



New York University School of Law

Student Bar Association

### **SBA MEETING AGENDA**

**DATE:** 10.3.12

**TIME:** 5:30 PM

**ROOM:** FH 326

### **ATTENDANCE**

<b>BOARD MEMBER</b>	<b>PRESENT</b>	<b>EXCUSED</b>	<b>UNEXCUSED</b>
Lance Polivy, President	X		
Vanish Grover, Vice President	X		
Chase Dalton, Treasurer	X		
Sharon McDonald, Secretary	X		
Ben Steinberg, Social Chair	X		
Joe Tevelowitz, Social Chair	X		
Patrick Totaro, Student Senator	X		
Gabriel Hopkins, 3L Representative	X		
Hannah Rodgers, 3L Representative	X		
Morgan Miller, 3L Representatives		X	
Ali-Puente Douglas, 3L Representative	X		
Charlotte Slaiman, 2L Representative	X		
Stew Gilson, 2L Representative	X		
Adam Saper, 2L Representative	X		
Mat Ahn, 2L Representatives	X		
Reyhan Watson, 1L Representative	X		
Monica Ramirez de Arellano, 1L Representative	Not Required to Come		
John Michael Grant, 1L Representative	X		
Julienne (“Jules”) Merkel, 1L Representative	X		
Brooks Emmanuel, 1L Representative	Not Required to Come		
David Giroux, Transfer Representative	X		
Daniel Echavarria, LLM Representative	X		
Rebecca Mosquera, LLM Representative	X		
Jose Ziebarth, LLM Representative	X		

\*\* Note the 1L, Transfer and LLM Representatives were not yet sworn in during this meeting and therefore were not required to attend the meeting and could not vote on any of the issues.

### **AGENDA ITEMS**

- Asia Law Society Presentation on Legal Mandarin Class
- ELS/Portmanteau Bear Mountain Incentive Funding Request

- Appointments
  - Transfer Representative, David Giroux
  - Academic Student Faculty Committee, Ellen Connell
- Discussion on SBA Social Chair Budget and LLM Budget, Chase Dalton
- Student Senator Presentation, Patrick Totaro
- Website Update, Ali Puente-Douglas

## **NOTES**

### **I. ASIA LAW SOCIETY CHINESE MANDARIN FOR BUSINESS CLASSES**

*Issue:* The Asia Law Society has offered a full immersion Chinese Mandarin for business class for the past three years. This class takes place on Fridays and lasts for about an hour or an hour and a half. Now, in its fourth year, the class has become well recognized. Recruiters from firms say that this program sets NYU apart, and is critical because a person cannot work in Asia without speaking Mandarin. The issue SBA has with it now, and has had with it in the past, is that the group pays current NYU students to teach the class. SBA bylaws forbid us from giving funding a group's efforts to pay other students. In order for the Asia Law Society to continue its program, the SBA would need to amend the bylaws.

*Details:* The Asia Law Society pays students \$45 per class to instruct the Chinese Mandarin for business classes. This cost is supposed to compensate the students for the actual class instruction as well as around two hours of preparation time.

The board is very selective in regards to the teachers it chooses. Applicants must submit a resume and go through an interview process. Most of the teachers chosen are LLMs because they tend to be the most qualified. This year, each teacher will teach about 3 classes in topics ranging from Human Rights, to IPOS, to foreign direct investment, to international arbitration. This means that each teacher will receive about \$135 total for participating in this program. They plan to have around 20 classes this year.

A lot of the teachers participate in the program not just for the money but also for the community and the experience. However, the founders of the group thought that they would get the best candidates by paying the applicants. The board this year agrees that paying the teachers is the best way of encouraging people to be teachers at the level they have in previous years. They have run into problems with the SBA and the administration for paying the teachers. Last year, they

had each teacher sign a conflict of interest disclosure form. The group maintains that it will need consistent funding in order to continue.

