SBA Members in Attendance (11 of 15 total)
Gabe Vidoni – GV – President
Mike Yedinak – MY – Vice-President
Yam Menon – YM – Secretary
Jeff Chase – JC – 2L Day Rep
Zohaib Rasheed – ZR – 2L Day Rep
Angie Lachman – AL – 2L Day Rep
Mike Tehan – MT – Upperclass Evening
Chris Lent – CL – Upperclass Evening
Danielle Most – DM – Upperclass Evening
Dan Csuka – DC – Upperclass Evening
Justin Theriault – JT – 3L Day

GV: Motion to begin the meeting.
MT motions to begin. CL seconds.

Meeting begins at 9:36 pm.

GV: Public comment.

None.

GV: Looking at the goals of the SBA E-Board and specifically in my role as President what I intend to work on is: improving organization to better serve the community, including organizational competency, continuity, etc. We want to make sure that what we set to accomplish happens in a smooth manner. Credibility is key. Representing the student body is key, but it is not everything. It will be important how we are perceived, how we conduct our meetings. My role is to maintain this in terms of oversight. If you have any concerns regarding the meeting, please let me know. Second, it is critically important to know along the lines of organizational competency to work with the administration. It is a main priority of mine to work with the administration. There will be moments when we have to exert pressure, but we must be cooperative. Specific goals that I have include:

1. Career Services – addressing some student concerns concerning Career Services
2. Utilizing the Social Committee – working on community identity and cohesion, more events at local bars
3. Using our social funds and resource for networking and career advancement and there is some overlay that we can have with Career Services on this
4. Improving the funding process generally and codifying our spending guidelines in an easily digestible form. It is called for the bylaws and has been a challenge. This has been hard but we cannot lose this in the transition going forward. Also looking at the funding schedule to help get student groups to get funding early on in the semester.
4. Diversity Committee – in its infancy and will continue to work in this area, but I want to see this develop further as a proactive organization, working with the Social Committee and addressing concerns and making sure that we can work with the sub-organizations and address some of the gaps.
5. Updating and revising the bylaws – there are a number of issues that need to be addressed
6. new student lounge
7. revamping the SBA website and putting up information is important

MY: We are going to end up repeating each other because we plan to work together on this. The goals which Gabe gave are goals that I have as well. We are in line on a lot of these issues. The Social Committee is really my responsibility. Looking at past budgets, John Kim really stepped it up. We have a number of events right now including Continuum, Spring Fling, a farewell event for the 3L class. These are all very important. I really want to collaborate and start planning over the summer at least to email people back and forth to reach out and brainstorm and have a docket for next year. I already have ideas this year from paintball, horseracing, there are all these different ideas to work on and we can see what can happen. Gabe, Yam and I worked well together and we found that we have good working relationship and we will be depending on each other and hope that SBA reps will also take a lead role. I would like to take a lead role on the Career Services issues. I have been speaking with them and I hope to work on this. I don't think the Committee structure worked, so I'm hoping that I will be able to provide a forum for the student body to talk about issues related to Career Services. The more that we can consolidate the venue for providing feed back and proving constructive feedback. I want to work with the Diversity Committee. I went to a forum in the beginning and there were some people who expressed that individual student groups were not coming together to do events jointly. One thing we can do to remedy this is to provide funding for such events to encourage groups to work together. Doing collaborative events will hope to allay the insecurities, so by everybody working together.

YM: Some of my goals include providing strong support for the Executive Board as well as implementing the logistical and administrative goals for the SBA. It's not just about taking minutes but also ensuring that everyone has an opportunity for a forum to speak and also feels comfortable coming to the SBA E-Board to discuss issues. I think I can speak for the E-Board on that point.

GV: Moving to representative introductions, who will begin?

MT: My name is Mike, I'm a 3L. My goals are to work as a pipeline between the evening students and the SBA, maybe try to re-bring the issue of an SBA letter concerning the evening division. Getting evening student before the SBA is my concern.

AL: I'm AL, a 1L Rep. My concern is cohesion like everyone. There are so many people I don't know, this also means cohesion also in terms of day and evening students. I heard of concerns from commuter students and family students like that the events on campus are hard to come to. I was thinking something in late summer/early fall, like a carnival or field day, booths, you can even have the social groups on campus provide the food and proper funding. My pet peeve that I would love handled I the cleanliness of some of these classrooms, specifically Chase 110. One student came up with the idea of business card for students, and we are not allowed to hand out our resume at some of these career services, so his would be good.
MY: Career Services is working on the business cards. The Med School also wants to do something together for some of these events.

