



New York University School of Law

Student Bar Association

SBA MEETING AGENDA

DATE: 10.24.12

TIME: 5:30 pm

ROOM: FH 326

ATTENDANCE

BOARD MEMBER	PRESENT	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED
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	X		
John Michael Grant, 1L Representative	X		
Julienne ("Jules") Merkel, 1L Representative		X	
Brooks Emanuel, 1L Representative	X		
David Giroux, Transfer Representative	X		
Daniel Echavarria, LLM Representative	X		
Rebeca Mosquera, LLM Representative	X		
Jose Ziebarth, LLM Representative	X		

AGENDA ITEMS

- Fall Ball Update
- Veterans Group
- Alternative Breaks Incentive Funding Request
- Budget Votes

- Social Chair Budget
- Twitter: @nyu_sba

NOTES

Fall Ball Update

- We found out that more than 1380 people registered for the Ball. The Administrators wanted SBA board members to watch out for people who might be a little too drunk and alert either security or EMS, depending what is necessary.
- We discussed several plans to help reverse the trend of drinking way too much. Our ideas included putting a band on a specific wrist or making people get a stamp. We also discussed giving everyone an extra ticket so that they won't have to leave to get more to drink. Because most people already had their pregames planned, we decided that our ideas will be most helpful for next year.
- The administration informed us that they would send a short email with some ground rules to the student body. They will lock the classrooms and discussed possibly handing out glow sticks.

Veterans' Rights Group (Garen Marshall)

- *Name of Group:* Students for the Education and Representation of Veterans (SERV)
- *Mission Statement/Purpose:* Although NYU Law is dedicated to public interest and government work, there are few veterans and no veterans' groups at school. They believe that the reason that veterans do not come to NYU Law is because they do not get any funding to come. State schools and Harvard have programs where veterans get to attend law school for free. This group will work with Admissions and other administrators to help recruit more veterans. The group will have three components:
 - Internal advocacy: working with the administration for funding, etc.
 - External advocacy: getting students that are not veterans or contractors to get involved with the group; work with veterans outside the school who are filing disability claims or other cases in the NY Veterans case
 - Events: events to bring attention to national security, law of armed conflict, etc.

- Proposed Events: 2 events in the Spring; maybe an annual luncheon with the Dean for the veterans to bring attention to these issues and possibly a speaker event. This group will not really have a lot of events. The focus will be on recruiting.
- *Statement of Interest*: 179 signatures on a petition; a lot of students have people in the armed forces and that they wanted to get involved
- *Other*: Recently, the Administration signed off on a funding program for veterans. It will be called the Yellow Ribbon Program. Whatever the school gives, the VA will match it. If you include the G.I. Bill, NYU will become free for veterans. There will also be a dedicated veterans liaison – an administrator. They have a lot of support from the Deans, Admissions and other administrative offices, they already have a faculty advisor (Sam Rascoff). They have also met with the head of the Urban Justice Center and want to speak with the City Bar’s Pro Bono services as well
- Vote: **Deferred to next meeting**

Incentive Funding Request for Alternative Breaks

- Alternative Breaks needs funding for their trips to Alaska, New Orleans, Charlotte and DC. They were given \$1500 in funding. They want \$3500 in incentive funding. In past years, they got \$5000 total. They had to cut a trip last year because the funding did not come through. Last year, all funding was denied. There have often been questions about whether we should fund.
 - December trips: 2 in New Orleans and 1 in DC
 - Spring trips: Charlotte and Alaska, Arizona and San Francisco
- Students already pay for food and housing, a lot of stuff “on the ground.” The trips are great opportunities for people to get hands-on experience. Each trip is about 8 to 10 people. They are trying to make it slightly bigger. The money will go to travel expenses and housing. It will be about \$1000 for one trip.
- They have about 120 students sign-up and apply just for the four trips over winter break. 100 people or more are turned away from the trip. People are selected through an application process. There is a set of criteria that former trip leaders use in selecting people.

- They are working with PILC to get more funding. They are also going to firms. Last year, they spent about \$12,000 total (but this was cutting out a trip and cutting the Spring trip in half).

Social Chair Budget

- The SBA wanted to decrease the total amount that the social chairs spend as a proportion of the budget so that more money could go to student groups. By fundraising from bar review and legal research companies, the proposed social budget for the year was ~\$5,000 less than the total amount spent by the social account last year.
- **Vote:** Passes
 - Yes: 19
 - No: 0
 - Abstain: 1

Criteria for judging incentive funding applications

- We wanted to establish some guidelines for when we approve incentive funding requests in order to make our approvals and denials fair and to increase transparency. We did not come to a decision on the guidelines. Here are some of the factors that we considered:
 - The amount of the request
 - Number of students attending or benefitting proportional to the cost
 - Advance notice of request (groups requesting over \$500 should plan to present their request at an SBA meeting at least a week ahead of the event)
 - Amount of money remaining in incentive funding
 - Necessity of the incentive funding, given the nature of the event (is additional funding needed for the event to happen or to be a success).
 - Necessity of the incentive funding, given the availability of other funds for the group, including: the groups' remaining balance from the initial SBA budget allocation, the groups' remaining balance from the annual rollover, other sources of funding within the law school and university, outside fundraising, and fees for admission to the event.
 - How many people are going to benefit from it
 - The uniqueness of the event
 - Contribution to the
 - intellectual life,
 - social life,

- community,
- providing services to the wider community, and
- networking between students and external organizations.
- Any requests over \$750 have to be in within the next month. Requests sent in after that will lose priority.
- **We will vote on a finalized proposal next meeting**

Note on the Record:

Adam creating an awareness blood drive with OutLaw. Email Adam if you are interested in working more on this.