SBA Officers in Attendance
1L Day - Eleni Alevizos - EA
1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - Walter Menjivar - WM
1L Day - David Shufrin - DS
1L Evening - Jeff Kanca - JK
1L Evening - Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Jeffrey Chase - JC
3L Day - Alexander Tingey - AT
3L Day - Michael Molloy - MM
LLM Rep - Katja Giese - KG
Upperclass Evening - Daniel Csuka - DC
Upperclass Evening - Chris Lent - CL
President – Gabriel Vidoni – GV
Vice-President/SC Chair – Mike Yedinak - MY
Secretary – Yam Menon - YM
Treasurer – Justin Theriault – JT

Meeting begins at 9:35pm.

GV: Welcome everyone to the meeting everyone. It’s great to see you all here. So, a couple of things. I want to talk about general overview and give people an idea of the objectives for the SBA Board this year, Committees, and I want to give an opportunity for everyone to introduce themselves. [everyone gives a 1-2 line introduction] We are very serious about and we take this very seriously. We have been working extensively in preparation for the new SBA. A huge priority is efficiency. We need to move with some measure of speed, but we can table things if we need to, as well. The things we ask from you as reps is 1: your attendance here. It is not a huge time commitment. We hope that to the extent that we can, it is a chance for you to reciprocate. We do ask for volunteers to help out
with various items. I know that Mike will need a lot of help with events this year with the Social Committee. The other aspect is in terms of our outward presentation in relation to the school, you are vital to that. We really have to function together. I think we have covered some of the broad pieces now. I’ll leave the social items to Mike. We want to make sure there is a cohesive community, there has been a lot of updates to the Budget Committee. Yam will discuss the changes in the Diversity Committee. Mike has been doing a lot with Career Services and this is hugely important and is a great contribution for us, especially given the hard economic times. Mike, do you want to discuss the Social Committee?

MY: Sure. Social Committee is where we get the most visibility. After the budget process, a lot of the things that have to be done happens. We will discuss the various committees. The things we will discuss is what is going on this semester. We have a Fall Ball in November. As of last spring, we tried to make it goal to branch out to various people from the other UConn campuses. We have a lot of enthusiasm this year. We already had the Barbeque, which over 250 people attended. We have a high level of expectation and enjoyment for the upcoming events. I myself have a background in politics and professional management, so I will make sure that we have everything moving along. We are not going to actually form the full Budget Committee tonight, but if it is something you are interested in, definitely get involved. The more people the better, and the more efficiently things happen. From Career Services, which is very important in this economy in particular, they are really re-vamping the system this year. They are trying to meeting with students individually to plan out their career goals. Sometime communication has been better than others. Gabe and I met with Career Services and we had a full turnout, and the administration is very receptive to us and to the students. The possibilities of having good relationships and really getting things done this year. This is one of the more tangible and changeable areas.

YM: Hi everyone, I’m Yam, and I’m a 2L Day student here. I was a rep last year and was on the Budget Committee last spring. I need to go over some logistics. There is the email sheet going around, so you only need to sign that if you don’t want me to use your law school email account. Okay, so after every meeting I will clean up and send out the meeting minutes to everyone, give you some time to look it over. If anything looks wrong or you want to clarify anything, just let me know and I’ll make a note. I have to discuss attendance because this is the first meeting and once I mention it now, I won’t need to bring it up again. As Gabe mentioned attendance and punctuality is important. Barring an exception, we need you to be at the SBA meeting. I am asking that you give me no less than 48 hours notice when you cannot make a meeting. The reason for this, at least for me personally is that I have enough time to figure out whether or not we will have quorum and can actually have the meeting. Article VII of the Constitution does say that 4 missed meetings throughout the year without written notice is grounds for dismissal, but I never want to have to look
there or ever see that part of the Constitution again. Please don't give me a reason to go back there. And the notice must be written, so email is good, but don't tell me as you see on the way to class, because I cannot handle remembering and recording that. We will later discuss a better meeting time, because I know none of us want to be here until 11pm. Finally, I would like the SBA to have pics and bios this year. I would like everyone to send me up to 100 words for a bio and your best picture, because I'm too last to take our picture, and send it to me by... 11pm on September 24th, one week from now. That's it for now.

