



New York University School of Law

Student Bar Association

**SBA MEETING AGENDA**

DATE: 04/10/12

TIME: 7:00PM

ROOM: FH 318

**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		
Charlotte Slaiman, 2L Representative	X		
Stew Gilson, 2L Representative	X		
Adam Saper, 2L Representative	X		

**Non-Board Members Present:**

Ali-Puente Douglas

1) Potential agenda items for this month's SBA Dean's Meeting (where the SBA meets with Dean Revesz and the rest of the Administration)

-  **Background:** Dean Revez asked to meet with Lance and really wants to be involved with SBA. Last year, we only had 1 Deans meeting. This was less than in previous years. Dean wants to meet with us about once a month next year. In fact, we plan to have a regular meeting time set up every month with the Dean (e.g., every third Tuesday of the month).
-  **Goal of this discussion:** We will have our first Deans meeting **next Tuesday, April 17, 2012 from 11-12pm (location TBD)**. We used the majority of this general body meeting to discuss potential topics we would like to raise with the Deans. The list we come up with will only be the beginning of a running list to which other students will be able to contribute. Starting from the Thursday email, we will ask students to add their concerns to the list.
-  **Strategy:** We can't go into the Deans meeting spouting off a list of unorganized demands. We must time when we ask for certain things, as many of our concerns call for

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long-term solutions while countless others can be corrected right away. When the members of the student body contribute to our running list of potential topics, they should be aware that we have discretion to choose when and how we will raise the issue with the Dean.

### List of Topics:

- *Gender parity and diversity.* How can we continue to push this issue?
- *Updates on the candidate search for the PILC Director and the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.*
  -  Why is Deb Ellis Leaving?
  -  The administration's handling of the situation was less than optimal. For example, they announced that she was leaving on the day of the PILC Auction. It seems that their entire approach has been "tone deaf." We would like the administration to better address this issue, because they have not done so up to this point.
- *Better communication between the students and the administration.* It is unclear whether students feel that they are getting too many emails from the SBA or not. Some students have indicated that they liked it better when they got one serious email from the SBA and then another email giving the details of Thursday night's bar review. It is clear that many students were annoyed when school-wide emails were used as a forum for disputes between individuals.
  -  Someone raised the point that there are many University resources that people at the law school never hear about (e.g., the university apparently has a bike exchange). How can we be sure that we are taking advantage of all the resources the entire University has to offer?
  -  At this point in the conversation, we debated whether or not the administration should take more of a role in apprising us of all the opportunities available to us through the various schools that make up NYU. One point made was that we don't want the administration to take too large of a role in our affairs because we want autonomy.
  -  With that in mind, we decided to not raise this issue at the Dean's meeting. Instead, Patrick Totaro, Student Senator, will try to use his position to increase his exposure to the different parts of the university and learn what resources are available to law students. He will bring this information back to SBA meetings, where we will decide how to distill the information and present it to the student body. In fact, we will probably add a link on the SBA website that will show students what is going on at the University. We are of the opinion that students want to know what is going on at the University, rather than just the law-school, level.
- *Student Access to WILF hall.* There was talk that students were going to be able to enter WILF hall freely, yet we are still unable to do so. What's up? We will ask Dean Revez to fix this.
- *Internet in the dorms and on campus.* What is going on with the WiFi here? It goes out constantly or is slow. Is there anything we can do to improve this?

