

SBA March Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 13th, 2021

10:30-12:00 PM via Zoomie

Special Guests: Bill O'Brien

Meeting Called to Order: 10:32

Meeting Adjourned: 12:00

Agenda

Roll Call

Secretary will take attendance via Zoom (Natalie)

March Celebrations

03/21-22: Nowruz (Parsi New Year)

03/27: Passover begins

03/29: Holi (Hindu festival of color, and the start of Spring)

03/31: International Transgender Day of Visibility

New Student Organization Recognition

Lewis & Clark Law and Philosophy Collective (Bill O'Brien)

Advisor: Professor Bushaw

Philosophy major in undergrad

Board Members: Bill O'Brien, Elias Pite, Adam Holzhauer

Also Emily Gilbert (events) and Jack Mayberry (treasurer)

Mission: The Lewis & Clark Law & Philosophy Collective aims to sponsor speakers and facilitate discussion of philosophical issues and topics that underpin the American legal system. These discussions create a space which promotes and enhances oral advocacy, analysis, and argumentation skills relevant to a legal education.

Four Aims

Community

Legal Skills

Interest in philosophy

Host speakers for educational purposes

Questions

Open to collaboration?

Hadn't thought of that- that would be cool/ideal

Curious how speakers would be selected or approved? (Vetting, voting, how will that work)

It would be I believe more of the latter where the event planner selects the speaker and presents it to the group and then potentially send it out to a wider audience- "This is someone we're thinking of, is there any interest?" And let that inform our process

VOTE

27 YAY - APPROVED

2 NAY

0 ABSTAIN

Jeff Jones Professionalism Award

Share proposal (Amanda)

SBA Award for a Student

Prof. Jones created a lot of space for how professionalism looks different with different people

Highlights accountability, compassion, and for folks who maybe aren't catching the attention of other faculty, etc.

Impact student had on them while they were here

Administration supports proposal

GOAL: Annually sent out with elections, person selected every year

Funding

Through presidential SBA discretionary fund

We will work on how to make it not a tax burden and not conflict with a student's ability to accept other awards/ scholarships/ etc.

Tamara Jones, wife of Prof. Jones has enthusiastically offered to sit on the committee

All student-led, student nominated, and student voted on except for Tamara

The goal is to highlight the true underdogs that find ways to support their peers in unique ways without always being in the spotlight

People who might not be "seen" by the admin faculty/"mainstream" institutions

School is doing a memorial alumni collection and they are working on application process, not sure how exactly they will choose

Questions:

How would the committee be selected? (Especially knowing that students who maybe 5 years from now didn't know Prof. Jones)

Amanda still gathering feedback on that, wants to reach out to folks on how to make sure it is students/done intentionally

Trying to determine if it should be housed under a committee

Would any year be eligible?

Yes

We all want to keep in mind the tax burden

Comments

We all want to keep in mind the tax burden

In the future when people are applying for funds and tapping into travel budget wes

VOTE

29 YAY -APPROVED

0 NAY

0 ABSTAIN

Follow Up

Proposed language will go out and get voted on/feedback on via Google Form

Discussion - Preliminary Questions

Open floor for any questions a member has for the GA before moving onto the below items

2020/2021 Accomplishments

Natalie will input these from doc into a slideshow :) We view the slideshow!

Elections

Process (Eden)

Self Nominate (see the announcements)

Statement of interest

Can run for up to 2 positions

If you don't meet service requirement cannot run next year (bylaws)

Please review your current position description and update anything you think better reflects your role

Please check this doc

Natalie will include in email follow up

Need to add Career Service liaison

Amanda thinks this will be absorbed into Comms Committee

Dates

Self nomination window 3/15–3/28

Elections

3/29–4/2 on Google Forms

What to Expect

Amanda (Executive Board) and Natalie (General Assembly) will email those who have been elected and those who have not privately

Public announcement will be 4/5

Specific Bylaw provisions

Bylaws Voting/ Structuring to Meet the Future Needs of SBA

Caveat from Natalie (Natalie)

Because of these proposals we will open the April meeting with the final new bylaws documents.

Remove Election Committee (Natalie)

Still headed by VP of Student Affairs

Replace with a more general Student Affairs Committee which will also handle

3L Celebrations in the future

Student Org fair in the future

Address other student needs as they arise

Replace “election committee” in bylaws section on Elections with “Student Affairs Committee”

Reasoning: The elections can very easily be done by one human

VOTE

29 YAY- APPROVED

0 NAY

Create Communications Committee (Natalie)

Headed by VP of Comms

Would cover

Newsletter

Social media (i.e. help with other org sharing on our socials, etc.)

