Laura: I’ll talk to Dean Elkin tomorrow and look at the regulations.

Matt B.: Since there is the policy against having animals inside, I’m thinking that maybe we can figure out connections - maybe with GSA - to see what possibilities we can get to push toward amending the policy.

Laura: I will make you the 1 man committee to look into this.

Brian: I’ll join you.

Elizabeth: I know that we’ve talked about this, but I’m not sure what’s happening with it. The Keurig machine in UP. I’ve heard that students say that it’s not out and they’re more concerned about it because of finals coming up.

Laura: We have implemented a schedule for the Keurig machine and we will be making sure its available and that the schedule is being followed. Also, there are tables put out during finals with snacks and coffee, so that will be out and I’ll make sure the schedule is being followed.

Matt B.: One more thing - no puppies or unicorns this time - its regarding the new amendments. I got some complaints about how it was done. 1) We were advocating for its passage, but within our capacity as SBA members, we should not have been pushing so hard; 2) In the structure - the general yes or no vote should have been individualized into separate questions instead of all in one; and 3) In terms of the actual election administration by us. We’re the ones on SBA affected by this, so maybe having an independent liaison to handle stuff with the election would be better. Again, this event, though it was noncontroversial, these are things that could help give the amendment process more transparency and more legitimacy.

Laura: I’m going to counter those claims. The issue was not what way to vote, but that we needed the votes because we needed a minimum number of students to vote in order to have the vote count at all, so it was not about what way you voted, but about voting. With doing it as one issue instead of three - I talked to Dean Elkin about this and seemed that it would be more likely for students to vote for one question that was yea or no and took only three seconds instead of taking more time to vote on three things. There are issues with it but we did try to get out the vote.

Anna: It was more of a ‘get out the vote’ issue with the cookies and stuff. I think the general push was ‘get out the vote,’ but I did say which way I would vote if people asked me - I wasn’t going to lie.

Matt B.: Its very subtle things for us to be careful about and to focus on ‘get out the vote.’

Laura: I don’t intend to try to amend the constitution again during my term, but they are good points.
Sean: Even though it’s cold outside, there’s nowhere to eat during lunch. Can we get the tables back outside?

Laura: I’ll ask and look into that.

Carolyn: Thank you for everyone for your support to Hurricane Sandy drive. We have tons of stuff, so thanks!

Matt R.: Parking. I don’t know, what the deal is with parking for finals and what do we do now that class is over? Are there changes or the same policies?

Laura: The same policies are in place. It doesn’t change because undergrads are still in class when we are starting finals.

Matt R.: So, would it be possible for them to nix the restrictions that we can’t park there from 2-4 am?

Laura: That’s never been brought up and is good point, so I’ll bring it up.

Andrew: They have overnight parking and it’s in the back. I’ve parked over night in the back and I’ve never gotten anything.

Joe: I mean you’re walking out to the lot anyway so you can always move your car.

Laura: The issue is from 2-4 am and if it snows no one can park anywhere.

Wanika: If you know when you’re final is, you can go to the HUB and get a visitor pass for only like $3, so if you know when your finals are you can get that for the day.

III. Public Comment - Proposed Law School Restructuring (15 minutes)

Laura: Moving on to the special section on the school restructuring. I only put “proposed” in the agenda because it is proposed while we wait for ABA approval. I would like to begin by confirming that Dean McConnaughay did send out that email and will be holding Deans forums in both campuses to answer question that we all have. So now I’ll open the floor to any comments or questions on the issue. We’re not more or less informed than anyone else. We all know the same information that was in the email.

Anna: So, I think we initially decided to do this when the proposal was different than it is now and I think there are some reservations still, but I think this new proposal is being greeted more favorably, in general, than the first proposal. Second, Laura and I talked about this, so we wanted to put this out there. I think we should have an ad hoc committee starting next semester to deal with how SBA will split up because this is going to happen soon. We need to implement how we will change to split into two campuses and how student groups will be splitting like funding,
leaders, PILF fellowships, and other things that have been shared across the campuses. We need to figure out how to implement these changes for SBA and student organizations.

Laura: I think this is a great idea. We need to get some SBA members and student organizations leaders together to start brainstorming to decide how to split these organizations and how to work everything, so when all the steps need to be taken, it will make it as easy as possible to transition. There would need to be someone in both campuses to implement this and the sooner we start, the easier it will happen. We need to hear more from the Deans as to when and how it will happen to make it go as smooth as possible.

