New 1L’s introduce themselves.

Roll Call:
Missing
Keitha Carter-Webb
Ryan Becker
Aaron Acker
Robert Martin

Minutes Approved from last meeting; all 1L reps abstain.

Dean Mootz to talk about grade change:

- As of June 2005 changed to Alpha grading system, not implemented until grades come out after the fall semester
- 1L’s will have all alpha grades
- 2L’s and 3L’s will have a mixed transcript.
- For 3L’s and 2L’s ? you numeric grades will not change, they will remain on your transcript. The only exception is the people with summer grades will get a letter grade, even though they had been issued numeric grades. The actual system will not be implemented until November.
- There will be a noticeable note on the transcript explaining the change.
- You will only have one cumulative rank.
- You will not have a cumulative GPA.
- After the grade implementation there will be a GPA based on the 4.0 scale.
- The rank will be credit rated, so it will be fair as a cumulative rank.
- Say you have 95 total credits, 70 occurred before the grade change. 25 occur after switch to Alpha system. They will be weighted by credit.
- Converted to the Alpha system will be like grade inflation, with the Alpha system the grade averages will be higher.
- Professors in the summer program graded under both systems.

Matt – If a student who studied abroad wants to know how the grades are converted, what do you say?

Dean Mootz – The Profs. cannot tell the students because they have not yet been handed into Alice Peet, just stick with your numeric for now.

Matt – But Alice Peet has posted some.
Dean Mootz – They should be, but it is the number grade, the summer grades are just the only ones which are going to be changed.
– The computer people are taking so much longer than originally expected, so we do have to change the summer grades from numeric to Alpha.

Dean Mootz – There are no honors right now which are based on GPA, all on class rank.

Christina – What will the class mean be?

Dean Mootz – B. Professors will have to give out A’s and A-‘s, right now not a lot of 90’s are given.

Josh – To combine the two it seems there has to be a conversion chart, like a 90 equals an A.

Dean Mootz – It’s a credit weighted rank, not really to do with GPA.

Douglas – Will you have a note saying that the new GPA will only be accounting for that semester, not the previous semesters.

Dean Mootz – No. But maybe Career Services can send notices, but on the official transcript only the note previously mentioned. I think it will be clearly separated, and honestly I think what matters most will be the class rank.

Seth – Two quick questions;

1. Prof. Knox was concerned with grading last semester because he thought it may be changed to Alpha, just in case he had to go back.
2. In the email sent to students it went through how you could play a little with the rank, depending on whether you did really well under either system.

Dean Mootz – It won’t really be able to work that way. It is too difficult to separate the ranks, so we will have one cumulative rank. Rather than freezing the rank at the end of the numbers, we will just have one. No division between the two.

Christina – Since this is grade inflation, isn’t it possible it could hurt the people at the top of the class since there would be more weighted credits under the new system.

Dean Mootz – I don’t think so. Whether there is grade inflation or not your rank is against other students. It may matter if it had anything to do with GPA. If we grade inflated with numerics, that would cause that problem, but with the demarcation due to a switch to the Alpha system.

Charlie – It still seems that it still disproportionately helps people who take more credits this year.
Dean Mootz – If you are taking a certain amount of credits, and you are doing poorly against students, it still is weighted by credits. It’s how you have done against your classmates. That is why we couldn’t just raise the average.

Michelle Rhizor – People used to really rely on that small differential, but now they can’t do that.

Dean Mootz – Well that’s really the way it is, that is just how an Alpha system works. There is more to gain in getting the next higher grade.

John – What is the range with the Alpha system.

Dean Mootz – A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, D, F

Bobbie Sue – Will D’s now be what would have been a conditional failure.

Dean Mootz – yes.

Dean Mootz – I am a believer that all that matters is the cumulative rank. Students had asked if we could be kept on the numbers and then the new ones changed to the Alphas. That can’t really happen.

Christina – What about Professors who want to give extra points for participation?

Dean Mootz – Sometimes the class participation may bump you up, and some may not, it just goes into a raw number score, and that’s how it will be used.

Matt – with non graded credits, do those factor in at all?