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- In order to prepare this point, Charlotte, Stew and Patrick will request a meeting with IT to find out what can possibly be done.
- *Proper Bike Racks.* Right now, people are chaining their bikes longways, which takes up a lot of space. The school should provide more resources so that students can leave their bikes without preventing other students from doing the same.
- *Notice/Input in large purchasing decisions that will affect student life.* Ever wonder why the school bought those insanely uncomfortable chairs in Furman Hall with the desk attached to it. We would like to know when the school is deciding to purchase things that will directly affect our well-being at the school, such as tables, chairs, and desks. Ultimately, it's our money that is paying for it.
- *Planning to buy new library chairs.* Lance asked for new library chairs this year, but the administration could only afford to reupholster them. This did not help much with how comfortable the chairs are. We would like to go ahead and put the steps in motion for buying completely new chairs. Even if the school does not have the money now, we would like them to start budgeting for it so that we can get them later.
- *Student Request.* Here are some requests that were either made informally by a student to a board member or were simply overheard "through the grapevine."
  - Handryers in the bathrooms because paper towels are wasteful.
    - Some of us on the board don't like handryers because they are really slow. Our decision was to compromise and ask for one of each, i.e., one handryer and one paper towel dispenser.
  - Academic advisors
    - Technically, there are already two systems for Academic Advising. The first is a group of professors who have volunteered to help students who email them plan their schedules. The second is an administrative team. People complain that they either don't know about these resources or that they are not helpful at all.
    - We will request that the administrative team have office hours where students could walk in and get the help they need immediately (as opposed to having to wait a few weeks, as one board member had to).
  - Changing our system of choosing classes.
    - ABRA is really complicated and does not accurately reflect our preferences. We want a different system. We will discuss this topic, as well as our other IT concerns in general terms with the Deans.
  - Reducing the cost of graduation.
    - We all agree that there should be a way for graduation to be really cheap/free.
- *Thank yous.* We feel that the Dean's meeting would be an appropriate occasion for us to thank some of the staff and administrators who have helped us this past year. Some of the people we would like to recognize are:

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- ✚ The admissions team for all the work they have done on Admitted Students Days
- ✚ The IT staff for improving the computers in Furman Hall. Darren Phelps, in particular, was instrumental in getting this accomplished.



### Notes:

- We would like to get student groups together before the Deans meeting to discuss the gender parity issue so that we can better refine our discussion.
- We would like to start engaging in a conversation with our peers about what they would like to see in terms of improving the communication from the administration to the student body.
- What's going on with the SBA website? Right now we are having a lot of trouble with IT. Scot Goins has made it his priority to have the website issues resolved before the end of the year. He envisions setting up a Calendar, some exchange mechanism that will replace Coases, a Blog for the SBA, and other cool features.
- Our Facebook page is launched!! And Twitter is soon to follow!

### 2) Appointing 2L and 3L Representatives to the three open positions

- ✚ **Background:** We did not have enough people run for all the 2L and 3L Representative positions. To fill these vacancies, the Constitution provides that the President may appoint students with the advice and consent of the rest of the board. Lance sent out an email last week asking interested students to send him a short personal statement and a paragraph explaining why they wanted the position. Lance has already chosen three individuals to fill the spots. Lance stressed that he had an unprecedented response from the student body. In making his decisions, he tried to compose a board that would better reflect the student body as whole and that would be exceptionally qualified.
- ✚ **Outcome:** Some board members felt that they could not vote at tonight's meeting without having read the personal statements of the candidates. After some debate and a vote, we decided to postpone the appointment until **Friday, April 13, 2012**. Immediately following our meeting, Lance sent us the names and personal statements of all the candidates and indicated which ones were his pick. This will enable us to be better prepared to offer our consent on Friday.
- ✚ **Notes:** Note that board members only have the authority to grant or withhold their consent to the nominees chosen by Lance. They have no authority to nominate specific individuals. On Friday, Lance will tell us about the person he chose and why he chose that person. If the nominee gets more than 50% of the vote, they are appointed.

### 3) Potential changes to the Constitution and By-Laws

- ✚ We did not discuss this topic.

### 4) Setting SBA goals for 2012-2013

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- ✚ We decided that this topic was adequately addressed through our discussion of what we wanted to discuss at the upcoming Deans meeting.

### 5) Officer updates

#### ✚ **Budget Committee – Speaker: Chase Dalton, Treasurer**

- Chase gave the board an update on how the planning for the Budget Committee is coming along. The Committee will be comprised of students who are not on the SBA who will review the budget proposals from the student groups. Chase has come up with an application form that he will send out to the student body.
- In all, Chase does not imagine that we will turn any interested students away, given the volume of applications available. In the event that the number of students we have is enormous, we may have to exclude people based on some criteria. We will cross that bridge when we get there.
- Hannah Rodgers asked whether students who put on large, successful events last year could somehow get around the 130% rule. We weren't sure how the rule worked and decided to consult the Treasurer Handbook before making decisions on this issue.

#### ✚ **Social Chairs**

- The Social Chairs were supposed to give an update as well, but because they were absent, they will speak at the next meeting.

\* These notes were prepared on April 11, 2010. They are a condensed version of the original notes the Secretary took during the meeting.