

SBA February Meeting Minutes

Saturday, February 13th, 2021

10:30-12:00 PM via Zoom

Special Guests: Katherine Smith

Meeting Called to Order: 10:33 A.M.

Meeting Adjourned: 11:59 P.M.

Agenda

Roll Call

1. Secretary will take attendance via Zoom (**Natalie**)

Update from APH

- **CW - hate crimes, violence, White Supremacy**
 - Acknowledge and hold space for influx of hate crimes - up 388%
 - Violence against APAs in Portland
 - Acknowledge and appreciate the continued BLM movement and importance to see connection between violence against APA and for violence along the spectrum of anti-blackness. [Resources](#).
 - Asian American Advocacy Fund (AAAF), [Black History Month Library](#)
 - Find ways to patronize - unsure with online resources about permissions

Dean Meeting

1. Grading - Natalie
 - a. Encouraged Deans to make a choice, and make it soon
 - b. They thought that was a good point and said they would release ASAP
2. Exams - Sage
 - . We talked about alot ranging from open notes and open book and what individual professors could do with that
 - a. Also talked about locking screens, multiple monitors, etc.
 - b. In sum, they decided things need to be open note and open book and Dean Parry is working with the faculty on that
 - c. Still no printing
 - d. Faculty still retain a large amount of control so the Dean's are strongly encouraging to get the faculty on board with those policies
- i. Not the impression Faculty reps got at the Faculty meeting
3. Equity Training/Audit - Akriti

- . One of the conversations was about mandatory training for all faculty and staff on law campus
- a. Undergrad campus is trying to create and pass along training
- b. Law school has significant bandwidth if they want to adopt those or create their own
- c. Akriti suggested bringing in an external equity consultant who will audit school policies, practices and principles and see where it continues to perpetuate inequities.
- .They could then tailor make or suggest different kinds of trainings that would be most applicable and most useful
- i.It looks like for budgetary reasons that will not occur this year
- d. Akriti has been communicating with Ethan who has suggested leading an internal equity audit ourselves and identify issues with students and work backward from there highlighting 5-6 priorities from there
- .This will be distributed and then people can vote
- i.This will probably happen this school year!
 - 1. We will get that list of action items and go from there (to see if this will be internal or if we need an equity consultant)
- 4. Otter.ai - APH
 - . Can't get professors to turn it on :(
 - a. Deans would prefer Profs to turn it on but faculty still has the ability to say no
 - b. Questions/Comments:
 - .What is the rationale professors have provided?
 - 1. Privacy reasons. However, this doesn't help with the equity and accessibility issues raised more broadly.
 - i.Is this an ADA issue?
 - 1. Uncertain
 - ii.If it's being recorded to Panopto why is this an issue?
 - 1. Some faculty don't share the Panoptos
 - c. Amanda explains budgetary constraints with OtterAi + Note Taking
 - d. Feedback from faculty:
 - .They don't like the ability to copy and paste the transcripts
 - i.We collectively ask why
 - 1. Paternalistic in some ways- we are adult learners who can control our own education
 - ii.People who feel they can have that information "used against them"
 - iii.Faculty felt if students wanted this there was a lot of ways students could go about getting it
 - e. Workarounds?:
 - .There are ways to alleviate the issue. Contact SBA if you want more info.
 - i.We shouldn't have to figure out a workaround to have the information
 - ii.Otter.ai hasn't been working in classrooms
 - 1. Even for amazing immigration profs who Otter went down and they called IT and it still hasn't been fixed
 - f. **Zoom Pro:
 - .If you requested one and haven't received it let the SBA email know
 - g. Honor Code:
 - .Its an HC violation to voice record in the classroom
 - i.Recognize Otter.ai is not adequate but I wouldn't want folks to think broadly that it is "safe", we aren't certain
 - ii.HC is under revision right now and one of the main concerns is the computer and electronic policies that they want to make more broadly thoughtful towards accessibility and assistive technology
 - iii.Summary: We're not sure if this is an HC violation...

5. Notetaking Accommodations - APH
 - . We just told them this is very insufficient
6. 1L Morale - Annamarie
 - . It isn't high
 - a. Struggling to feel connected and the community sense of law school
 - .Dean Parry highlighted it's a nationwide trend
 - b. It impacts 1L mental health and it's really hard right now
 - .In the chat: "-10 Morale"
 - c. Student Life Committee is going to try to remedy this with some great event and connection ideas
 - .Hoping to do 1L and 2L specific events and then maybe a group one
 - i.Working on format, etc.
 - ii.Would LOVE suggestions!
 - d. 1L's Sharing Thoughts
 - .It really is so terrible
 - i.We have hosted a social hour over break and did an awards ceremony (Most Likely to Leave up a Ghost Hand). It got a decent turnout for an over break event and was less awkward. The Zoom hangout is just gonna be us all staring at each other, if there's not something else going on it just feels uncomfortable
 - ii.I think upper division connection is great, especially one on one
 1. Annamarie is in to that!
 2. Doesn't have to be super structured- just like an email invitation to talk to others
 - iii.Instead of Zoom I actually had a good experience on a website they used on an Olio retreat (Maybe remo)
 1. You could hop from table to table, less awkward than Zoom
 2. Remo mimics entering a conference space but does it virtually
 - e. Questions:
 - .Something WICL student group is struggling with is the Listserv- we know it is missing a ton of 1Ls -I feel like we aren't getting to the students. If anyone has ideas about expanding the Listserv
 1. Maybe we send a student body wide email
 2. Newsletter will be inviting people to submit to get the word out to students
 3. Pod Reps can pop it in the Slack
7. Academic Standing - Natalie
 - . The normal requirements for this would problematically interact with credit/no credit and lower GPA's
 - a. We asked about them reevaluating those to spare mass standing concerns that would impact externships, financial aid, etc.

