

Student Bar Association

**SBA DEANS MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: 11/13/12

TIME: 11:00AM

ROOM: Snow Dining Room

 ***Hurricane Sandy.***

The SBA is working to aggregate and inform the student body of opportunities to engage in service. We're also fundraising for disaster relief, while emphasizing the importance of hands-on service

Administrators and faculty will also participate in the donation. Jeannie Forrest will email them Ben's email to inform them.

Sue Anderson has placed some phone calls to existing bar associations that have some programs about the opportunities to provide legal services to those affected by Hurricane Sandy. The information is already being compiled by the SBA and will be made available to the student body.

 ***The New Block Schedule.*** The block schedule will place an enormous burden on students in the weeks leading up to finals. Particularly the 1Ls are feeling overwhelmed. Why was this the option selected? Are there ways to reduce the burden and extra stress placed on students during an already stressful time? How hard did we push for the waiver from the ABA?

The Administration made it clear that they thought critically about the potential options for different schedules and balanced the interests of students, faculty and staff in arriving at the final solution.

The Administration emphasized that they understand the burden this new schedule places on students and they are confident that professors are also aware of the additional pressures on students. They made it clear that the whole Administration is here to work with us and want to make sure that everyone gets through this difficult time as well as possible.

*By the SBA: How about free coffee to help make earlier classes a little easier?*

Assistant Dean Fama from Student Affairs thought this was a great idea and agreed to find a way to make it happen.

*By the SBA: Could we change our exam postponement policy for consecutive exams to help relieve the burden on students?*

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The administration is worried about space and the amount of students that would want to postpone. Also, some professors don't want to grade until they get all the exams in. The administration will look into this. This is not an issue for 1Ls because their exams are spread out already.

 **Faculty/Dean Interaction.** How can we expose students to Dean Revesz?

**Ideas:** Coffee with the Dean; coming to events/areas where students already spend time; Reinstating the regular wine and cheese with the faculty?

Dean Revesz likes this idea of interacting more with the students. Arthur Fama has been thinking through a good strategy. Lance and Fama will start working on this. They will push to have a good proposal to be carried into effect next semester.

 **Revisiting Past Agenda Items.**

**1. The Pro Bono requirement. What progress have we made toward providing institutional support to SBA student groups?**

The Pro Bono Committee has been slow in providing clarity on what they mean by "supervision." It does not seem that they have laid out guidelines on times of quantity and quality of supervision. Other schools have also not gotten a response to their questions about supervision. Note that it is not the Pro Bono Committee that is unresponsive. To the contrary, they are very responsive. It is the new query system set up by the NY Court of Appeals that is slow to get back to people's questions. While they wait for a response, the administration is trying to calculate what "supervision" will be possible in view of the law school budget.

The administration is drafting an email, which will tell students what they can already start doing in order to satisfy their requirements. The people who have already filled their requirements will be able to fill out the necessary paperwork. This email should be sent within the next few weeks.

*By the SBA: Do you need the SBA's support?*

Not at the moment. It's a matter of waiting on the Pro Bono Committee before we can move full steam ahead. Note that lots of things are already moving forward.

**2. PILC Update re: resources and student needs**

They are hoping to have a new staff member by January.

**3. Academic Advising and the Career Pathways program**

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Paul O’Grady (“PG”) will be working on this mostly. They are still at the very beginning of this program. PG is going to talk to the faculty members about what their roles look like. PG wants us to know that he should be used as resource, i.e., he wants to hear the comments and suggestions from the students.

Dean Randy Hertz (“RH”) will also be doing outreach. RH wants to get information from each faculty group in order to put together a proposal to present to the faculty and the SBA. RH wants to make sure to cover all career tracks including public interest tracks. RH and PG want to gather all their information by the middle of December. Over Christmas week, they will aggregate and process the information to come up with a proposal. Then they will discuss with Lance.

RH hopes that this will not only be course advising, but also career advising from the moment you start law school. We want to provide information from the point of orientation all the way to graduation. They want to coordinate all the advice students get from professors with the advice they get from PILC, OCS, and adjuncts. They want to provide efficient information so students can make well-informed choices. This program also means that all students will have some kind of relationship to at least one person in the faculty.

*By the SBA: What about “technical advising,” which will focus more on the terms of graduation (like how many hours you need, the adjunct cap, etc.)?*

The administration is working on an automatic system that will allow students to see their progress in terms of the graduation requirements. There are some kinks, including how to calculate adjunct credits. The administration would like to have a system up and running by the spring. Anything that the SBA can do in order to make this happen, we would love to do.

Reminder to the students: There are a lot of opportunities for current interaction with faculty. Students should seize the opportunities their courses give them to reach out to faculty. Students should come to office hours. It is important for students to develop their networking skills. They can practice this by speaking to their professors. Students should not be afraid to email their professor if they can’t make office hours. Professors are happy to make accommodations to students.

### **Facilities.**

#### **1. Clean/Cold Water in Vanderbilt Hall**

The water in the fountain in Vanderbilt is clean but it is not refrigerated. Changing this is a big project, as it depends on the budget. A plumber is arriving within the next few weeks. The administration is also going to add in a sink near the lockers in Kushner Lounge so people can wash their dishes.

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### **2. ATM in Kushner**

It is still there, just in a different spot. Its been moved next to the soda machine.

### **3. TV channels in Kushner and Furman**

The administration is working on TV channels with the University. The University has two options: what they offer to the academic buildings and what they have to housing. These are two different types of channels and number of channels. The TVs in Kushner would have all the channels the housing will have. There will be a meeting next week, to get this up and running.

The TVs in Furman will also be updated at one point.

### **4. Coat-Check**

Coat-check will open at 8am. Our feedback on when it is not opening at time is very helpful. Sending an email to Lance is helpful when it is not open at 8:00.

### **5. The elevators in Furman**

The separate elevator banks, with the two different switches in Furman, slows down elevator service. The administration will look into this. There will be signs that says “walk instead of take the elevator.”

### **6. Temperature problems in the library connector and classrooms**

As far as the temperature in the library connector, the administration has turned off the AC. They are working with a contractor to set up some controls. The equipment is old, so the long-term project is to get an entirely new system. They don't have a timeline. They have eliminated the cold air coming in, which may be making this a little warm. They will keep us posted.

The classrooms are also hot. Just email the administration. The classrooms are on a different system from the library things. You can put in a request for heat/AC using the fix-it system. Once you put in the fix-it request, you can check the status of that request.

### **7. Class Recordings**

Thank you everyone for helping to get the class recordings done this week! There were a lot of people who could not get to school. Some professors did not allow the recordings and some just did not happen. This seems to be a small minority. We will chat more offline about the individual problems.