VOTE

29 YAY- APPROVED

0 NAY

Emergency Provisions

Natalie will share resolution

Aime has reviewed it with Natalie and essentially

Follow Up

Natalie will incorporate into Bylaws for April voting

Honor Code Revision

Caroline Taylor has a provision the committee is proposing (Caroline)

Text of provision can be found here. Please note the “clean” copy is what is proposed and redline is with the new proposals so they can be viewed

Update from Caroline

Worked with Dean Parry and Dean Davis on this

Some of the edits to it what I would characterize as fairly extensive

Specifically comments on exams and provisions on written work

The rest that are proposed to be changed are just about notices for informal and formal changes

Summary of changes

Electronic devices for accessibility

If people utilize devices or use an accommodation

Clarifies what can be brought into an exam

Committee had a tough time wading through what is appropriate. Ex of what is okay could be your notes and not okay would be commercial outline

Written work revision

Clarifies what a submission for written work should be, and includes more broadly that passing work off as one's own can include sharing people's thoughts, words or statements.

Made it so that if professors have rules about their written work they have to be written rules

Form will go out this weekend for voting and will have a quick turn around

Transparency & Accountability b/w LC & Students

Update the GA on issues brought to our attention by students (Amanda)

Group of students advocating for this specifically with the budget and where our money goes (See below on Town Hall too)

Want more knowledge shared with student body

Often the budget meetings don't actually reflect the little details in the budget it is mainly about keeping the lights on and not the detail of the budget

Seats at the Table

Make our GA Committee positions more substantive and not purely representational, this is an ongoing effort

Update on the Town Hall

April 9th Time TBD

This is from the advocacy of a group of students

Grad Campus

Experience similar difficulties/ concerns.

There tuition increases have not been published but students are pushing back and working on that at the grad school

Update on 21 Day Equity Challenge for law faculty and staff (Akriti)

Ethan has been setting up one on one calls with all Affinity Orgs

Admin is rolling it out in three phases:

First one started a couple days ago, Dean Johnson inviting people to participate

Next April 1st is department by department getting invited/encouraged

Then April 16 at the staff meeting Dean Johnson is strongly encouraging remaining folks to do so

Akriti will be in attendance to discuss challenge with people and encourage participation

Three cheers for this! BIG STEP.

YAY!

Transitions

Binders/Transition Documents (Amanda)

Share folder with example and forms

Amanda sharing beautiful doc!

Transition materials will go out and will be due prior to April 10th meeting

What to Expect at Transition Meeting (Natalie)

Breakout Rooms of fun!

Natalie will do the balancing of this and do her best to give everyone 30 mins to transition their replacement and transition to new role

If you cannot attend must let SBA know ASAP.

General Assembly Updates

Curriculum (Nicky & Thea) THREE CHEERS !

Credit/No Credit and Curve Updates

General:

CAVEAT: These are passed through curriculum and faculty but could still be tweaked slightly

Policy language is coming....any of the terms we are using below but could change

Committee talked about long term efficacy about options and looked at schools who don't have grades (Yale or Berkeley). Ultimately found credit no credit could be helpful in the future to accommodate students and student needs

Curve Change:

Instead of a 3.0 average moving up to conform better with peer schools (U of C @ Boulder or UW) with 3.3 going forward

This would be for larger classes

In seminar type classes professors would have some more flexibility but those would likely be curved around a 3.5

With some exemptions for classes with like 3 people

Credit/No Credit:

Permanent option for credit no credit will be through Dean Davis (not a committee just Dean of Students). This is any time throughout the term up until exam period or close to it.

Credit/No Credit offered outside of doctrinal or required credits a student can take 6 credits for
Credit/NoCredit

Proposed Classes

Landlord/Tenant Law

Hoping to bring on an adjunct hopefully as early as next year for this

Other Issues

How to fill gaps with professors/expertise that are upcoming

Faculty Appointments Committee (Lexi & Clarens)

Hired a white-passing Con Law prof and all of our Crim Law offers were declined. Likely will repeat hiring for Crim Law prof next year.

We only hired one professor so will probably be another process next year

Question

Have they talked about improving the timeliness of extending the offers to candidates?