AL: These events would be a good way to get back on campus.

MY: I would like to use technology more to give people an opportunity to weigh in on these things.

GV: I invite you to mention this to the Faculty Committee. Thanks.

CL: 3L evening student. I would like to advocate for evening students as well. In 2 weeks, I'll be having a meeting with Professor Pomp after April 23rd regarding the status of the evening meetings. I would like to keep these lines of communication open and also like GV was saying, updating the website. I think we can improve on this and have it available by letting students know who your reps are. Asking the student population electronically is a great idea. Instead of communications coming at the E-Board level, maybe having one coming at the rep level to introduce us to the student body. We want people to recognize us.

GV: In addition to the website, also pictures. Maybe we can put something on the bulletin board.

MY: At least once a semester a lunch of some kind, and we are going to be having a feedback/suggestion box. How do we provide more accessible ways of people providing feedback?

JP: I thought of the equivalent of some office hours.

ZR: I'm a first year, the platform I ran on was mostly concerns about library hours and having a dedicated library room for students to come together. Having a suggestion box and tally up at the end of the semester to evaluate the most number of concerns. We can also do a meet-and-greet and I also want to work on the diversity committee. I also want to see if we can do a lecture circuit with Yale, this may not be realistic, but just an idea as a great resource. This might help with the image of the school.

JC: Trying to get lockers for students, and also library hours are really important. The library closing at 11 does not work for me. It is to try to get some things that other large campuses have that we want here. On a bigger scale, there is a lack of communication between faculty and students, administration and students, and the SBA and students. I think we can have, for example, students go out with professors like they do at the undergraduate level. Some professor are very accessible if you want them and others are completely out of reach and out of touch.

GV: I think these are very on point concerns. Can you maybe clearly articulate these issues?

JC: Part of this is in part finding out what the history is behind all of these. So I need to know what the history is behind this. We want to have someone like the idea of a public defender for the students, and a student can be concerned with someone else. We need someone on the student's side. There are other situations in which students need this support.
MY: We are already trying to meet with the administration to set up a positive relationship, so come to any one of us on the E-Board, then we can work on it.

JC: But how about something like a hotline for any student? Can we have a student hotline?

MY: I hope that you will think of us in regards to this. I think we can have a more concrete proposal and we can hear about the specific kind of situation.

GV: We can maybe have a panel. Thank you.

JP: I'm a 1L Day student rep. Some ideas I have for this upcoming year was: cohesion with Yale and just kind of in the classes, cohesion with the other graduate programs as well. Having co-programming with other grad schools to let us get to know each other in a less formal setting. Also, having a mentor program. WLSA does have one, but maybe a broad upperclassmen official program. Just having this person here would be helpful, it can be informal or formal as anyone wants. It is a flexible concept. Maybe for a hour or two, being there instead of a suggestion box so you can get to the basic grievance and to be a face for the SBA during the school day so students can come in and maybe once a month have someone in Knight hall at night.

GV: Mentoring program – many law schools have a formal program on this, this is something to carry forward.

JT: Dean Dailey and I have discussed this and we should try and work with her on this.

GV: With respect to office hours, we have two SBA offices, so maybe we use these offices or a more central location. Thank you.

DC: Improve accessibility to the SBA and trying to communicate better the with student body. Some ideas I came up with are: other similarly ranked schools have better websites than we do, the SBA has a separate website entirely in some cases. We can have info on the committees, the reps, current projects and updates, idea of putting together some form of survey, just develop a survey at the beginning of every semester to see where the student core concerns are and to direct the focus or the upcoming semester. I'm open to anything regarding this.

GV: We have discussed the surveys and we have had success on this. We can use Survey Monkey or the TWEN site. Maybe this is something the communication committee can work on with Yam.

DM: Working on the Pro bono/Public Interest issues. I hope to keep working with Day Program and Evening Program.

GV: Thanks for your ideas don’t hesitate to let us know about more ideas.

