Student Bar Association General Body Meeting  
Wednesday, October 10, 2012  8:30 pm  
114 Katz Hall, Carlisle/ 114 Katz Building, University Park  
Agenda  

I. Call to Order  

• Laura Magnotta  
• Anna Strawn  
• Jason Samuel  
• Alisha Falberg – excused  
• Andrew Sherman  
• Wanika Fisher  
• Joe Negaard  
• Carolyn Brown  
• Melissa Padalino - excused  
• Cody Graham  
• Shandra Kisailus  
• Elizabeth Asbaugh  
• Matthew Bosakowski  
• Kyle Peasley  
• Jordan Feist  
• Jordan Johnston  
• Courtney Monson  
• Erin Hayes  
• Brian Rans  
• Matt Regan  
• Marcy McLaughlin  
• Sean Richards
• Bryan Li
• Garrett Lent
• John Higgins

a. Roll Call
b. Minutes Approval

Laura – We have quorum. I’ll open the floor for any motions.
Andrew Sherman – Motion to approve SBA minutes from the previous meeting
Jason Samuel – Second

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Laura - Minutes approved

II. Public Comment (15 minutes)

Wanika – a student asked her about having tissues in the bathrooms

Whitney Kulp – I am the treasurer for National Lawyers Guild. A few weeks ago, we decided to hold an event right after the Speakers Trust Fund Meeting. The event was about a timely issue having to do with the death penalty and Terrance Williams. Speakers Trust Fund wouldn’t consider the request due to the short time frame and because it was in between meetings. It is my understanding other groups have had their applications considered and we would like to have our application considered in between for good cause. The policy seems inconsistent. It feels haphazard but we are also glad that it happens and wishes the rule was clearer?

Laura – What was the date of the event?

Whitney – Oct. 3rd, it was held the Wednesday after the Speakers Trust meeting, which was Tues. night. The speaker suggested that date. It was Professor Girard and she had a very quick turnaround.

Laura – The policy that we have for Speakers Trust – because we have a regularly schedule monthly meetings we decided as a group that the only email votes that we would have would occur before the regularly scheduled meetings. Let me talk to Alison and get her point of view about what happened. We can potentially retroactively consider a budget proposal.

Whitney – That would be appreciated, I emailed Alison and she did consider considering our request but the consideration was denied. She had told us it would be less likely that we would be reimbursed and we did not feel comfortable purchasing a lot.

Laura – Okay I will look into that and get back to you, thank you for that comment.

Marcy – I was talking to the chairs of the THON group and they would like to do a raffle at the Mr. Dickinson but they need a gaming license. Does SBA have a license already or if there is any interest in acquiring one? Therefore all of the organizations would be covered under it.
Laura – We had a small games of chance license in the past, but once it lapsed we were not really given the opportunity to renew it. Let me look into that and I will answer that question. It is going to be in November? Okay let me speak with the people that we need to in the finance office and find out why we haven’t done that. I know we have had a hard time giving out prizes because of tax implications so that is a hurdle. Let me find out more and I will be in touch with the THON Girls.

Wanika – On that question – GSA is working on getting a license you just need a background check for that as well, you should email our treasurer because I know he is working on it.

Laura – Let me talk to Rachel Arnold tomorrow. If not, then maybe we can get in touch with GSA and try to work with them.

Brian – Maybe we can get tax write offs?

Laura – We will have to look into that because I know there are other instances when gifts are donated and we have had a hard time.

Liz Ashbaugh – A couple of students asked that the staples in the library be better quality. They are having a hard time stapling things. Also three or four people have asked about the Halloween party and they would like to see some ads about it to start making plans.

Laura – With regard to the staples, I totally agree with that comment and they do not work. So let me talk to them. What I think the response will be is that it is not us it is OPP, the office of the physical plant, that provides these things, so they may say we don’t buy them if the school contracts them out. So let me look into that. With the Halloween party, Carolyn can speak to about the one here and Anna can talk about the one in Carlisle.

Carolyn Brown – We are in the middle of planning Barristers at the moment and all we have right now is a date, which is October, 26th a Friday. We will put up Facebook event when we know more info.

Anna – We are having it on the 1st, a Thursday, at the Elks Lodge where we have had it the last two years. They have already booked what they need to book but I don’t know any more than that.

Laura – The one in UP is the Friday before the Ohio state game. Does anyone have anything else to add to public comment? No? Moving on.

