



Student Bar Association

SBA MEETING AGENDA

DATE: 2/4/13

TIME: 4:00 pm

ROOM: FH 210

AGENDA ITEMS

- **Housing Issues**, John Grant (friend?) (5-10 minutes)
- **LSRJ Budget**, Chelsea Stevens (5 minutes)
- **The University's policy regarding Exam4 malfunctions**, Sindhu Boddu (5-10 minutes)
- **WoCC Banquet Incentive Funding Request**, Inn-Young Park (5 minutes)
- **Second Semester Goals and Priorities**, Lance Polivy (10 minutes)
- **Setting the Deans Meeting Agenda**, Lance Polivy (10 minutes)
- **Student Services Survey**, Joe (5 minutes)
- **LLM Scholarship Concerns**, Jose (5 minutes)

NOTES

Housing Issues, John Grant (Winston) (5-10 minutes)

- **Issue:** A lot of people in section 3 and section 1 and some other 1L sections had some issues with the way housing for next year is communicated to us.
 - First email was the 23th of January (6 days before deadline). The first notification a lot of people had was two days for people without exceptions. People didn't think it was that clearly communicated. In the email of the 23rd and you really had to scroll down past the bottom to see that there was an imminent deadline. Subject of email said 2013-2014 and this led him to not look at this seriously.
 - Does the process have to be so early? This seems like a major decision and maybe the break would have been a better time to work this out. In NYU undergrad they didn't do this stuff until at least march.
- **SBA Board Discussion:**
 - 6 days may not be enough time to make a meaningful decision about where someone will live. The next step should be for John and Winston to talk to

housing and see if that deadline can be pushed back and figure out why the deadline was now in the first place and what we can do to fix it.

- People shouldn't per se worry about housing, they are really accommodating
- Housing is not binding until April so if anyone was unsure they can just make sure to sign up and they can cancel before April.

LSRJ Budget, Chelsea Stevens (5 minutes)

- **Issue:** LSRJ asking for \$1800 for their budget.
- **SBA Board Discussion:** They turned in their budget late (just recently). As such, Treasurer recommends counting them as a mid-year group and capping their budget at \$500. There is a rule in the bylaws that groups that started midyear must be capped at \$500 for their total allocation for the year. The following year they can get \$1500, which is the minimum cap for a continuing group, which LSRJ sort of is but they didn't send in anything until the end of last semester.
- **Motion to allow \$500 for LSRJ and prorate at 50% for SERVE and Health Law**
 - Y: 12
 - N: 0
 - A: 1

The University's policy regarding Exam4 malfunctions, Sindhu Boddu (5-10 minutes)

- **Issue:** What happens when you're in an exam and a computer malfunctions, with suggestions as to what we could do differently.
 - **Sindhu:** We should talk to the Dean about changing policy with exam 4 malfunction. During my first exam (torts exam 4 hours), everything on the screen disappeared and I told the proctor and they checked the computer. She was taken to the alternate test room and they figured it was a problem with her laptop, which proved not to be the case. Nothing worked and she had to start a new exam. **It's written into their policy that for some reason they can't access what you've already written.**
 - It was just an exam 4 malfunction where the file just corrupted and happens really rarely. Putting one student and not allowing them to complete the exam properly is unfair. Talked to Academic services, unless the professor says that it affected their exam. It's not about the grading, but its about giving students the opportunity ... we should have alternatives. Maybe allowing them to retake exam from beginning or allowing them to write onto the administrative copy.
 - Ultimately she had 4 hours but she couldn't access what she had written before.

- **SBA Board Discussion:**

- Academic Services writes the policy and IT implements the policy so we need to go to academic services. It seems to be a matter of getting people from academic services and IT in a room with us. Ideally they would copy the text into the new essay and they could keep going. They could see in the log file what happened probably and that when they opened the most recent backup that the screen was blank in the next backup.
- What if you need to reference something written before, or that you need to change something?