Sarah Saadian: The election is set up for Monday and Tuesday. I came tonight because I have been speaking with Claudia Northsworthy to give out the award during graduation and they have concerns that if we award a staff member, none of the staff members will see this. Faculty come but staff do not come. Timing is another concern. He asked whether a different venue would be
better. I think graduation is the best day. One idea I had is if we have one of the graduation speaker who does not use the whole time, they can announce the award. I was wondering if it was okay with this SBA if we can take out “at graduation” on the language to have more flexibility.

GV: If someone can put forth a proposal, then we can vote on this. Perhaps graduation should be a first priority if there is support and maybe an alternative.

JT: I motion that we strike graduation and put “at graduation and in consideration of another suitable venue”
AL: Second
Vote: 9
No: 1
Abstention: 1

Sarah Saadian: we have some great people running, lots and lots of people.

Everyone: Thanks Sarah for all your hard work!

GV: Treasurer Elections. We can provide an opportunity for everyone to speak. We have 3 candidates, two of which are here. Jeremy is not in the country right now, so Mike Tehan will read his statement on his behalf.

Chris: I’m Chris Blustein running for Treasurer this year. I really wanted to get involved this year, and I tried to run as a rep, but I thought this would also be a good opportunity. It sounds like everyone has an ambitious plan and I want to be involved in any way that I can. I will be responsible and be here every time and will work hard. Thank you.

JT: I’ll be brief as well. I’m Justin running for Treasurer. I have been involved at UCONN for quite a while including at the undergraduate level, having been a Husky more than once. I spent the past year working in the SBA and it has been a great experience and work with some people who are really passionate. I have worked on the Social and Budget Committee. I have had a chance to work with the current E-Board intimately. We have spent many hours working on this semester’s budgets and it gave me good ideas if I were to become Treasurer. I also realized that Treasurer is also about establishing good relationships with the student groups. I would like to work specifically with PILG. One of the things I would like to do with PILG is help with PILG to brainstorm on how to get more PILG money for public interest. I would really like to work with them to get joint activities to find ways to raise money and benefit more students. I would like to work on the codification on the budget guidelines. There is not much guidance out there and we really need to establish for future SBAs for consistency. We need to see the rationale. If I am chosen, I will try and be responsible but generous to the student body and I would like to operate this process with fairness, and transparency. I hope to work with next year’s budget committee regardless of whether I am elected.

Jeremy (in absence, MT reads the following statements): I would like to thank you all for your time and apologize for not being able to make it in person. I hope that you are all well. I see the treasurer requiring two main traits; first that of accountant; second that of responsibility. I strongly believe that any law student at this school would be able to
understand this budget. However, I do believe that I bring an experience than is unrivaled. I do possess an MBA, however, more importantly; I have managed government budgets in the excess of millions of dollars. Further, I have found ways to stretch those budgets in ways to do much more with much less. That kind of resourcefulness will allow the various student organizations to accomplish their various missions without worrying about the budget restrictions they have faced in the past. As far as responsibility, I know that I am first and foremost responsible to the student groups that come to the SBA for a funding request. We, as an SBA, exist to disperse inadequate funding to multiple deserving groups. The ideal treasurer can assist in establishing dispassionate rules that are fair for all. More importantly, I would assist all groups in getting funding. The motto of the treasurer is to say “yes” if possible. I would like to thank you again for your time and consideration. Very respectfully, Jeremy.

GV: With mind to time, can both candidates come up? We will open up to questions.

John Kim: Question for everyone, I think the Treasurer’s role is very important to how you chose your budget committee. How you plan on this process?

GV: The Constitution provides for presidential appointment but I would like to see this reformed to shift this way from the president to an election. This may change in the future.

DM: Open to anyone or only in the SBA?

GV: SBA. We think the Treasurer would have a great deal of input in the discussion.

JC: What year is Jeremy? Is he an SBA rep? How does this work?

MY: He is currently a 4th year evening student.

GV: There is no requirement for someone to being the SBA to be Treasurer.

GV: Other questions?

MT: Jeremy was working full time and now he is not, so he will have lots of time to commit to this, as we know from GV. He has the time to commit to the position.

GV: Thank you. Please exit the room. Just to say a few words about the position: managing the finance is not complicated, you don’t have to be a finance major, but far more important is attention to detail. You end up handling the account for every student group on campus. You are always fielding questions. I can be controversial, and nearly impossible to make everyone happy. There are always hot button issues. While not an inherently political position, t can turn into one.

