

Student Bar Association

SBA MEETING AGENDA

DATE: 2/13/13

TIME: 6:00 pm

ROOM: FH 310

AGENDA ITEMS

- Presentation from Bruce White, Director of Special Events re: pricing for student group events (15 Minutes)
- SLAP Incentive Funding Request, Jacquelyn Bradford (5 minutes)
- Assessment of the TA System, Vanish Grover (10 minutes)
- LLM Scholarship Concerns, Jose (10 minutes)

NOTES

Costs of Special Events, Presentation from Bruce White, Yasmin, and Sue Anderson

- Representatives from Student Affairs and Hospitality Services came to the SBA to explain some of the prices they charge student groups. As a general matter, Hospitality Services helps with an array of events, over 1800 a year. It costs a lot to put these events on, but they try to keep the prices as low as possible for students.
 - Key takeaway: when a student group is planning an event, go to Sue Anderson in Student Affairs first before doing anything else. She can help to anticipate problems and has a ton of institutional knowledge about how to plan really successful events.
 - To use an event space, you always have to pay \$105 upfront. If you want to use Lipton after hours you also have to pay a guard fee. This is to protect students living in student housing.
 - They offer some services free of charge. For instance, they offer some spaces for free, like Wachtell (café closes at 3pm so may be a great room to use), the Poe room, Kushner lounge, the classrooms, Sexton Lounge, and the wings in Golding Lounge.
 - They are also open to working with individual student groups to lower prices. They try to negotiate the price of food as low as possible. If a group needs to

negotiate lower prices, the person to go to is Sue Anderson. One must be sure to go to her well in advance of the event.

- They are limited on how many discounts they can give on food, spaces, and set up because the costs are determined by the union fees. The union fees are non-negotiable.
- One can reduce the costs through the “Pick-Up Program.” You can order food online from the student “Pick-Up Program” menu. You can go on and select food and then you pick it up and take it to the location. You save money with regards to waiters’ fees and set-up. You pick it up in Wachtell or in Golding.
 - If there is not food on the menu that you want, hospitality services can work with you. Example, they can get Indian food and kosher food, etc.
- Student Affairs is trying to purchase things to save student groups money. For example, they are accumulating purple and white tablecloths, serving dishes, cash boxes, clear frames, etc.
- One reason why prices can be so high is that they get a lot of last minute requests for food. They are not trying to rip students off. They subsidize a lot of costs, like when flowers are delivered or when there are guards. The only thing that they try to make money on is food and drink.
- Event planning best practices guide is available online on the school website and was distributed at the student group meeting (contains information about sponsorship and other critical information). They may send it out as a pdf to all student leaders. Maybe the SBA can create a 1-pager that we can send to everyone who has questions about planning events and sponsorship.
 - We may want to have an SBA board position designated specifically for interfacing with student groups and events administration
- The SBA Board was especially concerned about the big annual events that cost upwards of \$9000, such as the WoCC Alumni Banquet, and SALSA and LALSA Ball. How do these events get so expensive? What are the primary expenses on these events and how can we be more cost-effective? SALSA and LALSA are in Greenburg.
 - They have a wait staff fee and a booking fee (\$105). These events bring in outside food and they are supposed to have 25% fee for this, but Hospitality Services does not charge that. The majority of the expenses is the wait staff.
 - LALSA Ball – charges for the coat check – is that a necessary expense? The school is liable for things stolen so they want a coat check.
- There is a sentiment that things costs too much, but it is about choices. All groups should strive to make better choices because the administration is willing to work with them to

meet the needs of their budgets. We need to be making sure that all of our groups go to Sue Anderson first. Then Sue has to make sure that the groups know their goals, their budgets, and their options, so they can make informed choices.

- There was a suggestion by the administration that the SBA amend its policies so that groups that host fundraising events (for charities) use the money they raise first to pay for any incentive funding they asked for in order to put on the event before donating the money they raise at the event to the charity. This is a best practice for any fundraising event. Recognizing that this would require an entire culture change at NYU law and would impact not only student groups, but also the charities they care about, the SBA board decided to table this discussion for another time.

SLAP Incentive Request, Jacquelyn Bradford

- SLAP requested additional funding from the SBA for its annual softball tournament. This money would cover transportation cost, gas, cab fare (to pick up the vans), and equipment (bats, balls, first aid supplies, snacks). The trip is over 2 days long and over 40 schools go. 118 NYU law students are signed up to go. 60 of these students will ultimately be selected for the trip. In deciding who will go, they want to give priority to 3Ls, but also want a diversity of students (so a healthy mix of 1Ls and 2Ls). To decide who will go, they will look at a number of factors like how early the student signed up, who can drive, and diversity.
- Alternate sources of funding:
 - Barbri donated over \$3000 and they have reached out to Bloomberg.
 - They were advised against reaching out to law firms by the development office.
 - They have not asked Westlaw and Lexis.
 - Each student pays \$50 out of pocket to cover some costs. They could raise the price, but they don't want this trip to be too cost-prohibitive for certain students.
- Not everyone has to play and they can come even if they are not good at softball
- **MOTION: N/A, we couldn't vote because we didn't have quorum**

PILC needs to send an email to the 1Ls telling them that FAFSA is due for PILC funding. SBA advocated for the 1Ls and PILC decided to extend the deadline.

All University Games

- Need to get t-shirts. Vanish is working on design and pricing
- We have a lot of 1Ls, but they are giving LLMs and 3Ls priority

- Next Tuesday and Wednesday they are going to send around a Google Doc with the banner in Golding and people can just come up and decorate it however they want

Assessment of TA Systems

- 1L TAs are chosen by the professors unilaterally. There is no training and each professor runs the program drastically differently.
- A big problem is that it is unclear what role the TA is meant to play. We may want to incorporate a mentoring element into the TA role. We may also want to have a brief teaching session where we teach them how to speak effectively and make a PowerPoint.
- We want to push the administration to set out what their goals are for the TAs so that the professors can develop procedures and goals that are standard. It would be a good idea to make professors make TAs check in with a small group of students (like 10 or so) each week.
- We will table this discussion for next week.

Things for the SBA to have on its radar:

- **BYLAWS:** The proposal is basically about ready. They need to have a meeting with Chase about some treasury things. They will shoot to have a proposal at the meeting next time. Some of the changes are drastic, to bring them in line with what we already do.
- **INCREASED FACULTY INTERACTION:** There are some ideas floating around to get faculty involved with students in a more informal way. It will be our job to facilitate these events and come up with the details of the programming.
- **PATHWAYS:** Frustrated that SBA is not playing a role in the implementation of the pathways. The professors don't have enough of a say in it either. We want to form a working group on this.

ADJOURNED