

Student Bar Association

**SBA MEETING AGENDA**

**DATE:** 2/19/13

**TIME:** 4:00 pm

**ROOM:** FH 910

**AGENDA ITEMS**

- Old Business
  - **Vote on SLAP Incentive Funding Request**
  - **TA System Concerns**, Vanish Grover
  - **Bylaws Presentation**, Patrick Totaro and Mat Ahn
- New Business
  - **Defender Collective Presentation**, Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez
  - **Peer Advisors Program**, Joe

**NOTES**

**Defender Collective Presentation**, Elizabeth Daniel Vasquez

- **Mission Statement/Purpose:** A lot of people interested in criminal defense issues and classes don't give you practical skills. This club is meant to be a space for people to discuss these issues and to get practical training. Club is having practitioners come in and train and discuss practical skills.
- **Proposed Events:**
  - Last semester they held 2 events. This semester, there are 6 events involving practitioners in the works on the weekends. They are also thinking about doing these social nights with people in the group where they take sample problems and talk them through
  - The events consist of 2-part sessions. The first part involves a talk from the practitioner. The second part is when they have breakout groups to practice skills. These events are great networking opportunities.
- **Statement of Interest:** 35 people are already involved (about 20 -25 people show up) and they are anticipating that it will grow. Membership will not be capped.
- **Other:** No other groups do anything like this
- **Motion to approve as a student group pending that they get their Constitution**

- **Y: unanimous**
- **N: 0**
- **A: 0**
- **Motion Passes**
- **Motion to approve budget request of \$251**
  - **Y: unanimous**
  - **N:0**
  - **A:0**
  - **Motion Passes**

### **SLAP Incentive Funding Request**

- Recap: SLAP = group that does flag football and softball
- We were able to find some vans that were slightly cheaper.
- Concerns over teams not showing up to the games (an incident happened last year).
- **Motion to vote on granting incentive funding request with a stipulation that SLAP work with David to find cheaper costs of transportation**
  - Y: 13
  - N:1
  - A:1
  - **Motion passes**
- **Motion to vote on a stipulation that SLAP strongly encourage the teams to show up for all the games they are supposed to play in**
  - Y: 10
  - N: 4
  - A: 1
  - **Motion passes**

### **Bylaws Overhaul**

- Last semester Mat and Patrick went through the bylaws and went through it to update them. Their goal was to make the bylaws reflect our current practices. None of the changes are official. 2/3 of the SBA board must vote to approve these changes and they are still waiting to work on the treasurer and financial committee sections.
- The plan is to send the bylaws to a larger committee before bringing a final proposal to the entire SBA board. This larger committee would sit down at a long meeting and dig in to every section of the bylaws. What comes out of the meeting will be the set of proposed

changes that we bring to the entire SBA (like what we did with the incentive funding requirements).

- The only section that will be substantive will be the treasurer section. We could change the incentive funding processes, for instance. Would we like as a body to use this opportunity to make big sweeping changes to the way the treasurer does things?
  - Stew: Happy to make things more streamlined, by making groups request all the money they will need in their budget request and using the incentive funding as really only an emergency account for small things that pop up. Would like a solution to make the incentive request process easier. However, this system would require more time upfront with the budgets. Chase does a tremendous amount of work, some of which should be done by the administration. Chase should get a credit for the work that he does or some sort of compensation.
  - David: Likes the idea of overhauling the system so that we move to a format where we are approving a budget that we know the group will use and to get the student leaders to think early on and to plan early on about the events that they will put on for the year. This should make things easier not only for us but also for student affairs.
  - Charlotte: One of the reasons that incentive funding is important is that sometimes there are across the board cuts. Some groups shouldn't be cut and we want the events to go on, so we still need the incentive funding to help out those groups and those events who will be hurt by an across-the-board cut (should one happen).
  - David: There are a lot of events that the groups know they will do every year.
  - Lance: All of the big ticket items know they will happen every year and they all know that they will need incentive funding. These events are definitely predictable.
  - Vanish: We do have to change some things. Many groups come to us the week before the event, after students have already spent money on it.
  - Stew: We could do a middle ground, where the budgets are proposed, and when we know a group is going to do a big event, we could put these groups on a fast-track.
  - Lance: Or we could start approving budgets, so that the cap on the increase can be based on the total amount of money the SBA gave you, including the incentive funding. This should solve the problem there.
  - David: will email his proposal for the treasurer section amendments. We could characterize some groups as an "institutional event," and base our funding on this classification scheme.

- **Resolution:** we should decide on what changes to make once we send this section to the committee. The committee can institutionalize the process we already use or it can reform the system and take away some of the problems we have seen. Right now is not the time to make the changes. If we don't like what is proposed, we can vote the changes down.

### **TA System**

- Vanish is going to talk to the 1Ls offline and then come back to this topic at the next meeting.

### **Motion to approve \$300 for t-shirts for the school for the all-University games**

- **Y: 11**
- **N: 0**
- **A: 2**
- **Motion Passes**

### **Peer Advisor Program**

- Opportunity for 2Ls and 3Ls to mentor 1Ls for all types of topics (mental health concerns, jobs, networking, balancing school with extra-curriculars).
- We need more 2Ls and 3Ls so representatives should try to drum up more support.
- Are we over mentored already? There are PILC reps and LawWomen Reps.
- This year is just the pilot program. We aren't going to counsel anyone; we are just going to help guide 1Ls to the appropriate person.

### **Increasing interaction with faculty**

- Some proposals might go forward this semester
- What is currently happening? All faculty members have a budget to take students to lunch or coffee. Only 1L teachers are mandated to use it. The upper classes don't have to do it. 2Ls and 3Ls typically don't get any lunch or anything with professors
- 1Ls:
  - Mostly teachers take people out to lunch.
  - Some professors will buy students a drink.
  - Some professors invite small groups to their house.
  - Some professors have lunch ordered into a conference room in the law school and they have lunch there.
  - Visiting professors don't always know that they have a budget for taking students out. To find out if a professor has a budget, one should email Randy Hertz.

- Is it a problem if a professor doesn't offer to take students out for lunch?

### **Be careful with the SBA outline bank**

- This is a tool that should be used as a supplement to the student's own work. It is not approved by professors. Students should not rely on it for 100% accuracy.
- Students can't plagiarize. No student should copy word-for-word from an SBA outline onto a test.
- Sharon will draft strong language to add to the top of the bank.

### **Additional Topics:**

- Jon is having a meeting with housing on Tuesday at 4pm. The meeting will be about how to better get information about housing out (also a way to get communication better between administration and students). Talk to John if you want to add something to the agenda.
  - Some suggested agenda topics are:
    - Add heaters to the terrace so they are useful for the entire school year
    - Might want to brainstorm alternatives to knock-on-doors night.
    - Might mention that they should talk to their employees about fire drills because they don't encourage people to leave.
- Sometimes in Coles it is confusing to know when one has right to play basketball on the court. Would it be a good idea to add a white board? Vanish has a friend in Coles who can tell us who to contact. We could also ask Patrick, student senator, to see if he can get the white board.
- SBA website has the election materials. Can we take these things down (probably need a vote)? We have some from 5 years ago.
  - **Motion to keep the current statements (for this year) up and take off the people who did not win**
    - **Explanation: voting to archive anything prior to the current board's statements, and take anyone off that did not win**
    - **Y: 12**
    - **N: 2**
    - **A: 0**
    - **Motion passes**