Dean Mootz – We are not changing how that works, neither will the way Joint Degree students are graded. It will show as your total credits, but it won’t effect your average.

Josh – Okay any more questions?

Dean Mootz – I will send out an email, there will be an information sheet that you can give to people, and if there is any big change in all this, I will let you know.

Officer Reports

President – save comments

Vice President – welcome new representatives. We need a search committee for two faculty members.

Treasurer – not here
Secretary – holding off for Hurricane

ABA/PBA – no new things to report

PSU Senator – Readership program (free newspapers that we receive) how much do we pay for this program.

Also, tailgate Minnesota v. Penn State game, extra tickets talk to Tamara Storey. Since it is Penn State day, all the different schools will be trekking up to State Park. I was assuming SBA would be giving some funds, maybe solicit Westlaw, we will see later.

Josh – Put it out on the listserv.

Brent – October 1 is also the Golf Tourney, just to let people know.

Committee Organization Reports

Admissions – Brent – no

Alumni Relations – Again alumni weekend falls on our fall break, which means most students are gone, this should be fixed.

Community Relations – still trying to get seat on the borough council

Diversity – Mr. Robles – still looking for people for the committee.

Honor Code – we are alright no one has done anything

Library – Lets set the dates for the carrel system for next year if we can.

Social Committee – Halloween Party is the 27th of October at the American Legion. Apparently in the past some people have been destructive so we need to have a deposit of $200. Finger foods, prices have been changed, things are actually cheaper this year. Same set up as last year, and now I am looking for a DJ. If anyone has ideas or wants to help let me know.

Speakers Trust – the major speaker is going to be John Podesta, former chief of staff for Clinton, and he teaches at Georgetown. He will be here on October 25 at 5pm in the Café Per Se.

Sports – Benji – Intramurals started well. Putt putt has gone well.

Student/Faculty relations – we have an interview this weekend.

Technology – Students are still losing their emails, Gmail does not work in the labs, John Davey has not responded to my emails.
New Business

New Parliamentarian – Matt Cronin – should have all received about four pages of information on parliamentary procedure, try to make things more efficient so we don’t have very long meetings.

Josh – I basically just asked Matt to help us keep things on track.

Hurricane Fundraising – We had a meeting with the student organization leaders, and we wanted to have one big event. We are basically looking for a motion to approve charging extra $5 for the Halloween Party.

Valerie – How do we do that as far as the bylaws are concerned?

Seth – Are you proposing that the SBA is prohibited from doing other things before the 27th of October.

Josh – This does not prohibit the SBA from doing anything.

Brent – so we are going to cover our costs, and then the rest is for Hurricane.

Charlie – Motion for Halloween Party to be fundraiser for Katrina.

Charlie – Motion to amend that the price for Halloween Party will be set later.

Seconded.

Ayes have it.

Seth – Hurricane issue. Student has already spoken to Dean McCaughnehay and has asked for Kelly Jones to take pictures. This charity has you raising money to accomplish a specific end – in this case it is children’s coloring books and crayons. I would like some support from the SBA because I think it helps with raising money. I would like to work with this in the name of the SBA and I would like to have a few volunteers. So first is permission to get permission from the SBA, second is to get volunteers to help out with this. Volunteers gotten. Do we want to lend the name of the SBA to this endeavor?

Douglas – I appreciate you finding out about this organization and I don’t know about their philosophies, there are just a lot of issues I would like to know about before we lend the SBA name to this.

Brent – who is setting this up?

Seth – I don’t know much about it either, I would think it is on the internet, and many people have heard about it. The student is Niva Lind, but I am heading it up.
Josh – It sounds like we are not prepared to recognize this in the name of the SBA however the private individuals who would like to help can. We can make a decision on this later.

Seth – Are we just being overly cautious, or are these legitimate concerns.

Matt – I just think there are so many needs that we really need to address in that area.

Charlie – with a national disaster like this happens, the SBA should put there name on anything.

Brent – can we just make a conditional recommendation?

Josh – I think that the job of the SBA is to help the organizations to do this.

Sara – Can we table till next week Motion to table until two weeks.

Val – motion to amend. Friendly amendment, give Josh authority.

Sara – Friendly amendment not accepted.