Anna: I’m interested in hearing concerns that UP people have. In Carlisle, we have a group that talks about concerns that we have down here. For example, we talked about how the law reviews will work, who will get the titles and the back issues. There are tons of issues to be concerned with. We don’t want to be left without a law review and you don’t either, so there are a lot of issues.

Bobby Anderlik: My question is about accreditation. How will it work? Will there be temporary suspension? How will it affect us getting jobs and our degree?

Laura: Dean McConnaughay addressed this at our Deans Meeting and I don’t fully know how it works, but there is a process for provisional accreditation. So there would be no gap, hopefully, in whether or not we’re accredited. He’ll explain it better at forum, but the idea is there is no gap during the transition and everything can happen at the same time, but it’ll probably be addressed.

I’m curious, based on enrollment here and based on enrollment across the country, that there has been a decline according to the ABA, what it would mean to both campuses? How it would affect our rank because we would have to let in more people to afford to pay for two schools and it may bring down rank? Has your group discussed this, Anna?

Anna: No, our group hasn’t discussed it, but the administration has been focusing on recruiting for UP, whether or not it’s unintentional. So we have been discussing how Carlisle needs more marketing. We’ve been talking about that concern and how it needs to start now or else we won’t have a student body at all.

Laura: I’d be curious to know when we would have two separate websites so that people can see the benefits of each of the two separate campuses.

Anna: We’re hoping sooner rather than later so we can market to people even while we’re still unified to increase our numbers.

Ray Garant: From the best of my understanding, before the merger, Carlisle had [a difficult time] to attract students.

Anna: This has certainly been something that has been an ongoing concern and its part of the reason why people were upset at moving the 1Ls to UP. We’re not the same school as we were in the 90s. We’re now Penn State and we have a pretty good rank. We have new programs, new...
administration, and a new school, and I don’t think what happened 15 years ago would happen
today in today’s climate. I don’t think what would happen 15 years ago would happen today and
I think we need to do what we need to do to recruit 1Ls and make this happen.

Wanika: How will the financial frame work? What will it look like with both campuses? It
concerns me a lot with Carlisle because they are just not paying and millions of dollars are being
used to finance both campuses. So I just would like a clear plan on finances in the future and
how finances are being funded from Penn State.

Laura: I don’t understand what you’re saying. I will say that one of the main differences is, in UP
we pay into using the resources available on campus here and it is unreasonable to require
Carlisle to pay that because they don’t live here.

Wanika: I’m not saying the student fees, I’m saying fees for faculty and for the building. There is
Penn State money that is used to sustain Carlisle right now and I’m asking what it will look like
when we split. Dean McConnaughay could say “Hey, PSU, we need $5 million,” and I want to
know how it will be used, like will there be $4 million for UP and $1 million for Carlisle? I
would like to know how it is being used.

Laura: I will say that the university is subsidizing the law school at this point. The whole point of
the plan is to make it so that is not needed and we can sustain ourselves in both locations. That it
the main purpose behind this whole thing: to create two viable independent campuses.

Jason: The schools with still both be Penn State, but they will be separate, like how Penn State
does it with the other campuses, like Penn State Altoona, so it will be Penn State and it will still
function like one school.

Matt B.: These are not our choices to make. This is for the admin and alumni and is way above
our pay grade.

Wanika: It is not above our pay grade. You are totally mistaken. It’s not above our pay grade to
have transparency and to know where the money I’m paying for my education is going.

Laura: I think we all have a stake in knowing where our money is going for our education and I
understand your point, but perhaps, to let everyone know that we are aware and that it a concern
is good enough for now.

Joe: I would like to move to extend time by 5 minutes.

Jason: Second.

Joe: I think it is the reality that in the next few years law schools will go out of business because
law schools are shrinking. So I think we should be contracting rather than expanding, and it
could hurt us with our degrees. I think ABA may not be on board with us creating a new law
school in these economic times.
Shandra: I still don’t understand Wanika’s point? Are you concerned that Penn State is paying for Carlisle?

Wanika: I’m fighting for you to use the money, but I’m also fighting for alumni to know that Penn State is paying to sustain the campus, and I’m fighting for students so they know it, too.