### *Questions from the SBA*

- **What are the administration's thoughts on this? Should the school be providing the funds for this? Should the school have some oversight over this program?**
  - Dean Fama and Paul O'Grady think that the SBA should fund. One of the SBA board needs to discuss this with the administration.
  - They need a structure that will work from year to year. They need consistency and continuity. The reason the system works is because there is a lot of work that has been done in past years. They feel that they are better able to coordinate the program than the administration would be.
- **How are your teachers different than other student leaders who spend a lot of time to do things? Does this open up the door to other groups who want to teach languages?**
- **Are board members being paid?**
  - No
- **Have you asked firms to fund this program?**
  - Yes, and firms have funded the group. The firm funding goes to funding a trip to Asia.

*Vote to approve amending the bylaws to allow groups to pay students: 3 vote yes – motion fails*

## **II. ELS/PORTMANTEAU BEAR MOUNTAIN TRIP INCENTIVE FUNDING**

### **REQUEST**

*Details:* This is an annual trip that the Environmental Law Society and Portmanteau put together every year. They organize buses up to Bear Mountain for a hike and Oktoberfest festival. It's a day long event. They are going to charter buses. 165 people have registered. 70 people have already paid for their tickets. The last day to pay for tickets is on Friday.

ELS and Portmanteau are both funding it and they are each putting in a specific amount per student that comes. The students also pay about \$10 each (half the cost). They are asking the SBA to pay basically for the variance in the cost per student. This is particularly important so that the groups can charter a third bus to meet the overwhelming demand.

*Vote to approve incentive funding for the full \$800:* Unanimous Yes

### III. APPOINTMENTS

*Vote to approve David Giroux as Transfer Representative :* Unanimous Yes

*Vote to appoint Ellen Connell to the Academic Student-Faculty Committee:* Unanimous Yes

\* *Personal statement of Ellen Connell on file with SBA Secretary*

### III. BUDGET VOTES

*Social Chair Budget:* Right now there is no budget and the Social Chairs have already spent some money. The amount of their budget last year was \$28,800. However, this is never enough money to pay for all of their events, and they always come back for extensive additional funding. The SBA asked the Social Chairs to generate a complete budget for the year by Fall Ball and said that we would prefer to set an accurate budget now, than to supplement it with significant additions later in the year. The Social Chairs are also trying to obtain sponsorships from bar review companies to help pay for programming.

*Vote to tentatively approve Social Chair Budget of \$28,800:* 10 vote yes, motion passes

*Vote to amend the Social Chair Budget on 10/24 after submission of a formal detailed budget:* vote deferred to next meeting

*Vote on approving \$6,000 to be allocated to LLM programming:* vote deferred to next meeting

### IV. STUDENT SENATOR PRESENTATION

*Details:* The University Senate is the body that makes a lot of legislative decisions for the university. It is composed of the Faculty Senate, the Student Senate and the Dean's Senate. It had its first meeting last week. These are the issues that came up:

- ***Movement to increase interactions between all the schools.*** The law school tends to be the most independent of all the schools. They want to know about all the major activities that are going on. They want the SBA to provide them with a list of events. It is normal for the other schools to share their calendars.
- ***Chic-Fil-A is back on the Senate's calendar.*** The administration wants the student senate to re-open the case and re-evaluate what they talked about. So far they have not made any progress on this.

- ***Adjunct-Faculty Representation on the Senate.*** As it stands, adjuncts aren't represented on any of the senates. They are getting really upset about this. It is not clear about how our adjunct faculty fits into this. The administration is thinking about creating an adjunct senate. The regular faculty isn't too keen on this idea because this diminishes their votes.
- ***2031:*** This is the NYU expansion – our tuition is not supposed to go up for that.

*Questions:*

- **One of the Trustees on the Board of Trustees is an exploitive CEO and has committed some labor violations. Is there an investigation into this?**
  - No.
- **How can we interact with the President of the University?**
  - The senate can ask questions to the President of the University, so you have questions present them to your senator.

## V. SBA WEBSITE UPDATES

*Details:* The SBA Website is under construction. Check it out! Ali Puente-Douglas (APD) and Victoria have been working hard. Here is what has happened on the website so far:

- Ali is already updating all of the out of date information and restructuring the pages of the SBA website
- Ali and Victoria are thinking about creating a possible Twitter feed for the website
- We want to update the outlines. The LLMs stressed that there are a lot of classes that have no outlines. They will compile a list of all the classes needed and try to track some outlines down for them.
- Some SBA members do not want to delete the resolutions that were last passed 5 years ago.