MY: Having been on the Budget Committee, one of the important things to consider is that you are running this meeting, and when there are conflict, you are responsible for resolving conflicts that arise. This is an important factor.
GV: There will be times when there are strong differences in the committee, but it is important to establish resolution techniques and to have problem solving skills and a sense of experience.

JC: Gabe, you were treasurer last year? How much discretion did you have?

GV: There are two different phases. As of now, we two initial allocation periods, one in the spring in the fall and spring. We all look at the decision in its totality. We do operate on a first come, first serve basis. The treasurer can issue a check for up to $500 without prior approval or the student body. Many are over 500, but depending on how the Treasurer and the Board choose to exercise that discretion can effect. The two allocation periods that I was describing are the initial allocation and the supplemental process (which take place both in Fall and Spring). Initial allocations are made considering all requests together. Supplemental allocations have been made on a first come first serve basis.

MY: For 1Ls, we had a get-together after New Years, that was an example where as a 1L rep, they gave me funding for the event. The full Budget Committee did not vote but, Gabe made the decision himself.

JC: How much money is floating around for this?

GV: Treasurer in part decides this.

JC: Is this the discretion of the Budget Committee, Treasurer?

GV: Mostly me this year, but this can change year to year. I do NOT want to be handling all of these decisions myself.

JC: It does seem like there is a lot of planning involved and you have to know how the school works and I would not know how much money I need to set aside for certain groups, for example.

GV: You need to able to look at past budgets to do his, and you will have a lot to figure out. It also involved PR, fielding emails from every student group on campus. So you really do have to be a Jack of all trade in handling the finances. Other questions?

[comments regarding specific qualifications of each candidate]

GV: This is a vetting process. This is a critically important position. One thing to endanger the position is to be partisan in every area, it is important not to go with value judgments.

MY: The problems will come up every year. I think any of them would be deliberate in the process.

GV: Final Comments.

DM: Motion to end discussion.

AL: Second.

Yes: All 11.

GV: I will abstain. Would you like to do this by secret ballot?
DM: Yes.

[secret ballot vote]

GV: We have a split vote between Justin and Jeremy, with Justin abstaining from the vote because the others cannot vote. We are out of time, so we will revote at the next meeting.

DM: Motion to close the meeting.

MY: Second.

Meeting ends 10:50 pm.
SBA Members in Attendance
Jeff Chase – JC – 2L Day Rep
Dan Csuka – DC – Upperclass Evening
Angie Lachman – AL – 2L Day Rep
Chris Lent – CL – Upperclass Evening
Yam Menon – YM – Secretary
Mike Tehan – MT – Upperclass Evening
Justin Theriault – JT – 3L Day (Treasurer-Elect)
Cara Tonucci – CT – 3L Day
Gabe Vidoni – GV – President
Mike Yedinak – MY – Vice-President
Zohaib Rasheed – ZR – 2L Day Rep

Also in Attendance:
Jeremy Lingenfelser

JT: Motion to begin the meeting.

CT: Second.

GV: Thanks for everyone coming out. We have a lot of matters to attend to tonight. First, public comment. [none]

Second, vote on the minutes.
YM: Please note that this is the minutes from the last minutes that we are approving as well as the minutes from Sarah's last minutes.

CT: Motion to vote.

JT: Second.

Vote: 8
No: 0
Abstention: 0

GV: We have revamped the order of the agenda a bit. First, looking at the proposed amendment to the spending guidelines regarding the class event, we would like to put forward a modification for this year. Every year there has been a part for the graduating class event. It has been inconsistent in the past, and I think we need to codify it this year. There was some discussion as to if there should be a cap on it, we want to consider a party closed in attendance with the understanding that this will be provided to all graduating classes going forward. This is only for this year and we can amend going forward. Any questions?

AL: Is it up to the class to decide what to do with the money?

GV: The event is carried out through the Social Committee, so John Kim has come up with projected numbers. It will be done with the Social Committee. It is not just handed out, though.

CL: You said there would be no cap this year?
GV: Not this year, there may be next year. This will utilize ticket sales from Spring Fling and remaining funding from the Budget Committee. We would not be dipping into savings for this.

Jeremy: Is there a requirement that this be a closed event? Should it be? Perhaps non-graduating individuals want to attend and I know that there are folks who would want to attend.

GV: I raised this issue previously with members of the class and my understanding is that there is a strong consensus that they want it to be a closed event.

Jeremy: Does this undermine the purpose of the SBA's mission?