III. New Student Organization - LEAP (10 minutes)

Laura – I sent everyone the info regarding the new student orgs that have been proposed. I will first ask the representatives here from LEAP to speak about the org, open the floor for any motions, and then allow any questions during the debate section.

Steve Worthington – We are 1Ls and we wanted to come to PSU due to the Law and Education Alliance at Penn State. We found out the organization, although on the website, is no longer active so we want to reactivate that. Our org will 1. Provide networking and professional development opportunities for students interested in practicing education law, 2. Provide community service, and 3. Community outreach. Hopefully we can get some speakers to come about educational law. We have been in contract with Preston Green who is big in education law and we would love to get involved with this.

Laura – I will now open the floor for any motions.

Wanika – Motion to approve
Liz – Second

Laura – I will open the floor for any comments or questions.

Sean – What are the budget requirements for a new organization?

Laura – I believe new orgs are limited to requesting 250 in their first year.

Andrew Sherman – I believe that is correct.

Laura – They are limited the first year, but then they can ask more in subsequent years.

Laura – I will put it to a vote, all those in favor of approving a charter for the LEAP organization at Penn State signify by saying aye.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Group approved. Congratulations to our new student organization.

IV. New Student Organization - Ag Law Student Group (10 minutes)

Laura – I will open the floor to the members of the Ag Law Society.

Sarah Doyle – There was an Ag Law Society and it kind of fell of the map. We came here looking to be a part of something agriculturally related and we are proposing that the Ag Law Society be an open forum for discussion of the agriculture industry, including topics not limited to ag law, food law, oil and gas law, and rural issues. We hope that it would foster networking between students, professors and professionals in the industry.

Laura – Are there any motions?

Jason – Motion to approve

Kyle Peasley – Second

Laura- I will now open the floor for any comments or questions. I would just say there is a great opportunity in Penn State to get involved with programs that we have through the undergrad.

Jordan – We also have the rural and economic development clinic, which is great

Laura – All those in favor of approving a charter please signify by saying aye.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle

Laura – Great. Congrats to our new student orgs!

V. Constitutional Amendment Committee Report (10 minutes)

Laura – Time for an update form the Constitutional Amendment Committee. I am putting the document up on the screen so everyone can look at it while we are discussing it.
Joe – I just went through change by change. The bold language is what has been changed and the non-bolded was in there already.

Art. 6 section 4 before it read 3Ls shall not vote in general elections for the board and we added “LLMs”

Section 6: we added “the LLM student body shall elect: (a) one Honor code representative; and one class representative.

Section 7: added “LLMs”

Section 10: added “LLMs”

Are there any questions about the changes to the constitution? It is pretty basic and straightforward.

Secondly – we created the LLM/JD integration committee of the Student Bar Association. There is the mission statement. The membership of the committee should consist of 3 LLM students, one 1L student and 2L student.

Laura – I have some questions, first I just wanted to say the first thing at the top there adding the standing committees, what has occurred is that there are new committees that have been created by SBA presidents that have sustained themselves so the temporary committees will become standing committees. We would also like to have a pure LLM committee so what I would propose it that we would change it from the LLM/JD integration committee and make it the LLM Committee and keep the membership requirements of JD and LLM students. Any more questions?

Jason – So just to be clear this is going to be a standing committee?

Laura – That is correct.

Cody – My only concern is the LLM honor code representative how would they fit into the honor code system if there is a violation?

Joe - I am pretty sure to add them into as another rep in the pool. So if there is an LLM with a problem they will still go in front of the board.

Laura – Right in the same way the reps would be selected in any other situation.

Cody – I was just wondering did you run it by any of the Deans? Would any of the deans have a problem having an LLM stand in judgment over a non LLM student?

Laura – This idea came from Dean Elkin. He specifically said one class rep and honor code rep. What the vision here is that there is no separation between an LLM and JD student. So it encompasses both JD and LLM students and that is the purpose of creating it this way. The board must be capable of sitting in judgment of another student.

Cody - Okay I was just being more safe than sorry.

Laura – That is a very good point.

Garrett – Are we going to have to have a change in the honor code that reflects this?

Laura – We can look at them. There are bylaws like any other committee has bylaws, so it would be a matter of changing it and voting on it at the appropriate time.
Carolyn – So this committee is going to be on going every year? So why is there no 3L on it?

Joe – Right well we thought it was not going to be an ongoing committee, but now that it is there is no reason that there not be a 3L on it. Should we move it up to a minimum of 4LLms and then 1 L from each class.