Internal Committee Updates

1. Rules Committee (**Natalie & Committee**)
 - a. Zoom provisions are being added to the Bylaws (see below)
 - b. VOTE to change "In Person" meeting to "In Person, Hybrid, or Remote" meetings every time it appears in the bylaws
 - i.PASSED unanimously
 - c. VOTE to add the entire Zoom provision from the fall to the Bylaws permanently
 - i.PASSED unanimously

- d. VOTE to add a provision for meeting accommodations for those that request them (using ADA best practices)
- i. This is designed to not make anyone feel forced to return to in person meetings if they remain at risk or uncomfortable
- ii. PASSED unanimously
 - e. The "Emergency Provision" will be tackled with a volunteer group
 - 2. IBC (**Mary & Committee**)
 - . Budget Allocation Meeting was 1/23
 - . All budgets were approved as requested
 - i. It was great! Greatest thing Mary has ever done!
 - 3. Student Life Committee (**Annamarie & Committee**)
 - . Still looking for Barristers' Ball alternatives → Gumshoe Game
 - . This is a game
 - i. Would combine faculty and students again
 - ii. Would likely be done remotely
 - iii. What is the gumshoe game?
 - 1. Explanation of game, the issue is that the game replicates the prison industrial complex (and by virtue Anti-blackness)
 - 2. Change this into a non triggering and non power dynamic inducing format
- iv. Might just fill the year with smaller events too, Annamarie has been talking to other schools
 - a. Student + Faculty fun → Small group breakout rooms, trivia, local attorneys
 - . If anyone feels they have a good relationship with faculty or staff and think they might be interested please do let me know
 - b. Finals Care Packages
 - . Scrapped to pay for Covid-19 tests
 - i. If we don't decide on Barrister's maybe we circle back to that idea?
 - ii. Mary: We don't want to spend money on just buying a bunch of pencils. If we move toward a good package idea I'm all for it but I want it to be mindful and thoughtful.
 - 1. We have talked about mental health apps, etc.

General Assembly Updates

- 1. Admissions (**Meggie (ab) & Kassie**)
 - a. We are continuing to review applications. According to the admissions department, we have just passed the big batch of applications. We will most likely start reviewing waitlist options soon.
 - 2. ABA (**Diego**)
 - . How did the event go?
 - i. Willamette showed up in force! Go bearcats!
 - 3. Curriculum (**Nicky & Thea**)
 - . Not a whole lot, the faculty just drafted a memo outlining the staffing needs for future courses
 - . Right now they are looking at what faculty needs are in the future
 - 1. Safriet is leaving
 - 2. Crim, property
 - 3. Lawyering- serious pending needs
 - i. They haven't added any classes recently for next year
 - 4. Faculty (**Stephanie & Sara**)

. We spent a large portion of the time discussing the school's budget concerning areas that don't regard the student body (i.e., insurance, faculty raise (non-existent), current school reserves, law school support of the undergrad campus).

.Budget Info: Was presented in December to the faculty. In January they came back and everything was a little worse. The law school as well as the grad campus has to come up with an extra 2% to give to a general pot (indefinite built in 2%) and will likely impact rainy day funds for the law school. Not sure this general pot will come help us at the law school.

i. Dean Johnson has pushed for service access on campus (i.e if the school is paying for this general pot) then our law students deserve better access

1. EX: Counseling/mental health access

a. We spent A LOT of time debating the grading policy. Many professors do not agree we should continue CR/NC but as Libby's email yesterday communicated, we are continuing last term's policy

b. The faculty is considering instituting a general CR/NC policy moving forward (ie, students are allowed to take a certain number of credits as CR/NC throughout their law school career, probably just for electives beyond 1L year). The curriculum committee will take this on in the coming months.

.They want to create a general policy that is separate from Covid and pandemic times that would allow students limited number of credits to explore areas of interest without worrying about their GPA

i. They continue to be concerned certificates in the future

1. What would the point of certificates be if they were all taken for credit when the point is to show a specialization/in-depth learning

ii. Comments:

1. Would encourage flexibility with certificates for credit/no credit in specific scenarios in law school (accommodations, etc.)

c. Exam policy will be the same as last term. John Parry is encouraging open-book exams across the board to fully avoid cheating issues. I personally raised the issue that I very much disliked being unable to copy/paste WITHIN Exemplify as it wastes time trying to update/revise my essay answers. This is apparently up to professors to decide. It is possible if it is a secure exam (not open book).