JT: I'm Justin, I'm sorry for the massive emails. I started as a rep last year. I'm knee deep in budget requests this year. I'm in charge of monitoring accounts, balancing the budget, and maintaining the finances of the SBA. The student activities fee goes into our coffers. We try to make as much great stuff happen as we can within the limits of the budget committee guidelines. We need four members for the budget committee. We just want to try to stay within our reach and go with the good ideas and take out the bad.

GV: We are going to, as a first matter, solicit interest for the budget, but I want the 1Ls to introduce themselves first.

BH: Hi, I'm Blake, I graduated in 2007 from Stanford, I worked at a Boston law firm before coming here, majored in political science. Not sure what to do in the SBA, but I hope to know in the future, soon.

MA: Hi, I'm Mike. I graduated last year from UConn undergrad. Bachelors in political science/sociology. I did student government as an undergrad, but not sure what to do for the SBA right now.

DS: Hi, I'm Dave, I graduated from Fordham university, worked as a law firm, I'm a 1L. I don't know what I want to do, but I'll figure it out one step at a time.

JK: Hi, I'm Jeff, I just graduated from Boston College in the spring. I like Rock Band.

EA: I, I'm Eleni, I'm a 1L. I'm graduated from UC San Diego in 2008 in poly sci and international studies. I worked for the UN in Panama. I worked at a summer camp for high school students last summer. I'd like to
represent the 1L class, I've been on student government before, so this is an informed decision for me.

**Stephanie:** Hi, I'm Stephanie. I'm not a rep, but I wanted to check out what is going on.

**GV:** Just so everyone knows, all students are always welcome to attend SBA meetings.

**Stephanie:** I went to Hew Hampshire. I graduated in 2008. I was a substitute teacher.

**WM** Hi, I'm Walter, I graduated from Vanderbilt in public policy, political science. I'm from Orlando, and came up to UConn, and my girlfriend is at the Dental school. I'd like to speak with Mike on the Social Committee stuff. I would like to do stuff with the other schools. I would like for a new space for students to study, maybe the library?

**MM** Hi, I'm Mike, I graduated from Holy Cross in 2007. I'm a libra. I don't really know what means. I really have no interests now, but I'll figure it out.

**AT** Hi, I'm Alex, I'm a 3L. This is my first foray into SBA, I know neither the pressures or requirements. I will be willing to help, though as much as I can.

**KG** Hi, I'm Katja, I'm an international student from Berlin. I graduated in the spring. I did student government, so I'm happy to help with whatever.

**GV:** For the reps from last year, if you can just introduce yourself.

**JC** Hi, I'm Jeff, I'm a 2L Day.

**DC** Hi, I'm Dan, I'm a 2L Upperclass Evening Rep.
CL: Hi, I'm Chris, 4th year, upperclass rep. My first year as a student rep.

GV: We will now solicit interest for the Budget Committee. We deal with the finances and come up with a proposal. [writing down the times for the meeting] There is an initial time commitment. It is a few hours spread over two days. Then we meet on Saturday to slash out the budget. We will participate in supplemental requests after that. This will be done variously. We will meet with student orgs and discuss their budget and see if there are any questions on the budgets.

MY: It is time consuming, but it is not a coincidence that all of the former budget committee members are the E-Board. It is a valuable position to have.

YM: Also, particularly for the 1Ls, the time commitment is very front-loaded, and the supplemental take up barely any time throughout the semester. So you won't need to think about the Budget Committee in November or December, when you need to focus on school.

GV: This is a good position if you want to have a hands on and tangible impact on the students.

JT: We will meet next Sunday.

GV: Who is interested in the Budget Committee and can make these times? Please place your name on the sheet and tell why you are interested in the Committee. Justin and I will meet, and we will let you know tomorrow morning of the results.

MY: Do we have to write the credentials?

GV: No, just quickly go around and briefly explain your interest in the position.

JT: you don't need to have a lot of experience with this to be on the Committee.
GV: If you are curious to see how it works, it is well worth it.