Anna – I think that is a great idea, if it is going to be a standing committee the 3Ls should be represented as well, and I agree also there should be more LLMS so that they can really have a chance to express their opinions.

Laura – I have talked to several LLMs who have expressed an interest in participating in this capacity with the SBA, and we have so many LLMS this year compared to years prior.

Laura – Joe, how do we proceed?

Joe – So it is a four step process 1. Is what we just went through, the constitutional committee on giving the SBA the initial proposal 2. Requires a 2/3rd majority vote of the board of a general meeting 3. After we vote on it and if it gets a 2/3rd majority vote then it goes to a general election to the entire SBA membership and that should pass also with a 2/3rds majority vote, and at least ½ of the entire SBA membership has to vote for it to be a quorum. Then we just send the dean a copy and have to post a copy in the library and it will be ratified.

Laura – After we vote on it tonight we have 10 academic calendar days to promulgate this to the student body. The amendments should be incorporated with the copy of the Constitution we currently have and then make an email regarding the changes and send it out to the student body. Then we will have the vote. We will send it out to the students and we will select a day and have tables in the lobby and we will ask students to vote so we can ensure that we get ½ of the entire SBA membership.

SBA membership consists of all students enrolled in the Dickinson school of law

Any questions?

Brian – Can we amend the Constitution to amend how we institute these amendments?

Laura - I suppose we can but we will have to create another ad hoc constitution committee or get signatures of 20% of the membership.

Cody – Yes, there is a small amendment we will have to make to the Honor Code to the number of students who are going to be Honor Code reps.

Laura – Lets go through all of the sections of the amendment part, and then at the following meeting we will amend the honor code bylaws because it won't make a difference until those positions are filled. After this is approved we are going to hold a vote as soon as practicable afterward.

Cody - I think this is great. I think the LLMs should have a position in our Honor Code Board.

Laura – Opening the floor for any motions

Jason – Motion to approve all of the proposed amendments to the constitution.

Garret lent – Second
Laura – Any questions or comments? All those in favor of approving the amendments to the constitution please signify by saying aye.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Laura - Okay I will send it out to the student body and explain what the process will be and we will get it taken care of and then hopefully have elections for our new LLM representatives.

VI. Refrigerator Issue

Laura – There is a serious problem with the refrigerators. People are not cleaning out the refrigerator, specifically in UP. We do not have a daytime maintenance staff, so we have no one here responsible for cleaning the mess nor should we have anyone to do that. They only get cleaned before breaks. There should be no reason why there is anything in the fridge on a Monday at 8 am. How are the fridges in Carlisle?

Anna – Yes I was confused when we saw this in your email because we do have signs on all of the fridges that say that they get cleaned out every Friday. They do clean out the stuff from student orgs, etc. It works well. I don’t think there are problems down here. My only concern when I was looking at the policy would be who would enforce it?

Laura – The problem that we have here is that much of what is in there – the sodas and the platters and fruit trays – are a result of student orgs having leftovers and putting them in there and then nobody is emptying them out, does anyone have a proposal on how to mitigate that? Jason put this together so he can answer questions. Does anyone have any recommendations? I would like to make this a SBA resolution so this is our stand on the situation and I will send an email out to the student body and say this is how we feel.

Cody – Motion to approve as an SBA resolution

Joe Neggard – Second

Laura – Any comments?

Cody – When you say it’s just a resolution, who are we asking to do this? Does that mean the maintenance staff has to clean the fridges?

Laura – No we are asking students to enact this themselves and student orgs as well. It has to be self enforced. It is the same orgs that are putting food in there and leaving it in there. There is really no enforcement mechanism. In Carlisle they have people who can come in to do it; we do not.

Jason – We are going to throw things out

Brian – We as an SBA government body should give people notice and then as an SBA government body enforce the policy.

Laura – I will have to talk to Dean Elkin

Anna – I think that could be a problem because somebody could put a sandwich in there and then they clean out a sandwich and then it isn't old etc.
Wanika – I think a good solution is to have a bunch of black sharpies there and you write your name and your date and it is good for yourself and we send a nice email with everything that is going to be there so people will do that.

Laura – But I think that same people who are putting whole loaves of bread are in there are people who would not take that accountability.

Laura – Why don’t we make this be the first step and if this doesn’t work, then we can take more serious action

Joe – I think that once thing that would help is that why don’t we get a giant sign that says every Monday the fridge will be cleaned out make sure your stuff is out

Laura – But we don’t have anybody who can do that.

