Student Bar Association Budget Meeting  
September 26, 2005

Roll Call

New Business

A. Speakers Trust Nominee – Emily Musser

B. Discuss and vote on 2005-2006 Budget

Josh – Suspend Robert’s Rules and have the organizations just speak to the Budget Committee directly.
John – Motion
Keitha – Second
Ayes in favor of suspending the rules. Rules suspended.

ADR — Two issues of Beyond Litigation requested, $800-1000 each, total allocation in the budget is $1,215. This cuts out the Spring issue. We need more to put on the Spring issue.

Keitha — We did not get a lot of input from the representative sent to the meeting.

Anthony — In the spring there may be more money to allocate, that’s what we were hoping.

ADR — I can’t budget if I don’t know the money is going to be there.

Douglas — What is Beyond Litigation?

ADR — It is a writing opportunity for people to do that is less formal than law review. Open to everyone.

Brent — Is there a priority list for extra money in the spring.

Keitha — Have to come and request again.

Josh — Every year in the Spring there is a lot of money left over.

ADR — We may be a small group but I don’t think there are many other groups that are bigger than we are.

Douglas — How many people are in the ADR?

ADR — about 65 people.
Keitha — On the proposal there is listed at 30, and the second proposal is at 40?

ADR — I didn’t have the exact numbers.

Seth — What exactly are you asking for?

ADR — More money to make sure we have the money for the Spring issue of Beyond Litigation.

Seth — What is the smallest amount of money that would make you feel comfortable enough to plan for the second semester?

ADR — We could use $500-$600 I guess.

Douglas — To Budget Committee – Is postage paid for people.

Keitha — Yes.

Douglas — How does this benefit students?

ADR — It is a writing opportunity.

John — It goes out to practitioners and the community, that is another way that it benefits the students.

Reinstate the Rules to take care of Speakers Trust.

Emily Musser recognized.

Questions for Emily?

All those in favor.

Ayes approve Emily Musser for 1L Speakers Trust Rep.

Rules suspended again.

Douglas — How many students are from Dickinson College and how many from Dickinson Law on the Rugby team?

Aaron — I think more than half of the team is DC.

Rene — How much money does DC give to Rugby?

Brent — Do the students pay themselves for anything.

John — What are the events they are requesting money for?
Douglas — We have ten current Dickinson Law students on the team right now.

Val — Are these numbers what it costs for them to play? My question is why is the Law School funding the entire bill when less than half of the students are DL students.

Environmental Law Society — I sent two emails in August and early September. We were not allocated any money at all. I sent my treasurer to the Budget Meeting. We are asking for 800, we were allocated 460 last year. We’re an outdoor group so it doesn’t cost very much money. The only thing we are really going to need money for is to help the people going to the Environmental Moot Court Team at Pace University.

Douglas — How would that $800 be broken down to help the Moot Court Team?

ELS — We would try to fund transportation maybe?

Douglas — We do not fund transportation.

ILS — I am concerned as to how the money was allocated, I just wanted to know about the decision process and come to some conclusions.

ILS — We have a couple events planned, we have one social event planned, and I don’t understand why that event wasn’t funding.

ILS — We really want students who are interested in practicing International Law to know we are out there, that’s why a social event was what we wanted to do on our own.

Val — I can speak to that, we did a lot of joint stuff, we did get lost in the mix, we lost a lot of members throughout the year.

Douglas — Would you be adverse to having it in the Spring?

ILS — Well this is our kick off event so I think the Spring would be too late.

JLSA — Why wasn’t the Passover event funded?

Budget Committee — It is at someone else’s house.

LLSA — We are a large organization. We are also many non-latinos, anyone can join LLSA. We also were not given money for alcohol, but the Dean has approved money for wine at the Salsa Lesson night. I’m asking for $150 for ten bottles of wine at $10/bottle.