GV: This is one of the questions raised, so if we vote today, we vote in support of it. This is as long as this is extended to each graduating class. I am okay with the exception going through this year. It is important to be conservative about carving out exceptions, but I think in the interest of the entire community, it is best.

MY: For this year, there is no cap because we have certain availability in the budget. I had a concern that for future years we want to be mindful of the proportional amount because this is from all student funding. Seeing as it has been happening for a long time. This is a more expensive per head event as a nice send off, and it is hard to achieve this otherwise.

Jeremy: Perhaps for future years, we need to carve out a different budget for this with money raised by the graduating class, thinking in the long term and the short term. We don't want to insult the graduating class but we want to follow up on this.
GV: This is consistent with my vision on how we deal with this going forward. This is somewhat of a short term notice for us, but this will be temporary.

JT: Motion to put forth the proposal. Motion to vote on the authorization of funding for a graduating class event that is closed to all but the graduating class.

CT: Second

Yes: 9
No: 0
Abstention: 2

YM/GV: Approved.

GV: Moving on, I want to shift gears here and go with the Treasurer election... actually, is everyone comfortable deciding on a dollar mount for the party? The number I just sketched out of 3000 with the ticket sales. If we can deal with this now, this would be easier.

JT: This has been flushed out, pretty much?

GV: Yes. We cannot simply authorize the funds, we have remaining funds, this is not shifting the overall fiscal spending and we do need to approve it. The request is for 3000.

AL: Just to clarify, this is just for this year?

GV: Yes.
CT: Motion to put in the exact dollar amount on the cap of to authorize the use of $3000 as a cap for the funding for the graduating class event.

JT: Second.

Vote: 10
No: 0
Abstention: 1

GV: Measure Passed. Moving to election, consistent with last time, we will provide both candidates with a chance to speak to everyone here and we will open up the floor to everyone to ask questions.

[Jeremy and Justin come to front]

Jeremy: I know a good portion of you but for those I don't know, it is a pleasure to meet you. Thanks for the meeting tonight. I recently resigned for my job in the military. My parents know I have some free time so they invited me next week, so I am going on a cruise with them to wish them a Happy Birthday, so I will be out of town for the semester. Next semester I will be completely free, working with the IRS, and this is why I decided to quit my job as the summer was coming up. I will be taking both day and evening classes. 11 years on active duty military and commanded a unit overseas in Iraqi Freedom. Talking Treasurer elections, so I have banking and funding experience. I managed the CT state budget of nearly 4 years with total operating budget of 4-5 million dollars a year. I am used to government funding and fund management, understanding the need for compliance with laws and how to creatively work the law to accomplish what we have to do with legal, ethical and moral bases while still accomplishing what we want to do. We want to do what the students want to do. As Treasurer, I see a major item is to come up with working procedures and techniques to
allow the SBA and groups to accomplish what they want to do within the procedures. I have lots of experience in this regard. I'm a 3L night student so I have one more year to go. I am not partisan when it comes to campus politics, I could care less who comes for what. I think the job with the Treasurer role is compliance with the law. I want to be able to provide options within legal boundaries. You all are the decision-makers, not the Treasurer. The Treasurer asks different questions than the SBA asks. I will offer the options so we can go to the SBA with options in front of it to meet the student's goals. I don't care what student group comes for what, that is not the role of the Treasurer. The Treasurer cannot be involved with taking sides that would be counterproductive. Finally, I just wanted to make mention that I think it was quite honorable that Justin could vote and chose not to vote. I wanted to thank him publicly for this. With that, I will turn this over to Justin.

JT: Some of you have heard this before. I'm Justin, a 2L day student. I have had the pleasure of serving as a rep, and regardless of the election result, will continue to serve in the SBA. I have had the pleasure of working with the current Executive Board on the Budget Committee and past members. I saw a lot of what goes into dealing with student groups to be responsible, but give them what they want and also staying out of the red. One of the issues we ran into this year was a problem with tax issues, specifically for the PILG fellowships. We went through extensive debates on this and came to a workable solution on this. I have a concrete goal of spearheading, with the help of fellow reps, the codification of budget guidelines, when it comes to what is going through our minds when we make these decisions. It is far too discretionary right now, and transparency is key - this is hard when you don't have a good set of guidelines to provide to student groups to let them know our thought process. We want to be able to say, "this is what we expect from you". So we help all the groups save money this way. I have had experience with this, this year, but we need to set this in stone and we need to set realistic expectations. Essentially, my pledge is, I will try my best to do those codifications and conduct myself in the position of Treasurer as trying to work out an outcome for all the student groups that is responsibly generous and fair. There are probably always going to be concerns when you are the one doling out the money to student groups and you are the one writing the checks. You need
to be prepared to do this. If there issues, solve them in an equitable and fair fashion. Thank you for your consideration.