Jason – All I would say is that if you have the policy on the fridge okay so somebody may not take it out Monday or the Monday after but if their stuff gets thrown out and they know that’s the policy then they can complain. If we put a date or time of notice.

Marcy – I think we should at least post it and make it known.

Laura – Okay, if this is approved then we are going to post it on the fridges and if that doesn’t help the problem then we will take amore serious approach

Laura - all those in favor of approving SBA refrigerator policy signify by saying aye.

No opposition in UP.
No opposition in Carlisle.

Laura – I will put these fridge policies up.

VI. Executive Council Reports

a. Presidents Report (5 minutes)
Laura:
Carolyn reported to me that the car show is back and dean Toomney called campus police. I don’t know what happened. I will get more information. I met with the Alumni Society Board last week and they have vowed to help us in any way they can so we are looking to get in touch with them for mentoring or career planning purposes.
- 3L year book picture signups are going on now they will be taken next week on the first floor bulletin just sign up.
- I talked to Dean Elkin about the doors in the library and he is going to look into it and will get back to us on definitive reason why that cannot be used.
- I also talked to him also about the ATM again. He will contact PNC. Part of the issue is lack of traffic and security and I want to get a definitive answer from them
- We have Barristers coming up next weekend. I will be sending an email out to the student body with the expectations. Everyone should have a good time, but if you act in a way that will violate the Honor Code or Penn State policies, you my be held to the same penalties. We sold out tickets in a record amount of time.

b. Vice-Presidents’ Report (10 minutes)
Anna: First of all, I loved your email today. It got me all pumped for the meeting. Barristers: that was the biggest thing that happened. We sold the tickets out in a day and a half. I wish we could do that every time. I just wanted to make clear to everyone that the limit on tickets the 200 number that we had was not set by the girls down here when they were planning the event. They looked for venues to seat 200, that was the number that I gave them to plan around due to the fact that the hosting campus in Carlisle is so much smaller. We were shocked when we hit 200, but we can accommodate everyone. Information about busses form UP – Carolyn had everyone email her by today and we can get away with one bus and one van. We already talked about the Halloween parties.
- There is still some work going on about figuring out what to do with all these textbooks we have. We looked into donating them to jails.
- As far as alumni relations is concerned, we talked about Phil Blackmun and he is considering talking to us about student contributions to the school.
- For community relations in Carlisle, we have the first Borough Council meeting. This will be taking place tomorrow for our new representative. Community relations last week co-sponsored our first Mr. Dickinson contest in Carlisle and it was great success. That’s all.

Jason: As far as parking situation it is still being worked on especially with getting the cross walk painted. Because the police office was hit by the car there are now new hurdles because now the state who controls the road wants to know if they want people to cross by University and Bigler compared to where we already have the crosswalks. Randy Fulton is also involved in checking it out. No word yet on when the other lot will be open for other 1Ls to park in, but that should be coming down the pipe soon.
- The LLM pair up program recently started up and we are pairing up JD and LLM students to get to know each other culturally, please sign up if you are interested talk to SaraAnn Bennett. The CPDO had 20 people at their new sessions. So more food because of the high turnout.
- Also 1Ls in UP I need your class schedules so we can set up a Keurig list.
- c. Treasurer (5 minutes)

Sherman: okay so not too much to report, the requests have been slow to come in. Our total recapture is $559.30. That is a little higher than last time, and our current reserve is $5,224.34. New orgs are limited to a $250 cap on their budget requests that is located in the guidelines for new organizations, not in the budget guidelines. Update on UPAC funding, we are still in the process of doing that. We have not had any real requests with that.

d. PSU Senator (5 minutes)

Joe: Short and sweet. No meetings between the last meeting and this one the last. Senate meeting will be next Tuesday if you have any issues you want to bring up please do. I can also try to talk to them about the cross walk issue and we can it from both sides. I will definitely bring that up.
- e. ABA Rep Report (5 minutes)

Wanika: The 3rd circuit is having their big circuit plus meeting in NY. They have mixer Friday, Oct. 12 and a leadership summit on the 13th. Find out more on the ABA website. It’s free and if you are form the NY area networking opportunities will be there.
- Next meeting I will call out whoever is not in the ABA yet.
- I am going down to Carlisle to table to have people sign up for their ABA membership. Also deadlines for submitting different articles are coming up. Go ahead and submit – it will be great if you participate.

VII. Adjourn
Jason – Motion to adjourn

Garrett Lent – Second

No opposition in UP

No opposition in Carlisle.

Laura: Have a great week!