



Student Bar Association

SBA MEETING AGENDA

DATE: 1.29.13

TIME: 7:00pm

ROOM: FH 316

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

- Reach Budget, Max Feldman Presenting (5-10 minutes)
- NLG Questions about Reblaw funding, Geoff Wertime Presenting (5-10 minutes)
- Vagina Monologues Incentive Funding List (5 minutes)
- Second Semester Goals and Priorities, Lance (15-20 minutes)

- Voting on Meeting Times, Lance (5-10 minutes)
- PILF, Teva Schafner (5 minutes)
- Dean's Cup Budget (5 Minutes)
- Overcrowding in Classrooms, Brad Polina Attending (10 minutes)

NOTES

REACH Budget Request

- **Representative:** Max Feldman
- **General Information about REACH:** REACH is a student group that provides services to the indigent throughout the year, including during the summer. Some of the services include running a soup kitchen and helping people obtain personal identification.
- **Purpose of Presentation:** In the past, REACH has funded 4 stipends for their 4 summer volunteers. Each volunteer volunteered at the REACH clinic to provide services during the summer for 4 to 8 weekends. They spend about 3 to 3 ½ hours each time they are in the clinic. This year, the SBA decided to enforce its policy against "self-dealing," which means that it will not allocate money to a group for the purpose of paying the group members for any type of services.
- **Argument:** The stipends are used to incentivize students to volunteer their time during the summer and to make the commitment to serve each weekend stronger (because the person who accepts the money feels more compelled to fulfill his/her promise to volunteer). A smaller stipend than used in the past could suffice, but the money will be necessary. REACH is willing to work with the SBA to put procedures in place to rid concerns of self-dealing (e.g., initiating an open sign-up system). REACH is working with PILC for alternative sources of funding.
- **Questions from the SBA board:**
 - REACH has not asked for a formal commitment in the past in exchange for the stipend, but a general expectation is that the volunteer will work about 6 to 8 weekends over the summer.
 - REACH provides services all year long. It stops during exam time, but continues during winter break. Volunteers during the year and during winter break do not receive a stipend. Only the summer volunteers get a stipend because there is a smaller base of individuals during the summer and they need more of an incentive to get people to volunteer. One past REACH member said that having the funding really did incentivize her to go; she had a lot of work to do

- There was no formal application process in the past; This past year they used people on the board and then recruited some others. REACH is open to having an application
- How is REACH different from other groups?
- **Motion to approve funding for stipends**
 - **Y:** 0
 - **N:** 14
 - **A:** 1
 - **Motion Fails**
 - **Main Considerations:**
 - No developed procedures/application process
 - Not fair to other student groups who were denied funding for paying group members
 - Want to uphold our policy of no self-dealing

NLG Reblaw Funding Request

- **Representative:** Geoff Wertime and Leila Kang
- **General Information About RebLaw:** RebLaw, the Rebellious Lawyers Conference, is an annual, student-run conference hosted in New Haven Connecticut. This year, several NYU alum and professors will be present at the conference.
- **Purpose of the Presentation:** While RebLaw provides housing, it does not provide transportation for students wishing to attend and there is a registration fee. NLG is getting a group of students to go the conference but they do not have enough money in their budget or from other student group sponsors (which include WoCC, LALSA, OutLaw, LSRJ and Know Your Rights) to cover the cost of transportation and registration fees for the students. They would like to know if the SBA could help with funding.
- **Questions from the board:**
 - The entire cost of the trip will depend on how many people attend. Based on their estimate of the maximum number of people likely to RSVP, the number could range from \$1904 to \$2330. NLG has the money in its budget to pay for a substantial portion of this amount.
 - NLG could potentially get an extra \$200 from other co-sponsors who have not yet responded to their requests.
 - Last year NLG got money for the RebLaw trip from SBA.
 - Students will pay for food and any merchandise on their own.

- Students going to Reblaw tend to be doing public interest and are unlikely to have a lot of disposable income.
- NLG has not yet asked PILC for funding, but they have not traditionally sponsored them.
- **Motion to approve up to \$1000 in funding contingent on NLG reaching out to other sponsors, and telling Chase how much extra they raised. After that we will reimburse the difference between what they spent and how much they raised (NOTE: we will only pay for fees relating to transportation and registration).**
 - **Y: 15**
 - **N: 0**
 - **A: 0**
 - **Motion passes**

Vagina Monologues Incentive Funding Request

- **Representative:** Ali Puente-Douglas
- **General Information about the Vagina Monologues:** Each year there is an annual presentation of the Vagina Monologues. This year, the cast and crew is composed of 38 people, from different NYU schools. This year they have made several changes. First, they were able to expand their funding sources. Second, they have added a third night and are experimenting with new merchandise, including T-shirts! They hope to sell 1000 tickets (sold 700 last year). Co-sponsors include DVAP, Law Women, BALSAs, Outlaw, ALA, WoCC, Med School, and Wagner.
- **Purpose of Presentation:** The Vagina Monologues is asking the SBA for \$980 to cover the difference between what they intend to spend, what is in their budget and what they have raised from other sponsors.
- **Questions from the board:**
 - 100% of the ticket sales go to charity organizations. In fact, it is against the copyright rules of the Vagina Monologues to use the proceeds to cover the costs.
 - Tickets are \$10 a ticket. Last year, they raised \$7,000.
 - Half of the cast/crew are not in law school, but the play will be hosted at the law school.
- **Motion to approve full funding request of \$980.**
 - **Y: 14**
 - **N: 0**
 - **A: 1**
 - **Motion passes**

Voting on Meeting Times

- Each semester, the SBA picks a day and time to have its weekly meetings. This semester, schedules have been more complicated to coordinate, so we had to put the meeting time to a vote. There are four options:
 - Every Monday from 4 to 5
 - Every Tuesday from 7 to 8
 - Every Wednesdays from 6 to 7
 - Alternating each week from Monday, to Tuesday, to Wednesday, and so on.
- **Motion to have SBA meetings on one day instead of multiple days in order to avoid confusion about meeting times.**
 - **Y: 12**
 - **N: 3**
 - **A: 0**
 - **Motion passes**
- **Motion to have SBA meetings every Monday from 4 to 5pm.**
 - **Y: 9**
 - **N: 6**
 - **A: 0**
 - **Motion passes**

Budget Matters

- **PILF**
 - **Motion to approve the same amount that was granted last year.**
 - **Y: 15**
 - **N: 0**
 - **A: 0**
 - **Motion passes**
- **Dean's Cup**
 - **Motion to grant them an additional \$250 and their budget from last year.**
 - **Y: 9**
 - **N: 3**
 - **A: 0**
 - **Motion Passes**

Overcrowding in Classrooms

- **Representative:** Brad Polina
- **Purpose of Presentation:** 2 of Brad's classes this semester are overcrowded. That is, in many of his seminars 40 people are crammed into a tiny room. A student wishing to get a seat at the table must arrive 20 minutes early. He believes that everyone deserves a seat at the table and that a larger classroom or smaller class sizes would benefit his educational experience. He emailed Randy Hertz about it, but has not seen any change.
- **Questions from the SBA board:**
 - The problem is not really that the class sizes are too big. The main issue is that is that there are not enough seats in the classrooms. He finds this issue primarily in seminars.
 - Seminar professors want the table, not a lecture hall.
 - There may not be better rooms available.
 - Will seminar professors have to give up the "table"?
- **Next steps:** The SBA has decided to form a committee composed of Jules, Patrick, John and Brad. They will figure out how many classes have this problem and try to address it with the administration class-by-class.