



Albany Law School
STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION
Meeting Minutes

Date: November 1st, 2023

Room: 200

Time: 7:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. Welcome/Introduction
- b. Roll Call for Quorum: Set at 16
 - i. -/24 Members Present
 1. Meg Tylanda
 2. Max Sevor
 3. Ashlyn Henrichs
 4. Natalie Turney
 5. Jonathan Stein
 6. Michael Wood
 7. Julia Vavrinec
 8. Jack Rainey
 9. Stephen Giorgianni
 10. Alex Hollocher
 11. Chloe Kangarlu
 12. Frank Pacella
 13. Azad Kurd (Absent)
 14. Mitch Whittaker
 15. Katie Pedlow
 16. Colin Baker
 17. Mitch Spaulding
 18. Dean Kaknis
 19. Taylor Alimari
 20. Noah Jacobs
 21. Ben Jacobs
 22. Olivia Vecchio
 23. Madeleine Jones
 24. Veronica Esteves

II. OPEN FORUM

- a. Per request of the library staff to be presented by Max Sevor. Re: Mobile Whiteboards for the Library.
 - i. The idea is that students could checkout a whiteboard and move it to a table in the library (not on the lower level) to use for group study outside of the group study rooms. There is concern that it might create noise- does the value of having movable whiteboards outweigh noise concerns?

ii. **Discussion:**

1. Most people have headphones in and it is worth a shot as many people use them.
2. 3L are talking about class gift being whiteboards in the study rooms; just as a note.
3. Some concern for the noise, but could still be worth it and could maybe stay on top floor. For sure not in basement-
4. Could put some in random areas like the couches out of the DAMC?
5. Not just the concern of the noise but also the clutter/ cluttering the school with whiteboards.
 - a. Could store them and make them rentable and could check them out and take them to other places in the school?

b. **Thank you to 2L Senate for throwing a great Scarristers!!!**

III. BYLAWS

a. Bill #024

- i. The purpose of this bill is to approve the changes to Bylaw Six to allow for more discretion when handling ethics disputes.
 1. changes noted in the bill; to add more days to convene and big change in allowing ethics committee more discretion and allows for mediation as an option as well.

b. Bill #025

- i. The purpose of this bill is to approve the changes to Bylaw Ten to change the budget process to give the Finance Committee more control of the budget process.
 1. Finance committee changes to allow for reasonable assumptions in budget requests and creating materials to present to the senate for the PowerPoint. Once the request is sent in, the treasurer would check all filled out correctly, if not then the treasurer would reach out. The Finance Committee would meet the second week in the semester and the budget will be set by reviewing balance and past expenditures and the funds that are being requested. Requests to be viewed in alphabetical order. \$65 to \$60 for the GIM.

c. Bill #026

- i. The purpose of this bill is to approve the addition of Bylaw Fourteen to the current bylaws to create a new SBA committee, the safety committee.
 1. Creation of the safety committee to ensure safety of school and students- one student from each class.

IV. ROLLING BUDGET

- a. None.

V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE- *planned a few events; food pantry drive on the week of veterans law day: it will be a raffle and at the end there will be a drawing for 5 prizes and all donations will go to various food banks. Also looking at doing a toys for tots event.*
- b. FINANCE COMMITTEE- *nothing to report.*
- c. DIVERSITY COMMITTEE- *pizza event was great! Maybe have committee open/host more meetings to students who feel underrepresented or have concerns.*
- d. ETHICS COMMITTEE- *nothing to report.*
- e. EVENTS COMMITTEE- *discussed the grilled cheese event, maybe work with philanthropy on food drive and do combo with Friendsgiving.*
- f. ELECTION COMMITTEE- *notes that elections are next semester and think about if you will run.*
- g. BY-LAWS COMMITTEE- *discussed a lot of bylaws at the last meeting and are bringing changes tonight, will continue working on everything.*
- h. TRANSITION COMMITTEE – *nothing to report.*
- i. ALUMNI COMMITTEE-*talking to Geoff Seber in Alumni office a lot, reaching out to organizations to support in person and financially to bring more alumni, and thinking of getting a big event going for next semester.*

