



New York University School of Law

Student Bar Association

SBA MEETING AGENDA

DATE: 9.12.12

TIME: 5:30-6:30 pm

ROOM: FH 336

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		

AGENDA ITEMS

- Discussion of using “Reddit” with or instead of Coases, presented by Andrew Neidhardt
- Approving student groups
 - Native American Law Student Association, represented by Helen Poitra-Chalmers
 - AGL-NYU Mentoring Program, represented by Steven Sasmor
- Setting the calendar and guidelines for 1L Rep and LLM elections
- Conducting a survey to see if the NYU Law student body is satisfied with the SBA, presented by Joe Tevelowitz

NOTES

I. DISCUSSION OF “REDDIT”

Recap of the Presentation:

- *History of the current system:* Right now we are using Lyris for Coases. This is a very old system developed in 1994 and is just a basic listserv. The problems with listservs include: (1) they are too broad and (2) some people don't respond because they assume that someone else will (called "The Interstate Effect").
- *What is Reddit?:* At Andrew's undergrad, they had a Reddit page. This system allows people to post things that others can either "vote up" or "vote down." Things that are "voted up" go to the top of the page. You would "vote up" something that you think is useful or relevant to the student body. Note that you would vote based on what you think is relevant, not what you are interested in.
- *What would Reddit do?:* Reddit would be a useful means of posting topics that may only apply to a small set of students, without flooding everyone else's inbox.

Questions from the SBA:

- *Could Reddit be accessed from a mobile phone?* Yes, there is an App.
- *What if you require a timestamped message?* You could specify in your posting that people need to respond to you by sending a message rather than a normal Reddit post.
- *What would be Reddit's purpose if we still have Coases?* Coases basically has two functions: (1) to sell, find, or buy; and (2) to relay general information (e.g., "There is Thai food in Golding Lounge."). At this meeting, we did not decide exactly how we would set up Reddit in relation to Coases. There was some indication that Coases should be kept in order to relay general information, whereas Reddit could be used only to sell, buy and find things. There were other ideas that Reddit should just be used as a discussion center where students can chat about things that are important. There would need to be a lot more discussion about what Reddit would be used for and what Coases would be used for and how we would make sure that students know how to use each.
- *Do we feel comfortable with people voting for things they think is important?* Open to discussion.
- *Will people feel more inclined to post things that are offensive if they are allowed to post things anonymously?* We could have moderators who could take down offensive posts.

Reddit also allows users to self-police by “voting down” any posts are offensive. If something is “voted down” a lot of times, it will not show up on the website.

- *Will Reddit be open to people outside of NYU?* No.
- *Do we have too many websites? We already have facebook pages and Coases. Do we really need another site?* This is still open for discussion. There was some discussion about encouraging people who are annoyed by the volume of emails on Coases to use the Coases “digest functions.” There was also a proposal to ask students who want to sell, buy or find things to email a moderator who would then send out a mass email once a day. Note that ITS is already thinking about getting rid of Coases. In fact, they already had a focus group on it (open to the student body) on 9/12/12.

Last Thoughts/Decisions

We will better advertise the next school-wide focus group regarding this issue and send an SBA delegate to work with ITS.

One possibility coming out of the meeting is to have Coases for time sensitive announcements; have one consolidated email go out each day with all buy, sell, give away posts; and Reddit for discussions.

II. APPROVING NEW STUDENT GROUPS

Native American Law Student Association (NALSA)

- Representative: Helen Poitra-Chalmers
- Mission Statement/Purpose: On file with SBA Secretary (i.e., speaker provided handout which I have a copy of and would be happy to provide to interested parties)
- Proposed Events for the Year: On file with SBA Secretary
- Statement of Interest: Conducted a survey and 20 people said they were interested, 4 said they would be interested in helping to set up the group and in being officers
- Other: All the IVY League Schools have a NALSA Chapter, so this is not just some esoteric interest
- **Vote to make this a student group:** Y: Unanimous N:0

AGL-NYU Mentoring Program

- Representative: Steven Sasmor
- Mission Statement/Purpose: To provide emotional, professional and academic advice to high school students in the Urban Assembly program

- Proposed Events for the Year: There will be a series of workshops throughout the year on topics including resumes, interview skills, public speaking and the upcoming elections. There will also be a community service project. Mentors are also encouraged to interact with their mentees outside the organized sessions.
- Statement of Interest: There were 7 mentors last year and 20 more people expressed interest in the group at the Student Fair. They hope/expect to have about 17 mentors total this year.
- Other: The SBA funding may possibly go to mentors who go to other schools, like Wagner. Wagner contributes some money to the group, but we will have to consider this when we are approving the budget for this group.
- **Vote to make this a student group:** Y: Unanimous N: 0

III. LLM/1L REP ELECTIONS

Amending a Bylaw

- The bylaws stated that the elections should last for a total of 3 weeks. The packets would be sent out. The first week no campaigning could occur. Then the candidates would have 2 weeks to campaign.
- If we followed this system, the elections would not be completed until mid-October if we want to have the elections on a Monday or Tuesday. We want to have the elections on a Monday or Tuesday because students tend not to pay attention/participate in elections held at the end of the week.
- Therefore, we voted unanimously to amend the bylaws to change the time line of elections.

The New Bylaw

The Bylaw used to read:

9.1.3 The Election Coordinator shall make the election packets available on the SBA board and at the SBA office at least three (3) weeks before the election for the election of 2L and 3L representatives, and for the executive board.

The Bylaw now reads:

The Election Coordinator shall make the election packets available on the SBA board and at the SBA office at least two (2) weeks before the election for 1L and LLM representatives.

Effect of the Change

- The election packets will be sent out either Thursday (9/13) or Friday (9/14). The packets will be due Friday (9/21).
- Under the new bylaws, the candidates can start campaigning on Friday 9/21, so they still have a week to campaign. The only thing that was changed was that there is no longer an extra week to collect signatures.

IV. SBA SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Basic Idea:

- Essentially, we want to send out a survey to see if the SBA is serving the student body well. Some people do not think that the SBA events represent their interests. For example, some students who do not drink think that the SBA does not have fun events for them. We would like to host events that targets everyone, for example, hosting a Dave and Busters' event where we give everyone a \$5 game card instead of drink tickets, and people can go to the bar if they would like.

Last Thoughts/Decisions:

- Joe, Ben, Lance and Morgan will draft a survey that will be sent to the student body.