GV: Can we open up the floor to both candidates?

MT: Whoever gets elected will be the money person, so you will be the focus of very angry people who will probably accuse you of all types of things if they don't get their items approved. I would like to ask how you would handle this.

JT: I pride myself on having a cool head about this and I can handle the accusations and have had to do so, in my former jobs. If you can take somebody screaming expletives about your mother in your face, you can really handle anything. I would organize a meeting with the student groups and the Budget Committee, and we could discuss possible solutions to remedy this. If they so please, I would encourage them to come to the SBA with public comment and then I can provide my rebuttal and if I disagree with the in public form, we can then discuss in this forum in the public.

Jeremy: Great question and thank you. I appreciate it. I have had to deal with it for 11 years. What I have learned from my experience is that you try to make people to buy in. The more they buy in, the less they get angry. Sometimes you will have to make that tough decision. You have to live with that and have to know that you have come with a clear and transparent set of rules and there are going to be things you can do and do as much as possible. As Treasurer, you don't make the changes. You let them know that the SBA must be the one to approve or disapprove. You are transparent from the beginning. I agree with Justin in that you need clear and articulate regulations and I have written many for the state. It is important that you understand the effect of and policies for exceptions. As Treasurer, you are not stuck in a hard place. You can cite the regulations, and say "here are the steps for possibly getting an amendment. You must go the SBA, have the President sponsor you." You have the buy in. People will get mad at you. The most important thing is having people you can talk to. This was really important for me overseas. Example, I put one person on extra duty for 30 days,
didn't make me popular but it was the right decision. I was the judge and jury, not an easy decision to make. I liked the person but had to do my job. I think it is why I had a 95% retention rate. I did the same thing every time. It did not matter if I liked someone or did not like someone. I was able to talk to someone about it and they would tell me sometimes I was going too far. I want the same thing here and maybe you get some good advice. You have to be man enough to say you are wrong. This dissipates a lot of anger quickly. If you are right, you have to stick with it. No one like someone who waffles. Thank you.

GV: Regarding time requirements...I believe in the first 2 weeks in the fall semester, I put in 30-40 hours in the budget, from reviewing forms to managing the budget. Time limits also vary greatly in the semester, but can be anywhere from 1 to 5-8 hours a week. You have to be on campus during the week to be in the business office to write and maintain checks. Do both of you believe you can do this?

Jeremy: Beginning of this year, I was working 60-80 hours a week, I will now do 6-8 hours a week teaching LSAT. Now I come to campus and typically until my last class, usually 9:30, spend the time in the library. Yes, I will be on campus more than enough if anyone is ever looking for me. I will be in the library.

JT: I am also confident that my schedule wont pose problems. This time I spent 20 hours working at an externship and next semester it is also classes, mostly evening classes so I will be available during operating hours and only in class a few hours. I will be available to come on campus.

GV: Second question, when dealing with groups, this has been somewhat addressed in terms of Mike's question on claims of unfairness. How do you deal with a situation with a group on campus that is prominent but makes a request that is high but has a long standing tradition? We had this happen and some hard decisions were made..
JT: That is a tough question and I can understand why this would be a major issue. To a certain extent, a balance needs to be struck and when it is a case that is something that is a long standing tradition, that must have some sway to it. But it depends on what your capabilities are at the time and if the SBA is willing to accept changes. The SBA is at the heart of this and is the representational government of the law school. If it is a major issue with lots of sway, I would first encourage all reps to contact their constituents and plan meetings to get the word out and get people's opinion's on something. When it is that important to a substantial portion of the school, it deserves consideration because that is what we are here for. When it comes to such events, if it is the will of the school, we should look to consider it. If it is too short, we do have to stick to the guidelines. One example is what we just voted on. There is a certain wiggle room when it comes to it that it was a good solution for the graduating class event because it does not really mesh with our guidelines because it requires that things are open, but if need be, a temporary solution is to hold it and move into an area here we can deliberate more and carefully about it. There it keeps it from being a large campus outcry but cooler heads to prevail in the long run.