VI. SENATE REPORTS

- a. EXECUTIVE BOARD
 - i. President Max Sevor – *we had a townhall and one person attended in person- the recording is on the website, so make sure to watch that. Presidents of class years to meet after meeting to get surveys going.*
 - ii. Vice President Noah Jacobs – *thank you to those hosting events, as elected SBA members it is important to show up to events and we should all at least show up to a few of these- it has been really light turnout for SBA members so let's fix that.*
 - iii. Treasurer Meg Tylenda – *student leaders should expect an email soon and reimbursements are flowing in.*
 - iv. Secretary Ashlyn Henrichs– *echoes Noah about SBA attendance and its importance of supporting the clubs.*
- b. SENATE REPORTS
 - i. Third Year President Natalie Turney- *thank you to all that showed up to the mixer and believes it to be successful and great for those that have shown up (Max S. echoes this statement). They have met with Dan Bollana about prepping for 3L- the bar and studying. There are a lot of events that all years can come to and should be on the lookout for to help prep for the bar exam.*
 - ii. Second Year President Jonathan Stein – *Thanks everyone for coming and for a great Scarristers, Dog Therapy day was a hit- 30 pizzas gone in 35 in minutes, and the dodgeball during mental health week was fun/ good turnout as well.*

- iii. First Year President Frank Pacella – *defers to Chloe K., Chloe notes that non-SBA members should be reviewed on committees like SBA members are reviewed and echoes support for bill re: safety committee and expresses concerns. Frank- Spoke to Geoff, with a G, Seber and also about next semester event (possible BBQ event). Would like to save some discussion for executive session.*
- iv. ABA Senator Mitchell Spaulding – *nothing to report, join ABA!*
- v. ACBA Senator Colin Baker – *nothing to report.*
- vi. Diversity Senator Azad Kurd – *nothing to report.*
- vii. NYSBA Senator Mitchell Whittaker – *NYSBA event at the Yard this week.*
- viii. Spring Start Senator Olivia Vecchio – *nothing to report.*

c. FACULTY REPORTS

- i. Dean Taranto – *adds congrats to the successful events that occurred on campus- especially trick or treat street and notes the faculty loves seeing the kids. She will be presenting to the board of trustees in December and is so proud of the student leadership at the school this year and commends on work well done. Food pantry has been very successful so far and will be working on fundraising- specifically cash because we can purchase food at highly discounted prices. A survey will be sent out soon and please help yourself and track it in the binder. Final Exams; will be reaching out to fund snacks and such and also working on panels with Colby Fellows re: studying the exams and how to manage stress. Reminds everyone Title 9 Coordinator is Jackie Moran and the flyers are up around school but you can **ALWAYS** reach out to Dean Taranto- she will help you or find out where you need to go, **her office is a safe and confidential place.***

MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION, SECONDED, 19-1-1.

VII. *EXECUTIVE SESSION*

a. **BYLAWS**

i. Bill #024

- 1. Motion: to table and send back to bylaws to discuss and make edits to this
- 2. Status: seconded, 10-8-1, **PASSES**
- 3. Reasoning: mend to include consent of reporting individual re: mediation, looking in to having a mediator who is practicing to come in instead of the chair; the mediation should take into account accused and reporters rights in this case
 - a. Lots of Discussion on this bill within moderated caucus- the bill will be tabled and revisited by the committee.

MOTION FOR A MODERATED CAUCUS FOR BILL #024, SECONDED, 19-0-1

- ii. Bill #025
 - 1. Motion: to approve
 - 2. Status: seconded, 17-1-0, **PASSES**
 - 3. Reasoning: -
- iii. Bill #026
 - 1. Motion: to approve
 - 2. Status: seconded, 19-0-1, **PASSES**
 - 3. Reasoning: -

b. **ROLLING BUDGET**

- i. None.

MOTION TO MOVE OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION, SECONDED, 19-0-1.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a. Since there was substantive discussion on **bylaws**, please come to the meeting if you have things you would like to say or points to bring up so that they can be discussed at length: **7:45 PM next Wednesday in Room E115.**

IX. NEW BUSINESS

- a. 2L DJ Contract; Bill #027
 - i. Motion: to approve the contract for Barristers
 - ii. Status: seconded, 17-0-1, **PASSES**
 - iii. Discussion: DJ has been picked by Veronica and found great one- contract came in today. He is giving up photobooth, lighting, and DJ in one package and is really helpful in budgeting!
- b. Scarristers Additional Funding; Bill #028
 - i. Motion: to approve in full
 - ii. Status: seconded, 14-0-0, **PASSES**
 - iii. Discussion: needed more food as numbers jumped, especially as concern for being an event with alcohol (staying within school policy that requires food be out with alcohol)

X. GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a. The next SBA meeting is scheduled for November 15th, 2023, at 7:30 PM in Room 200.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN, SECONDED, 19-0-0, PASSES