Student Bar Association
General Body Meeting
November 3, 2009 – 8:00 p.m.
148 Advantica, Carlisle / 112 Katz, University Park
Agenda

I. Call to Order
   a. Roll Call
      i. Kelly Howard
      ii. Kent Lloyd
      iii. Kenny Donnelly
      iv. Mark Elion
      v. Rachel Bires
      vi. Nick Quesenberry
      vii. Robert Oberly
      viii. Adam Britcher
      ix. Kate MacKenzie
      x. Jonathan Sheehan
      xi. Matt Vodzak-
      xii. Valerie Eifert-
      xiii. Yasmine Taeb-
      xiv. Ashley Ferguson
      xv. Corey-Scott Smith
      xvi. Kirk Vroman
      xvii. Vlad Korolov
      xviii. Ian King
      xix. Richard Bradbury-
      xx. Kevin Hayes
      xxi. Kai Kaapro
      xxii. Robyn McAllen
      xxiii. Kevin Messett
      xxiv. Zach Brecheisen
      xxv. Michael Haynes
   b. We have Quorum
   c. Minutes Approval
   d. Minutes Approved

II. Public Comment (10 min.)
   a. Sarah Stec: President of Women’s Law Caucus. Had a different method in
      the past for fundraiser donations. We were told today we have to give
      money to the bursar’s to cut a check to the charity for us. It was news to
      us. Is it public knowledge? Diane Corman was worried about the school
      being audited.
   b. Kelly: I have never heard of that policy. That means our organizations may
      not know that and we will let our organizations know that. Thanks Sarah.
   c. Zach Brecheisen: Been hearing complaints about the refrigerator and the
      microwave. Fridge is always packed full. We would like to not spend
money and eat healthier. And people want to know who controls it and how we can seek additional space. One of the problems is people keep their stuff in their too much. There is also always a long wait for the microwave.

d. Kelly: We fought a lot for the fridge and microwave we have. Space is an issue. I will bring it up at the Dean's meeting. As an alternative. Maybe we can see if the janitorial staff can do a biweekly cleaning, and if that is not within their duty, the SBA can try to accomplish that.

e. Matt: I get here early sometimes and most of the stuff is used daily. Vending machines aren't working, either.

f. Kelly: About the vending machines, talk to Randy Fulton.

g. Brad: I have a question in regards to the email Valerie sent out last week about the problems with law students complaining about other law students. Can that be clarified?

h. Valerie: At a couple of the tailgates there were issues between law students. People between years have a big tailgates together and there were issues that resulted from them that were brought to the attention of me and the Deans. I met with the Deans, and we thought it might be prudent just to remind students of behavioral issues and how it may impact students’ futures. It’s not an exclusive thing just to UP, it can happen at either campus, but these specific events occurred here.

i. Kelly: There have been issues outside of this issue as well, so we decided the email was the best course of action to remind students.

j. Valerie: just as a reminder, if you feel threatened or feel tension with other students, bring it up to the administration.

k. Ashley: I had a few students come up voicing concerns about past exams being posted on the library website. I asked around and people said that professors have to post them on angel, but we were wondering about other professors’ old exams.

l. Robbie: I emailed Dean Elkin about that and he said someone will be getting back to me and I don’t know if they’re working on it.

m. Michael: We had a 1L how to outline session, and because the professors were told to utilize angel....

III. Finance Committee Update (10 min.)

a. Michelle Boldon:

   i. Penn State’s Office of Human Resources awarded $1.5 million child care grant

   1. The Office of Human Resources Work/Life Programs was awarded funding from the Child Care Access Means Parents in School (CCAMPIS) program authorized by the Higher Education Amendments of 1998.

   2. The CCAMPIS program assists universities and colleges across the nation to improve child care access for student parents. Penn State is among the funded applications.