Jeremy: Excellent question. You cannot have events that violate your guidelines. You have two solutions. You find other ways to fund the event or change the guidelines. If you go back far enough, there was some point at which it did not violate the guidelines, so you go by that. At some point, it evolved over time and people probably stopped paying attention to the rules and people probably stopped doing it. But maybe we as a student body want this to continue. Sometime we must offer a temporary relief from a certain guidelines while at the same time that going forward with this exception so that we can solve our guidelines. We have guidelines that are inconsistent, people will be really upset about it regardless of how well intentioned we are. I would think 90% of the people in the law school are well intentioned at this law school. So it is not that people are poorly intentioned, it is a) that they don't understand what is required, or 2) they lose sight of some more important, big picture intentions. If we can bring them into the process and explain the guidelines, this would help. This is part of the decision-making process. We lay out at the beginning where the gives are and the takes and we make such decision looking at a bigger picture looking at a course of action. And we lay out
some different paths to go on and invite everyone to be a part of it and understand that everything we do after that affects everything else. We are not doing things in a vacuum. How are we going to make it up to the other student groups? Work with us, let's do some give and take. Maybe we think of some alternative sources. Whatever we can do within the regulations. Sometimes carving out an exception will be a good short term regulation. But we cannot be inconsistent.

**MY:** I'm wondering how each of you see, with every Treasurer, being a part of the committee, the dynamic changes form year to year in terms of the interactions during the Budget Committee process during the day of deliberation and during the semester. I'm curious how each of you that dynamic playing out given your individual management styles?

**Jeremy:** One of the important things is that it is important to manage as a leader. If you are a committee leader, if you have that kind of talent working with you, you watch it happen and you find where the margins are and as they approach them, you let them work. When talent is left to work, people will excel. We will have talent regardless. You don't step in and I believe as the committee chairperson and start directing left and right, you just set the limits for the group. Otherwise you just sit there and come up with the roles and make sure everyone knows what is going but you make you are there as a sounding board for the committee to encourage the to become great. This works well form the time I have led a 9 person platoon to a 281 person battalion. I have had nothing but excellent results. People love to work with me. I have had bad days. People just want you to be consistent.

**JT:** It is important to capitalize on the strengths of the committee. These are people who volunteered to be here and they have some great ideas and will come with differing viewpoints. We had some experience with this on the Budget Committee this year. There is a certain measure of control you must exert. Even if it just a difference in opinion, it is about getting the discussion to get back on track. At some point you have to move on, so as far as efficient goes, you have to know when to say "alright." If we have a majority, we need to move on. You must be respectful of this, we must move on. When it comes to meeting
the students groups, it must be a conversational process and ask what the plan is for the event, just essentially making clear what your expectations are. A lot of times the students groups wont be clear on what they want. We want to make sure they know what is expected of them. Part of this if talking with these groups ahead of time. Make clear what is going to be expected of them. If they don’t comply with it, you must say that everyone is being asked to comply with the procedures and you must at as well. It is about promoting compromise to the student groups. I really like to strive to make it as interactive as possible.

CT: This is for Justin. You mentioned you were on the Budget Committee, how does this influence your decision to run for Treasurer and how this experience may or may not help you?

JT: I think familiarity with the current process is good, especially given that when it comes to the new guidelines I already know about interacting with the students groups and am familiar to how the process works in the Budget Committee. Essentially I feel like it has given me an insight into what issues come up. I believe one of the things I want to work on over the summer and maybe I’ll try to get some help some student reps, I want to codify the guidelines in the works over the summer. This cannot wait until next year. We want to at least in some form have this ready for the groups next year. I have a head start on how this process works specifically. I have experience on writing amendments. We had an amendment about handling competition groups traveling to NY and Boston and not being able to provide for travel groups. We want all student groups to feel included and we came to a compromise. We are encouraging cultural student groups to do the same, not just competition groups. If it is an academic or professional development event, then we will help with this.