Keitha — If we had seen wine in the proposal we would have probably approved it because we know the Dean would have supported wine over kegs.

Josh — I think we should wait on large/small organization designation.

Brent — why would we wait if that is how money allocated?
Josh — We can talk about that at the end if you would like.

Josh — but the budget committee does look at past performance, and there were only ten paying members last year.

LLSA— But I should not be penalized because the numbers were small last year. The turn out has been incredible this year.

PILF — Keg for the poker night or auction. Is the Dean approving alcohol for both?

Josh — The Dean has not approved anything yet.

PILF — What is the deal with the alcohol, I am very confused as to the policy.

Josh — Well it is ambiguous. The only change is that he is not going to sign alcohol for the small parties.

PILF — We had over 65 people playing last year. And is the ambiguity going to be cleared up at any point.

Josh — you directly as a leader can go to the Dean and speak to him, but I don’t think it is a good idea to lock ourselves into a few designated parties.

Kelvin — What event occurred for this alcohol policy to change.

Josh — I don’t think it was any one event Kelvin.

Kelvin — Then we as the student body should go to him and explain that we still want these events.

Josh — The Dean has not responded to my request for him to come and meet with us. Every week we discuss it.

Kelvin — It just doesn’t make sense to me because we are all adults here.

Bobbi-Sue — If we get permission directly from the Dean can we get money for the alcohol from the SBA.

Budget Committee — You would have to ask the SBA to allocate funds.

PILF — Is it wine and beer? Just beer? All alcohol?

Josh — We don’t know.

PILF — We raised $9000 at auction and $3500 at the poker night, and this goes to people working in Public Interest Jobs who otherwise would not be able to do so. This helps the school’s name. We would move the poker night off campus if we couldn’t get alcohol. We charge $20, we can’t just give people chips.
PILF — We spend way more than SBA gives us.

Seth — What was the bottom line that PILF was asking for as far as allocating funds?

PILF — We are asking for $65 total for a keg.


PILF — Everything we bring in goes to fellowships. We also do some development work with judges and firms who also donate.

Val — This is a group that always does good for our school. They produce and give back so much to this school. I would be willing to give them more money.

Anthony — We had to cut $22,000.

Quo — This group has done so much, provides opportunities. I am speaking as a member and a recipient of a fellowship. This is a group that should be supported for all the good it does.

Project S.T.A.F.F. — Is there gonna be another forum where we can email you our specific concerns?

Josh — This is the night we are going to vote. This is not the end, if you are unhappy with your budget please come back and ask us for help.

STAFF — The chili cookoff has been a very successful event, in the past we have raised $1500 and donated that to local foodbanks. I am just wondering how you guys came up with the estimate because it just won’t cut it.

STAFF — We requested how much we had asked for from last year but I never received it, so I do not have access to that information.

Josh — But Mike do you understand that if you didn’t spend all your money that that will hurt you.

Mike — But we did spend our money last year.

Douglas — How is the spending of money reported back to you?

Keitha — There is now a form that I will be signing off on so I can keep track of it.

What are you asking for?

STAFF — Over all I would have like to have seen at least $1000 since we got more than that last year. I would at least want to see money to cover the chili cookoff.
Douglas — Is it possible Keitha that somehow Project STAFF could have just directly gotten the funding, and now they are not able to have funding?

RELSA — We have 85 members on the mailing list. What is the procedure, and the Budget Committee has taken notes, we should get those notes. Its not so much about getting more money, I am just wondering about the process. Like I am wondering why we got things cut for Habitat for Humanity.

RELSA — Like why was everything cut, are we supposed to just serve half the amount of food. I know we can come back in the spring, I am just saying that overall the process needs to be amended.

Josh — Do you have a number that you are looking for?

Brent — I will just wait.

Bobbi-Sue — I had specifically asked Keitha if I needed to do a proposal and she said no, so then I was asked for numbers I didn’t have them because I didn’t have a proposal. The numbers I submitted were the bare bones, and last year Danyelle ended up spending more.