JC: Do you keep the Budget Committee for the whole year?

GV: It depends on people's schedules, we will re-evaluate at the beginning of next semester. These meetings are for asking question on proposalss We just need you to vote on that week for the budget.

DS: I'm interested b/c I have a finance degree and I worked as an accounting intern. I did budgeting for my fraternity and was treasurer for half the year. I do have class at some of those times, though.

MA: I was the president in undergrad and had a budget of 100,000. Was on the funding board for the undergrad, so I made a budget. I have handled a 2 million dollar budget before. I think it is a really cool thing.

JK: At Boston U, I took control of a student newspaper, brought it up from the ground up, it was in the red when I got it, got a staff, created a budget, then I incorporated it. I dealt with all the issues and got it to a competing paper as a primary source for the school.

AT: As an active member of the campus, I want to see that the student groups here get the funding they need, I don't have much relevant experience but having been here for 2 years, I'd like to be involved in that process and see how that works.

JK: I'm involved in a lot of student groups. I know what's going on campus.

GV: We will be in touch and then announce tomorrow. Mike do you want to talk about Social Committee? Do you want to solicit interest and get a Committee together?

MY: I'll send an email out and see what we can get done, dates, as things are getting booked for the rest of the year. There will probably be one meeting every week or every other week, This will depend on the interest
that is shown. We will have a lot going on. Depending on how much leadership people want to take, just a very short meeting to touch base. We have Fall Ball, the Halloween event, and something with the med school. We are looking at more of the barbeques. There should be a diverse lineup, and also evening events like at Braza. I think that we will actually finalize the Social Committee in two weeks. The Social Committee tends to be less formal and more of a consensus, and a confirming vote, like the Budget Committee. As this point, think about it if it is something you want to do. Send me an email or respond to my email. One other thing: in thinking of the Budget Committee, this is independent. We are looking to working with the Diversity Committee to try to encourage groups to work together, 15 groups are now getting together for the domestic violence event. We want to think outside the box for this semester.

GV: It is never a bad thing to do overlap. Next, Facilities Development. This is an exciting area that we will be doing some work in. We want to work on common student spaces for people to hang out in, like couches, tvs, and so forth. We hear the desire from 1Ls for more common space. We want to be creative and look at different areas and do some interior design and decorating. It is a great segue way point to discuss the energy efficiency of the campus. If you want to sign up, please sign up. The last committee going around is Constitutions and by-laws. There are a number of existing issues with the current Constitution. We should be grateful for even having one, as many other schools do not, but with that said, it is not 100% internally consistent. There are language errors. We might want to revise when elections occur, we want to proceduralize the operations of these committees. If you are interested in this, please sign up.

MY: One thing to mention: for Facilities Committee: lockers was a big topic. We were pretty close, but we needed some reps to finish it out. The administration cannot handle this right now. This is pretty visible and has been investigated a bit.

DS: What about the ones in the library? They don't seem to be functional.

MY, YM: Are they being used right now? Are they functional?

GV: I don't think that they are active. We discussed about how to come up with the system of handing out combos and keys. That covers the current committees. If we need more committees, I'll let you know. What is going on in the background, there are student reps on faculty committees. I'll publish a list, they are typically filled by appointment. I'll circulate the list of open spots and we can review. Anything else? Public comment?
**JC:** Library hours.

**GV:** As a background issue, I pushed as a 1L. I'm not saying this to discourage anyone, but the constraints are that: the campus gets locked up at 10:45, and when we are here after 11pm, it is not safe here. The main issue is security staffing. The other issue is that the library is a public space. I've never had a problem, but it is a realistic issue. I can come up with a library committee.

**MA:** Is it the PD or is it based out of Storrs?

**GV:** It is UConn security.

**JT:** We had a trial period which was poorly planned. It happened during Thanksgiving when no one was here, so the turnout was not great.

**YM:** The notice for that trial period was also very short.

**WM** Do these buildings lock down at 10:45? Couldn't we just selective card access?

**GV:** The issue of having student traffic is not the issue. The issue is something happening to one of us when security is not around. It is possible. It may be an issue of funding. This is something we brought up, and they did a trial, but it was bad timing.