Jeremy: One thing I have learned from my years of having various jobs in the military is leadership transfer from position to position and job skills is not as important. I’ll give an example. I have had a variety of jobs. As an example, I have been a human resources officer to reading maps to everything in between. In the 30 days of being in the new position, I re-wrote every single provision for the new station. I does not take long to assess the problem. Sometimes coming from the outside is
better as there is momentum to fix the process. I took all these great intentioned and smart people who were there for 10-15 years. I took their advice and worked with it. I rewrote all of the regulations. We found the better ways to do it and as an outside I had the chance to see this and it was a great opportunity for me to see this. Having the knowledge. There are folks in this room who can help me to have great insight that come in with a certain view and being an outside, it is a good time to put in things. It is a process. I don't know the student groups one way or the other. I want to improve the process to make it efficient, transparent. I wont help group A or group B. I don't have a partisan connection to any of the groups on campus. I want to fund every group on campus. Is it realistic? Probably not, and there are tough decisions to be made. We need to say, this is the process and we will stick behind this decision. Whatever we decide, we make a rational decision and people will respect this. Most people on this campus are very intelligent.

**MY:** Our allocation for Social Committee is around 13 per semester. Do both of you support maintaining at least this?

**Jeremy:** I have no opinion. I don't think I should support a position. We need to balance this out with whatever else we decided to do. These are where the decision are to be made. You come with courses of action to say, this is where the trade offs are. One aspect of the budget will effect everything else. IF they want 13.5, they have a real request for 16, this other group has 20k in requests but historically this is overfunded. We balance this out in two possible decisions and we base this.

**JT:** I wont say I wouldn't have an opinion on it. One must look at the experiences of the past. The general consensus is that the Social Committee is very successful this year. The events were well attended and we were working to address one of the major complaints that there were not enough small events. I would support maintaining this level of funding. There is the possibility that you will get more funding requests. If changes need to be made to accommodate if there are some really good request, then you do what you have to do to keep the student body happy. You must be open minded. Initially, I think there is not a problem that we know what we did last year and we may
continue this next year. There is always room for discretion. Initially what has worked this year would work next year.

GV: With respect to your reply dealing with not taking a position, where do you take your cues from then? As a chair, providing guidance to other members, ultimately making policy decisions by supporting the budget. At what point do you take a position and where do you get direction from and defend it?

Jeremy: I've dealt with every year with the state of CT budget process. We begin without what we are doing, we put in a big spreadsheet from start to finish and begin prioritizing. That is really the work of the committee. You put something down and begin discussing certain contingencies. You work with a cut line and fund everything above it. You decide where the cut line is, and go from there. You set up a system to make those decisions. As Treasurer, you just put everything on the spreadsheet and the committee beginning to make those decisions. If there is any must-fund event, this goes above the cut line. There are several processes that can help this. I have been doing this for the better part of 5 years on a million dollar budget. I could articulate what my needs were and got the funding. Those that come with a good plan.

JT: I do think that when we first convene, we need to start with some of the more complicated issues. Just this experience, I want to start with what is contentious and work it out. I recognize that basically just trying to work things out fairly and equitably. I will take ownership for the budget I approve.

GV: any final comments before we close for the debate?

[asks people to step out while we will deliberate]

As of last time, I think we have two very qualified candidates. It is not my place to exert pressure, this is a representative decision. If there were any issues, I would say so. I do ask
that everyone try to be as objective as possible as there is a huge task ahead of them. I want to see this codified. It is a lot of work and needs to happen over the summer before we get into the next session.

**Vote for Treasurer:**

**AL:** Motion to vote.

**CT:** Second.

**Yes:** all

**No:** 0

**[secret ballot]**

**Jeremy:** 1, 1 = 2

**JT:** 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1 = 6

**GV:** Congrats Justin, you have been elected as Treasurer. I cannot thank you both enough. This is a hard position that you are willing to take on. We are essentially out of time. We will officially appoint committees next semester. By email we will solicit interest.

**MY:** Quick vote if people are satisfied. Can we send out a thank you and congrats to them or perhaps of the SBA? If everyone is comfortable with this language, we can vote.

**CT:** Motion to draft resolution.

**AL:** Second.
Yes: 11
No: 0
Abstention: 0

MY: The Med school would like to do a barbeque. I just need some help. They have 200 bucks to pay into it, but the SC has allocated $500. If you can help with this, that would be great. Please also send ideas my way.

YM: Just letting everyone know that I hope to get everyone’s names and bios up as well as keep the website more updated with the new system. I’ll be working on this early next semester. I promise I won’t try to take a picture of you at 10:45 at night!

GV: Anyone want to help with graduation, let me know.

CT: Motion to adjourn.

JT: Second.

All in favor: all