5. Board of Visitors (**Annamarie**)

. Board of Visitors meeting is Thursday, March 4th from 8:30 am - 12:00 noon

.Annamarie can go from 8:30-10:30, but then she has class

i. Approval has been received for another SBA member to attend from 10:30-noon → anyone wants to go see how the sausage is made?

ii. Aime will go! Yay Aime!

6. AEP (**Jennifer & Taylor**)

. This past week Ethan Snyder joined us in candidate evaluation

a. We have a few candidates we fight for every week and they get in

Executive Board Updates

1. Updates shared at this time

a. **Eden Taylor** - VP of Communications

i. Excused Absence

b. **Annamarie White** - VP of Programming

i. See above for those sweet, sweet events

c. **Sage Mist** - VP of Student Life

i. Elections in March

1. Last year there were a lot of unfilled SBA positions even after Spring elections so talk to your friends and think about what you want to run for!
2. We don't want to do multiple round of elections with everything going on

d. **Akriti Bhargava** - VP of Equity & Inclusion

i. Ethan Snyder is working on putting together a Bias Reporting Team for campus - huge! I'll be working closely with him on that to provide student support.

1. In the past that form existed on the lower grad campus and in the past it would take a while. In the past Mark would contact Dean Johnson, they set up a meeting,
2. It was not often used by law students because they didn't know about it or didn't know who would receive it
3. Updates on who will form the 'receiving' team forthcoming, in addition to Ethan and Libby

a. Ethan will be transparent about who will receive these

b. It will likely have 2-3 other people in addition to Ethan and Libby (might include students)

4. Will also provide a list about possible outcomes and solutions

ii. Institutional Name Change: Discussion broached at the institutional level yesterday.

1. This was brought up at campus-wide meeting yesterday
2. Remove the name of colonizers "Lewis & Clark"
3. This is on the table soon, within the next year on President Wim Wiewel's desk
4. Any students want to work on this with Grad students and L&C admin? Current project: writing up a proposal to the Exec. Board of L&C.

a. This will be a proposal and petition (don't know if there will be suggested names)

b. This seems do-able.

iii. 21 Day Equity Challenge for all faculty and staff: Proposal from L&C CEI to President Weiwei

1. Undergrad faculty and staff completed this already. It's goal it to bring people to a baseline understanding of equity values
2. Proposal for law campus

a. Challenge will be during month of March

b. Currently being requested by Mark and it will be up to the Dean to decide if this is mandatory

c. SBA Exec plans to push for this at Dean's Meeting

3. April: some conversation/dialogue sessions for those who completed the challenge.

iv. Multi-cultural calendar: Jordan set this up for us! Heck yeah Jordan!

1. Please review:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1yrJYwydJjyA1t-ngummEMUPrJyB-5rIEqQbcsmceTL4/edit?usp=sharing>
2. Get in touch with Jordan Borboa if you have any festivals or events that you would like added to the calendar

a. We will also continue to reach out to orgs

3. Newsletter, Student Affairs and Comms - Editing access to start including SBA's well wishes at the top of the month!

e. **Mary Stites** - Treasurer

i. No update!

f. **Natalie Hollabaugh** - Secretary

i.3L Graduation Project

1. Describe, 3L graduation slideshow where people have an opportunity to share video/photo/text
2. Get feedback
3. If you want to help email Natalie

a. Send feedback to Natalie

ii.3L Graduation Cords

1. Natalie will contact you if you're an SBA graduating 3L

g. **Amanda Pham Haines**- President

i.Slack Study Groups

1. APH mtg. With Justin & pointed to Annamarie and Sage for logistics
2. Goal: Provide more study groups
3. AEP: Has been opened up to everyone

a. We are working on making a different space for that since that space has been opened to all

ii.Course Evaluation Task Force - Report due March 12, 2021 to Libby

1. Zoe Saccio
2. Tiffany Hawkins
3. Akriti Bhargava
4. Jennifer Knowles

New Business

1. Connection

a. Maybe a 1L to 2L Slack? A shared space since we are going to all be here next year

i.A virtual community at U of M law school

1. -Where students can go, sell books, communicate, without faculty or staff
2. -Meeting with them to discuss what they use, how it is moderated, etc.

2. Course Planning

. Maybe we do an SBA course planning sesh?

Action Items

- Students begin to spread the word about 3L Spotlight Celebration - don't want to miss anyone who wants to be included
- SBA Recruitment - think about your successor and see if mentees/peers are interested
- 1L Morale Boost ideas
 - Reach out to your mentees
 - Plan events where you are on Zoom (even if ppl dont show up)

Next Meeting Agenda Items

1. Elections
2. Transitions (what to plan for, how President wants to do transition)
3. Emergency Provisions

Looking Forward

1. March is our last GA meeting for 2020/2021 since April is the transition meeting!

Research

come across these in research, not vetted

- Critical Resistance, Addressing Harm Accountability and Healing
- A Different Timeline