**BH:** The Saturday closing at 5pm and opening on Sunday at 1pm is problematic.

**GV:** Maybe we can set up a meeting with the library and talk to Dean Paul about it.

**BH:** We are talking about study space. I understand that there is new construction. But during the days, the picnics tables are taken up usually
between 11-2. There is a ton of green space. Maybe just extra tables and chairs?

**GV:** Facilities Committee can identify these areas of development for campus. A bench can go a long way, so we can work on this. I would love more picnic benches and tables.

**JK:** There has been a lot of research done on this. We want to have a fuel cell on campus, we will meet with some companies meet about this. The Facilities Committee can be a part of this. This has not died down, it has been in the planning and data collecting stage. There is a campus green report, we are going to try an updated that this year.

**GV:** Can you send me an email and I'll add it as an agenda item?

**EA:** Can we work with Career Services to go beyond the New England area to make ourselves more national?

**GV:** Mike is acting in this capacity as liaison to Career Services. Ideas like that should go to Mike. We should definitely communicate.

**MY:** Yeah

**YM:** So I spoke with Jane Brown, who has the master calendar of everything going on on this campus. She suggested the following times that have the least amount of conflict between the day and evening division classes:

- Monday, 12:30 - 1:30
- Tuesday, 12:30 - 2:00
- Wednesday, 12:00 - 1:30
- Wednesday 5:00 - 6:30 pm. [written on the board]

**MY:** Can we hear from the evening students first?

**CL:** Lunchtime is ok, but if they go long, it will be a problem. I prefer the 5 - 6:30 slot on Wednesday.

**BH:** The 1Ls have a class ending at 5 pm, so we have to be here anyway.
GV: If you have to leave early, then it's okay. Does that work for everyone? I think Wednesday 5 - 6:30 pm.

MA: Motion to change the meeting times.

BH: Second.

Vote:
Yes: 16
No: 0
Abstention: 0

GV: This is unprecedented that we are doing this so early in the night, but we are done. Motion to convene.

MY: Second.

Vote:
Yes: all
No: none
Abstention: none

Meeting ends at 10:35 pm.
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1L Evening - Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Jeffrey Chase – JC
2L Day - Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day - Angie Lachman - AL
2L Day - Zohaib Rasheed - ZR
3L Day - Michael Tehan - MT
3L Day - Mike Molloy - MM
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Treasurer – Justin Theriault – JT
Faculty Advisor – Dr. Jane Brown - JB

Meeting begins at 5:03pm.
CL: Motion to Begin Meeting.

Second: All.

GV: Thank you everyone for coming out. As I mentioned about the email, we are trying to go really quick through this. Obviously the big thing on the agenda is the budget. There are two other administrative matters. I want to deal with minutes real quick, so I'm going to turn it over to Yam.

YM: Okay, so I sent two minutes, basically on that last email that I sent out. The first one is not applicable to the 1Ls because it is from the last meeting of the spring semester, we never got to vote on that. I'll need the non 1L reps to vote on that. The second one is the minutes from the last meeting. If we can motion to vote on the first minutes from 4.28.09.

JC: Motion to Vote on the 4.28.09 minutes.

All: Second.

Vote
Yes: all
No: no
Abstention: no

BH: Motion to Vote on the 9.14.09 minutes.

Second: DH.

Yes: 16
No: 0
Abstention: 1

GV: Next item is the budget, and then we will be talking about committees. To begin with, I'm going to turn it over to Justin to put forth the proposal for the budget and we can have discussion.
JT: The BC met on Friday and spent numerous hours, and I would like to thank everyone who worked on it. It was very long, nine hours. I barely got up from the chair myself. There is a copy of the budget proposal on TWEN, but I wanted to distribute hard copies in case you have not had a chance to review, so if you can pass that around.

GV: As an initial matter, one thing we discussed, what we would like to do is to line item out the PILG item allocation for the fellowships only, and the purpose is that we would like to examine those affiliated conditions more and meet with PILG and put forth more discussion about how to optimize what we are looking for. Rather than have that discussion now, we would like to table it and have that discussion first and give it more procedural process. There is no prejudice regarding those conditions, we just want to give it more time and we can vote at the next meeting.