   3. The Finance Committee contacted Stephanie Zezzo of Penn State Childcare Subsidy Services
4. The childcare program has monies from the federal government for pell grant students.
5. Other campuses have allocated funding specifically for graduate students, Dickinson School of Law has not awarded funding to this program to serve grads.

ii. Federal funding to child care? Students here have children.
iii. Kelly: I think we do get a limited money, and I think this program is something we should look into.
iv. Robbie: I agree. I think it’s a great idea still for people with multiple children and I think some people need to take out some extra loans.
v. Kelly: do we qualify for Pell Grants?
vi. Michelle: No.
vii. Ian: gap measure effort. I think this is a good idea.
viii. Michelle: Students under 30 having to provide parent information when they are not dependents. I asked the financial aid director how many people are impacted. She hasn’t researched. And what students are required to do, is complete FAFSA, they would still have to put their parents’ info if they want need-based grant money. Why does Penn State require this? Susan Bogart say most law students look alike on paper. Some of them are coming straight from undergrad and its difficult to see who is need-based. It’s an indicator if the student has been supported in the past, not if they will be supported now. And who has a significant amount of debt prior to law school. How is this information disseminated. Susan says because it is an institutional policy, it differs between law students. Most schools ask for this information. It’s a mechanism to determine who is more need-based. The question I have is now that we have this information, what do we do with it? If we disseminate the information people may not understand but the Financial Aid office can answer questions. If the student has dependents or estranged from their parents, they will have to put this information on their form.
ix. Kelly: what about people who are married with no children, do they have to do this?
x. Michelle: Yes they would.
xii. Kelly: is it not a university policy?
xiii. Michelle: It is a law school policy. There needs to be a way to divide the money.
xiv. Ian: Motion to extend time
xv. Matt: Seconded
xvi. Motion Passes
xvii. Ian: you’re just talking about DSL grant money not FAFSA right?
xviii. Michelle: yes
xix. Ian: You have to fill info for the FAFSA to qualify for the DSL right?
xx. Michelle: Yes. Is the next step to lower the age? Can we ask the financial aid office directly?
xxi. Kelly: Should we petition for that? Question to the SBA
xxii. Ian: It swings both ways I think.
xxiv. Michael: I’d like to see more research on schools that don’t have the requirement. With the FAFSA, that can be a double edged sword, if you put it on your FAFSA, you might not get a grant even if you’re dependent.
xxv. Sarah: I wanted to say that if you lower the age you are opening it to everyone who graduates. They may not go for that. But 27 or 28 might be better.
xxvi. Valerie: They’re open to everyone know, there’s just the requirement to provide the parental information.
xxvii. Kelly: I was thinking about first year, not even third year. So thanks Sarah. I would ask Susan for the feasibility of changing it even if we back it and the student body supporting it.
xxviii. Michael: There’s a meeting on Monday, and what time is it at. Will it be shown down here?
xxix. Michelle: It’s at 1:30 but I will send the info for the rooms.
xxx. Kelly: Corey-Scott will also have information.

IV. Career Services Committee Update (5 min.)
a. Ashley: We met with Dean Brignola, and we discussed the results from the survey. The meeting went well. We then discussed what we will do in the future. We have a meeting in November. We talked with her about helping Career Services. Dean Brignola said Dean Elkin mentioned she could have a work study position. Please let me know if anyone is interested. She would only need one.
b. Kelly: Is that position only in Carlisle?
c. Ashley: I don’t think so. She didn’t specify a location. I can ask her. The job would mostly entail data entry.
d. Kelly: also what was her reaction to the Survey?
e. Ashley: She said she would come to the meeting. We asked her if she thought Career Services was understaffed. It’s more of a concern in UP b/c there are more students there. Dean Brignola said our Career Services is comparable to other law students. She also responded to the complaints of “too many emails” and she said maybe Steve and I should send out more emails. We offered to help so people aren’t ignoring emails.
f. Richard: That was the main jist. You covered the main points.
g. Ashley: we discussed the Career Portal also, and asked if they updated in regards to the survey. She said the Career Portal was run by Simplicity, so they do a lot of job postings and updates. It is more beneficial to have Simplicity involved because they can pull for a lot more places.
- Richard: Law firms make their own accounts, and do their own postings, that's why the ratio is high.
- Ian: Is the hold cleared after I took the survey?
- Ashley: the summer survey?
- Ian: Yes
- Ashley: We didn’t discuss the summer survey b/c we didn’t have a part in that but I can talk to someone in Career Services and Dean Brignola and let you know what they say.
- Jon: On that hold, I know someone, and he got it taken away pretty quickly by emailing.