Bobbi-Sue — I was under the assumption that my budget would not be cut and we would get the same funding as last year.

Josh — I think we will be fine in the Spring

Keitha — we had to get it split up, and Danyelle had come back

Bobbi-Sue — I am upset because I was told not to make a proposal.

Val — How do we rectify the Halloween Party though?

Josh — We can reallocate for the other event.

WLC — Can we change the money around in the budget, $25 in the ice cream social. I already spend $100 and would like to be reimbursed.

Mike Granito – did you just automatically give BLSA $1000 because it was successful or did you look into it like all the other ones?

BC — There are a lot of things for black history month

Val — What is the poetry cipher?

BC — It was cut by $25.

Josh — if everyone has some basic information now, I am going to propose that we reinstate the rules so we can vote.
Rules Reinstated.

Josh — What I have is 4 who gave solid dollar figures, ADR, LLSA, PILF, Project STAFF. My recommendation is that we fund the last three, $150, $200 and $65.

Motion to allocate the money to ADR, LLSA and PILF.

Seconded.

Can I have a friendly amendment to add $85 for RELSA.

Anthony — I am not going to accept that friendly amendment because we were told that that event (the cocktail party) could be cut.

Aaron — Friendly amendment for $300 for ELS events.

Anthony — I will accept a friendly amendment of $90 for pizza meetings.

Aaron — I will accept that.

What is the emergency fund?

Josh — It is what we give to students who come back. I believe it is safe to give out $600-$800 of that tonight. I will recognize the treasurer.

Keitha — $1800 in the emergency.

Josh — 200 PS, 150 for LLSA, 65 for PILF.

John — Can we cut Rugby.

Josh — I think we fund it out of emergency first, than if we take down rugby, we put that back in the emergency fund.

All those in favor of passing amended budget.

Ayes have it.

Budget amended.

Josh — We still have to deal with ADR.

Douglas — I’m sorry but I have a problem with funding a small amount of students who are able to write for this publication. I feel like it is only benefiting a small amount of students.
Response — This is open to everyone. Plus we have always done this, the purpose of this is to really raise the profile of the program at the school. While only a small amount of people write on it, it really benefits the entire law school community.

Brent — Well what is the difference between this and PILF. Only a few people get PILF fellowships too.

Aaron — We don’t know how many people are going to write on.

Robert — Can we do this publication electronically?

Anthony — Have you looked to outside sources?

Matt — It’s very expensive, the more people who write, the more pages, the more cost. In terms of sending out an email, I do not like reading things on the computer. You want them to hold it, look at it, do what they want. As far as outside help, this is a scholarly publishing and I don’t want to cheapen it with advertisements on the back.

Sara — would you be able to come back after this semester, and then ask for more.

Matt — I don’t like doing that. I don’t want to bank on money that I don’t know I am going to have.

Connie — I think a second issue in the spring could generate more interest from first years in the spring, also I too believe, as Mr. Siminerio, that if we can fund alcohol we can fund this.

Val — The publications are getting sent out beyond the students, if you want to cut it out and send it to the public, get the money somewhere else, that’s fine, but this money is for us, the students.

Seth — I understand not wanting to look ahead, but aside from personal discomfort, at what time will you need to start for Spring.

Matt — I think us sending the publication to the community helps the students here. This will help us outside of law school. My goal for Spring semester, I am going to try to get it done before March. I would like to know before finals this semester.

Seth — So, if we were able to assess where we are financially by the end of this semester, if we can come up with $500 by the end of this semester?

Matt — the $500 or $600 figure was a minimum, it cost at least $800 last year.

Aaron — I move that we fund half, $300. $150 from Rugby and $150 from emergency fund.

Douglas — I still have a problem with the intangible benefit that we are supposedly getting from it, and so much of it is going outside the school.