Matt B.: There is wide-spread dissatisfaction with Dean McConnaughay’s performance and there have been requests by a number of people to have the possibility to elevate another Dean to co-dean - having two Deans so that Carlisle would have a separate Dean.

Jason: There will be two separate Deans at each campus once this is approved.

Anna: To clarify Matt’s point, Dean McConnaughay’s made it very clear that he’s going to be Dean at UP and people are concerned that during the transition Dean McConnaughay will be looking out more for the interests of UP, since it will be his future law school. So, we also want to have a Dean to look out for Carlisle’s best interests.

Laura: I think that’s a good point, to have someone advocating for the interests of both campuses. I’m interested in the time line: what will happen and when this will all be taking place. I think it’s important for us to understand this.

Shandra: How does this plan solve the money problems, like Dean McConnaughay laid out in the first place? How is splitting into two separate law schools solve that problem of not having enough money? I guess we would like more details. Also, Dean McConnaughay brought up the fact that there is a shrinking legal market and if we are producing twice as many lawyers, how will that help us in the future in this shrinking market?

Laura: I think those are good questions, like Joe said earlier. I’m not sure I’ll have a chance to talk to Dean McConnaughay before the forum, but I would like to put together a memo with all of the points made tonight so that he will address them during the Deans Forum and we will get answers. Regardless of how it works, we’re all in this together and it will impact everyone and what’s available at each campus.

Bryan L.: How should we be representing ourselves to the public at large? Like are we Penn State? Or should we say which campus we go to?

Laura: Good point. For all students currently here, will all be the Pennsylvania State University Dickinson School of Law. That will be on all of our diplomas. However, after the split occurs, they will be defined by location. I’m not sure how it works, but after it happens, each campus will graduate from differently named schools, both associated with Penn State, designated by geographic location.

Brain: I’m from Indian and at IU they have two different campuses and they have different names based on the location.
Jason: Just to clarify, the Dean did say both schools will be Penn State Dickinson School of Law. They will just be adding the location, the Penn State name will not go away.

Jordan J.: I worked with students from both Rutgers campuses and they just associate themselves with the campus they go to and it’s no big deal.

Elizabeth: I think the email we received was a surprise. We heard rumblings, but students were surprised. The email said he talked to alum, and staff and faculty, but not students and this bothered me because it affects us and our future and we are paying to be here. We came here with certain expectations and I think we should be more in the loop on what is going on. Yes, we’ll have the forum, but it’s next semester and I think we should have a voice.

Laura: It’s a valid concern because we are not only students, but future alumni, and I think the timing was poor because of finals. It’s likely that we aren’t having a Deans Forum this semester because it would interfere with finals preparation. But I’m going to ask Dean McConnaughay to address it early on because I was just as surprised as anyone. Is this new to you, Anna, and you all down there?

Anna: We heard a couple months ago that its a possibility, but that it was presented as a ‘nuclear option,’ so I was kind of surprised, as I am sure everyone was.

Laura: I’m not trying to defend anyone, but what I heard from the paper – the Patriot News, which is where I’m getting this information, that the governor came out and said that he didn’t support the 1L’s moving to UP plan, so I think this came out on the heels of that.

Shandra: The fact that, Laura, you get most of your information from the Patriot News is a huge problem and that is not right and cannot continue.

Laura: I think you’re right and I’m not sure what the remedy is for it, but I think having the forum as soon as possible needs to happen. I think if something happens that we need to send to the student body, let me know and we can send something out.

Marcy: What is the maximum number of students at Carlisle?

Anna: 400?

Geoff Weyl: 400-500, I think? We have asked for this information from the Dean, so hopefully we’ll get it, but I’m not sure if it will make us sustainable.

Laura: I think we need 220 a year to break even, so that capacity seems to allow us to be sustainable. Like I said, in the meantime, if anyone hears anything that they feel needs to be addressed to the student body, please let me know and if something comes up in the Carlisle group, please let me know if you think students and SBA members should know. I will contact the Dean about having the forum early in the semester and give him this memo.
IV. Faculty Committee Appointments (5 minutes)

Laura: There are three faculty committees that students are invited to participate in: Honor Code, which will be Cody, since he is the Chair of the Honor Code Committee; Clinics and Experiential Education and I nominate Alison Glunt for this, and Diversity and I nominate Telecia Rose for this, since she is the Chair of the Diversity Committee and has been working with them already. Their responsibilities would be to go to these committee meetings and report back to us what happens and occurs. I would like to approve in omnibus fashion.