V. Executive Council Reports
   a. President’s Report (5 min.)
      i. Next meeting is November 17th. That date is scheduled for the Mr. Dickinson competition. We are rescheduling for 7pm to accommodate.
      ii. Talked to Dean Reilly. Course schedules available Nov. 14th, and registration is Nov 17th.
      iii. Directories available now on the corkboards so people know where offices are now.
      iv. We are not continuing meetings with Dean Elkin due to low attendance.
   b. Vice-Presidents’ Report (10 min.)
      i. Kenny: Race Judicata was this past weekend, Dave is speaking next meeting. Diversity meeting has been meeting with the faculty diversity meeting. They will be implementing that information in their next meeting.
      ii. Kent: Alumni relations said that last weekend was a success. Committee members helped a lot. A couple people from UP placed calls to encourage attendance. Some ran the registration table. Students talked to alumni. Golf was a success.
      iii. Kelly: also there is a Wine and Cheese event on Thursday at 5:30 in UP.
      iv. Kent: it was brought up at the last meeting about funding, and they don’t need funding.
   c. ABA Representative’s Report (5 min.)
      i. Robbie: ABA is going great. All people have received cards and bills. Nick Quesenberry is teaming up with the ABA for the work-a-day project. Still in the process of gathering information for that. There is a 2010 barbri scholarship application. Deadline is Nov 30 on the ABA website.
   d. PSU Senator’s Report (5 min.)
      i. Nick:
         ii. Origin, purpose, and structure of Alcohol EDU.
            1. Cooperative venture between various arms of PSU, Knights Foundation, and community.
               a. Provided by outside vendor.
b. Funded through grants from various sources.

2. Web-based program meant to increase awareness of alcohol-related issues, especially among entering students, and to assess increased awareness by means of student surveys.
   a. Covers psychological and social impact of risky alcohol behavior.
   b. Content is adapted to individual demographics, like gender.

3. Improvement in scores between first and last surveys indicates, at least, that Alcohol EDU is increasing short-term student awareness of alcohol issues.
   a. Students responded favorably in terms of how they felt program would help them deal with impact of alcohol.
   b. About half of students surveyed indicated the program would affect their behavior.

4. In terms of changes in behavior:
   a. Virtually no measurable change across the campuses.
   b. However, it is possible that Alcohol EDU helped mitigate the "college effect."
   c. College effect is the sudden tendency to drink heavily/behave badly that often befalls freshmen entering big universities like PSU.
   d. Data is inconclusive on this point.

Medical Amnesty.

5. No punishment for involvement in bad alcohol behavior, from university, when undergrads report medical emergencies.

6. Designed to alleviate problem of undergrads not reporting medical emergencies because:
   a. Emergency involved bad behavior.

7. Fear of punishment resulting when, as a result of reporting medical emergency, undergrads involved with said bad behavior are punished.

e. Treasurer’s Report (5 min.)
   i. Mark: I would first like to congratulate the budget committee.
   ii. Kent: how much money do we have to allocate?
   iii. Mark: I don’t have exact numbers but around $8,750
   iv. Kelly: Carlisle over budgeted for Halloween because of basing the estimates on the wrong numbers. Will be adjusted in the future.
   v. Richard Bradbury: The 1Ls planned their own party in Harrisburg the night before. That might account for the drop off.
   vi. Kelly: 1L reps in Carlisle please encourage
vii. Michael: The people who went, went to the SBA party. There’s just a big group of people who don’t want to go to events.
viii. Kelly: Let people know that these people don’t want to attend events and we shouldn’t count on them.
ix. Ian: motion to adjourn
x. Kenny: Second

VI. Adjourn