I think the school tries to keep track of where other schools are in their process

They don't have a set timeline per se

Prof. Yin does a good job keeping things on track with other law schools

Comments

We don't hire professors very often

Work on some imperfect information

Admissions Committee (Meggie & Kassie)

Still reviewing applications. We should be getting a big batch because February LSAT scores have just been released. Once things slow down we'll be reviewing to take students off the waitlist.

Academic Enhancements (Jennifer & Taylor)

In order to review as many AEP student candidates as possible, our committee is now scheduling longer sessions each week and reviewing a greater number of files per meeting.

We are swamped right now

Meetings are now 1.5 hours and do 9 files a week

Currently on committee:

Ethan, two faculty, and student reps

Another faculty member will be getting added

Have been able to expand what is hardship and have seen some shifts in committee members understanding of barriers

Compared to the beginning of the year there is improvement

We want a holistic process!

Remaining Concerns

We got an app pushed back due to criminal history

Questions:

Has Matrix/tool been updated?

Student members are working on a proposal to possibly replace or supplement the index they use now

"Main" admissions committee does not use a matrix

Although we have no meeting during Spring Break, our weekly (closed to the public) sessions continue until April 19th.

AEP Survey

Attitudes and opinions around AEP student program

We are getting a survey to those students who are AEP students!

Executive Board Updates

Updates shared at this time

Eden Taylor - VP of Communications

Quick Reminder

If you want to utilize SBA social media you have to tell me! If you want something shared on SBA's socials please email Eden or SBA!

Eden made the SBA feedback form on the website

We encourage folks to use it!

If students are frustrated or upset that is a great option to share so we can forward it up to the Deans

Annamarie White - VP of Programming

Headshot event has gotten a lot of interest. But I need volunteers to man the event! This will satisfy your community service requirement.

Admin wants us to have one SBA member present at all times

Please sign up if you can

More headshots

Working on at home headshots for students too for accessibility

Hoping to roll out in the next week or so

Survey?

Pass off/request support from Alyssa and Linda in future photo events

SBA mentorship/connections program

Emily and Annamarie meeting with Dean Davis

We got a lot of feedback that larger events are intimidating so one on one is a good option

If anyone has any feedback reach out to Annamarie

Akriti Bhargava - VP of Equity & Inclusion

Institutional name change: SBA contingent headed by Radhika Shah

Switching away from Lewis & Clark

Rolled out in two parts:

Proposal to President Weiwei to ask for name change

He is expecting it and we believe it will be received well

Round two to determine what the name is

There will be plenty of opportunity in the future for diverse voices to contribute to the process

Opportunities for public comment

E&I Committee will make sure people know how to share their opinions

This will be a collaborative process (Akriti asked about it in the last meeting)

Multi-cultural Calendar launch: Headed by Jordan Borboa

This is an effort to make our community more inclusive and celebrate everyone's unique identities

If you're in an Affinity org and want to add a holiday or event let us know

Or a holiday you celebrate in the calendar please let us know OR if there is a holiday you know more about please let us know and we can expand on that description

We submitted questions to Libby about professor's competency around equity as well as inclusive teaching habits, to be included in year-end course evaluations. See here for our final proposal.

Worked on this with Tiffany and Zoe Saccio

Dean Davis pointed out that we need to figure out a way to increase student participation in course evals.

Hoping that having some of these questions will help that BUT think this will also be a larger SBA effort as we get closer to evals.

Questions:

Have we heard anything about being able to do evals post exams?

We have not heard yet, we aren't even sure this will be incorporated into spring evals (it seems like that it is possible that it might not be). Akriti is going to follow up on that with Dean Davis.

Georgetown's

Mary Stites - Treasurer

Tuition Group Update

SBA's goals

Potentially purchasing bar prep discounts for students!

Bar prep promo code

Also open to other suggestions for things that are cost prohibitive and also broadly impact the student body

Student Group Spending

Beneficial to ALL students

Needs to go in announcements, not just in your listserv (needs to be known and accessible to all)

You can still make it so only people who go to the event get the gift card but needs to be open to all

Natalie Hollabaugh - Secretary

Bylaws (above)

Graduation Celebration

Community Service

Must report prior to elections

Amanda Pham Haines- President

Reach out with feedback/things you think need to be done/initiated during my term

Action Items

Students begin to spread the word about Graduation 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

Next Meeting Agenda Items

Transitions!!!!!!

Looking Forward

Mandatory transition meeting in April!