WoCC Banquet Incentive Funding Request, Nicole Escobar (5 minutes)

- **Issue:** Requesting \$2000 in incentive funding for the WoCC Young Alumni Banquet.
 - Last year the banquet cost \$9000. This is their key event of the year. It is held in Lipton, features a 3 course meal, and they invite alums and faculty. There is a Keynote speaker and they give out an award. They fundraise for the event. They have reached out to some firms and have \$3000 committed to date.
 - They expect 90 people. They have 50 RSVPs. The event will be held in three weeks and they are still working on the funding and they expect to get more RSVPs.
 - **Break-down of expenses:**
 - Fee for reserving a room in Lipton
 - 3 course sit down meal
 - Networking reception beforehand (hor d'oeuvres)
 - Keynote address from alumna of the year
 - It's a way to build community amongst women of color among the community.
 - The venue itself setting up in Lipton is \$1100 and for the food it was \$8000.
- **SBA Board Discussion:**
 - How many are students of the attendees? Last year it was like 40 something students (says Sharon). More people came last year but Sharon doesn't know specifics.
 - SBA concerned that the price of food is too expensive...
- **Resolution:** \$8000 is just too much for food for 100 some-odd people. That's essentially 80 dollars a head. Lance wants to get involved, talk to Sue, figure out the plan, hear about

the cost of food, and then work with WoCC to put on an incredibly successful event at a lower cost.

Student Services Survey, Joe (5 minutes)

- The survey is much shorter. Joe wanted more feedback about the survey before we send it out. This is just an opportunity for someone who has any input or suggestions. If you have not looked at this survey then email Joe with feedback so we can send it out next week.
- **Vanish:** We should include something about how students feel about the TA system here at NYU. Lance thinks this is an interesting topic for an SBA meeting.
- **Ben:** Potentially offer some \$10 gift cards to incentivize people to take the survey? No objection.

Setting the Deans Meeting Agenda, Lance Polivy (10 minutes)

- Matt: (1) piano maintenance issues All three of them need to be tuned and the one in mercer needs to be stringed. (2) I did not get my first grade until a week ago. There is one class that is not expecting their grades until March.
- Gabe: Follow up from dean's meeting last semester: (1) decent water fountain in Vanderbilt and that's a step in the right direction (Lance: it's a lot better than decent!)—could we do follow up on some of the facilities issues (places to make phone calls: we talked about this, but has there been movement?). there are other things... Space is an issue. (2) Having to do with what Winston brought up w.r.t. communication: the school said they would reevaluate how the administration communicates. A lot of talk about streamlining and to get people to not delete important e-mails.
- Monica: Question regarding 1L grading policy: Taking into account participation, but the truth was that once we got our grades (we didn't get them all till the first day of class), and if we talk to the professors they said oh "the curve is maxed out so you participated but that's too bad" but can they say that? Shouldn't they make a good faith effort to put in more distribution? Maybe we should tell them not to say that?
- Ben: The cost of anything at this place needs to be brought up, specifically Lipton. (2) Pro bono requirement, are they bringing in people? They also should clarify with the clinics what sort of hours will be counted. My clinic advisors are clueless and we need to figure out how fieldwork needs to be carried out in order to count for the pro bono requirement
- Brooks: (1) To follow up on Monica's thing: what our professor's did to us, they said class participation can make a difference but they made it clear only if you're right on the line as opposed to "oh class participation can affect your grade." (2) There are a lot of lights that haven't been fixed in the library. We shouldn't have to deal with this.

- Monica: Participation can help you go up and the curve is maxed out.
- Sharon: (1) maybe we should bring in standing desks for people. (2) I heard some of the 3L reps (Morgan) who really wants the administration to send out bar information, particularly for out-of-staters.
 - Lance: I talked with Michelle Kirkland about this.
- Chase: We need to upgrade the computers.
- Lance: we can bring up admissions.
- Brooks: Students doing work study at the coat check are not being allowed to use their computer. They are students, this is something that should be looked into.

All-University Games:

- **Vanish:** This is coming up on the 20th.

Interaction with bar review companies.

- **Issue:** Some were concerned that the last SBA email spent too much time promoting various bar review companies.
- **Resolution:** We want to look into the rules to figure out how Bar Review Companies can interact with students so we can be sure that they are not using student groups, and especially the SBA to go around those rules. Gabe will lead this project.

Scheduling:

- **Issue:** We still don't have a time for weekly SBA meetings that works for all members of the board.
- **Resolution:** Let's see what switching off does and re-evaluate. We can't miss people like that. If someone wants to take this up outside the meetings then let's work with the doodle poll.
- **DECIDED:** Meetings will be held on Monday 4-5 one week and Wednesday 6-7 the following week.