Jason: Motion to approve.
Anna: Second.

No discussion.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

V. Executive Council Reports

a. Presidents Report (5 minutes)

Laura: Just a few things. First, on Monday, 12/3 from 12:30-1:45, there will be a presentation by CIA general counsel. The SBA has been involved in getting students groups to be involved and he does not speak very much, so this is a big deal. I think this will be a great presentation and there will be food and transportation from Carlisle because he doesn’t want to simulcast. So I’m asking that everyone please attend that. There’s a link on the law school website to register so you can get the free lunch. It looks like Tuesdays at 7:30 will be good for SBA meetings next semester. If everyone can email me if there is any concern so we can get this on the books because last semester was tough! So please email me. If anything comes up between now and next semester, please email me and I will do my best to disseminate that information. And the last thing, Spring Soiree will be March 22, so mark your calendars. Good luck with finals!

b. Vice-Presidents’ Report (15 minutes)

Anna: First, my committees. Alumni Relations: nothing much going on, but alumni weekend went well. Community relations has had a lot going on this semester. It has been working with THON, which is the first time THON has had much presence in Carlisle, and its going really well. And it’s why Bos has his crazy beard! Also with community relations, Esch has been going to all borough meetings and has been reporting back to me and he’s been writing really good memos. We have gotten a stop sign at the corner of the law school and there is a continuing issue with people walking across high street and it’s not safe. Also, I don’t know if this is associated with any committee, but Carolyn and Maria did a great job with hurricane response. They took tons of stuff - carloads of stuff - I wanted to commend everyone in the law school and Carolyn and Maria for immediately stepping up. Nothing is really happening with Graduation Committee or Race Judicata, since they are both next semester. Social Committee: something was said at the last meeting about the supplemental request not being needed because we recaptured the money.
But we worked so hard to get it and the only reason we recaptured was because of the party bus, so we would have used it if there wasn’t a party bus, and I think it was best that we did it this way rather than asking for $2000 the day before the dance. The Halloween parties were great and that’s it.

Laura: Sherman’s putting a note in the budget that the recapture was based on the party bus and nothing that the social committee did, so it won’t affect allocations for next year.

Jason: Nothing more to report on the sidewalks, which has been a personal pet peeve of mine, but nothing is going on with that. There have been complaints about undergrads in the library and the lights, so if you’re having problems, talk to the librarians. They know how to deal with undergrads. And there are light switches in the library, so be aware of those and that there are things you can do to improve your position if you are staying at the school studying late. From what I understand, mock trial went well in Carlisle, not sure about UP though. CPDO. Use them. If you have complaints, please go and voice them and tell them personally. Please don’t whine to your friends. Take the time to go to them and make them useful for yourself and your friends. Besides that, be safe this holiday season and during finals.

c. Treasurer (5 minutes)

Andrew: Before I start in, Neil Sirota in career services up here has voiced to me many times that if you have a problem, go talk to him because he wants to talk to you about it. Anyway, so we have $6600 in the reserve right now. This is on the website, as always. Our biggest recapture this semester was for the Halloween party up at UP. It made over $4600 in ticket sales, so we had a huge recapture of over $700. Other than that, I’m going to send out a reminder next semester to be careful not to overspend what we’ve allocated. We’ve run into problems that committees have been running over, so we need to send out a message to remind them to ask for supplemental requests instead of going over. Update on UPAC funding - I went to a meeting and am still waiting to hear back from that. I just emailed student services to get the ball rolling on that. I just got an update on reimbursement forms. We now have to have students sign a liability form to make sure that what they list on the form is actually what the money is being spent on and we will need to start using the attendance sheets again, like last year, for liability.

Matt B.: Is budget committee meeting again at beginning of next semester?

Andrew: Absolutely.

d. PSU Senator (5 minutes)

Joe: Nothing really new. The final senate meeting is on the 4th, so that will be a good time. Other than that, nothing. I’m your tool, use me.

e. ABA Rep Report (5 minutes)

Wanika: It’s call out on ABA membership time. Da da dun. Disclaimer: if you paid for 3 years in bulk, I may not have your name – [list of SBA members who have not paid ABA dues].
Matt B.: Wait, what’s the ABA?

[Laughter and more comments on Bos’s beard]

V. Adjourn

Jason: Motion to adjourn.
Matt B.: Second.