Ryan — I think the argument is a good one that the community wide publication is worthwhile.
Seth — I understand Douglas’s concerns, I agree with Ryan, but I think that amount will be hard to find. I do believe we will have the money in the future.

John — The ADR society has been recognized by the ABA precisely for the Beyond Litigation publication.

Val — Friendly amendment to hold off on taking the vote until we cut Rugby.

Aaron — Let’s table the motion.

Aaron — Motion withdrawn.

Seth — motion to give $300 out of SBA’s funds, because that would still leave us with almost $1000 in emergency funds. Then we can address other issues later.

Seconded.

Debate—

Keitha — I don’t think I feel comfortable with keeping anything less than $1200 in the emergency fund.

Frankie — Friendly amendment. The organizations which have been amended, take $150 from those amendments.

Seth — I think he is trying to be creative, but there must be a better way. Not accepted.

Vote on taking $300 for ADR Beyond Litigation.

Ayes and Nays

Ayes – 8

Nayes – has it

Abstentions – 3

Ryan — I move we talk about Rugby.

Val — I just have concerns with giving them so much money when it isn’t only Dickinson Law Students.

John — I agree with Val. We send 40 law students to a softball tournament and we do not ask the SBA for funds.

Keitha – Unless I was misled, I was told that the team was made up of Law Students and Alumni. I was under the impression that it was a big deal and that we were regionally recognized.
Aaron — Perhaps we can take money from the spring games, and then they can come back to us, because we are not familiar with their organization. Maybe they can come back in the spring.

Douglas — How many games are spring games

Keitha — I am not sure.

Sarah — They don’t have any spring ones.

Seth — Maybe cutting their funding in half, try to get money elsewhere.

Robert — Move to take half (448.50) of Rugby’s budget, and move it back into the funds.

Seconded.

Debate — I think cutting their games in half is extreme so I move to friendly amendment to cut only 2 games.

Aaron — Friendly amendment to cut only $350.

Anthony — Unfriendly amendment just cutting the last two games, making the total cut be $299.

Robert — not accepted.

Ayes – 12

Nayes – 6

Abstentions –

Josh - $350 from Rugby cut.

Aaron – motion to take $300 from the now emergency fund to give to ADR.

Seconded.

Debate. None.

John abstained from this vote. Motion passes.

Josh — How about ILS.

Ryan — I move that we fund ILS with $200 out of the general fund.

Josh — this would leave us with about $1100 in the emergency fund.

Anthony — Keitha was worried about being less than $1200.
Ryan — I think this is an organization we should fund. At a further date, we need to work on not measuring so much on past performance.

Abstentions 4

Ayes have it.

Brent — can we recognize RELSA as a large group and then get $50 towards RELSA from the emergency fund.

Seconded.

Ayes — 10

Nayes — 3

5 abstentions

Anthony — Recognize LLSA as large organization and give $50 for LLSA out of emergency fund.

Ayes have it.

Rene — I still have a problem with how much money BLSA has gotten with half as many members as MLSA.

Budget Committee — Breakdown of budget

Josh — is there a motion on the floor.

Douglas — can you break down the 3 on 3 hoop it up.

Anthony — They are co-sponsoring that with SEALS, so we pretty much diverted half to each group.

Josh — Motions on the floor?

Sara — There were concerns about money getting lost, could you (Keitha) send something out to the groups. Keep the budget committee on as an oversight committee.

Josh — Yes. Everybody concurs.

Brent — Can we update the budget guidelines.

Douglas — should be the new ones.

Brent — no it is the old ones.
Ryan — I do want to thank the budget committee and Keitha.

Josh — CJS (which is a secret society) approached me about help funding the barristers ball. We will talk about that at a later date.

Motion to approve the budget?

Seconded.

Budget Approval as specified.

Ayes.

Nayes.

BUDGET PASSES.

Old Business

A. ABA Rep. Zimmerman (Hurricane Request)