MA: Motion to strike the PILG fellowships and the conditions that apply.  
JK: Second.  
Vote: Yes: 17  
No: 0  
Abstention: 0  

JC: Are we going to have an SBA meeting with someone from PILG to explain the conditions?

GV: No, the Budget Committee will meet with PILG separately as a matter of efficiency. There will absolutely be an option to ask questions and have discussions. To turn over to the general budget, are there any questions on allocations on the rest of the budget?

Non-rep: In regards to the funding that was allocated, there was a disclaimer that said that we would get funding pending if in compliance with raw food rules.

GV: There was concern on the Budget Committee about the university conditions and whether there were conditions on raw food. We love sushi. It is important for us to be in compliance. It’s just highlighting that the group and the Budget Committee will need to investigate the matter.
Non-rep: I actually looked at this beforehand, and in light of the fact that there are many years of precedent of Corporate Raw having sushi, it seemed that there should be a distinction between raw meat and raw fish.

GV: The important thing from our standpoint is that this is okay with the administration.

Jane Brown: Can I speak to this? This comes from my office and I have to keep the thermometer that actually tests the hot food. They are very very strict, we are totally liable if anybody gets sick. It does not go back to the restaurant, it comes back to how the food was kept warm or cold. We have been doing this for corporate Raw, but there is a disclaimer on menus that go out to people that you are responsible the food could be problematic and risk illnesses. We are a law school and are horribly liable for anything served here and raw, we are much more liable. We go through this every year for Corporate Raw, are you talking about Corporate Raw?

Non-rep: No, not Corporate Raw, this is for sushi being served in addition to cooked food at an event.

JB: If the food had come through me and the office, then from me comes the whole disclaimer and how you have to keep it warm or cold that it must be kept warm, and if not, then I have to put a stop on it. I appreciate SBA making this notation.

Non-rep: So it is conditioned on the fact that the food is kept cold?

JB: If you read the Food and Safety, we have to comply with all of those guidelines.

JT: That is what our conditions has to do with. If you comply, then you are fine.

GV: Another question?
Non-rep: I saw a certain allocation for capital projects. I was wondering what exactly capital project entails.

GV: Great question. A couple of different things: We recently re-gained access to SBA office in Starr Hall, we want to revamp that office and throw a computer up in there. We have one, but we are not sure if it is up to date and functional. The idea of revamping that office is both for the SBA and the student groups. This costs money, we are also looking to do improvements to Knight lounge and other areas of campus. Other questions? That is what this is earmarked for.

JC: So every organization that exists, even if they don't submit a budget, gets discretionary funding,?

GV: If you are active and have a leadership roster, then you get it automatically, you do not need to submit a budget request.

JC: Is there a way that we can, I don't know, like the Social Committee for the SBA has $13,500. That is a lot of money. I was talking to some people about it, and it would probably make sense to see where the money is going, but I think if someone just sees $13,500. I don't know if there is a way to get all the forms out so that people can see them.

GV: There are a couple of challenges to that. One, the way that SC has been conventionally allocated, events cannot be planned and priced out in contract form until there is money to do that on the Social Committee end. That allocation is based on a projection of past expenditures for the various events like Fall Ball, Halloween, and the spring events.

MY: There are periodically reports submitted by the Social Committee, so certainly at any point, since this is all coming from student activities fees, anytime someone has a question about spending, my understanding is that it simply needs to be asked.

GV: It is all open record, and there be votes in the Social Committee and reports submitted.

JC: Can we get a report on what was spent on at the end of the semester? Do you have a list of what got spent on to put on the TWEN site or something?
GV: We actually post the account summaries, it is part of our bylaws and to post it in Knight Lounge. This is part of the requirement and we disclose every allocation down to the penny.

JC: Unless there is a reason we cannot put it on TWEN, we should have it and not limit access to this stuff. We would like to see what the student groups are also asking for, so we know, for example, where the $700 is going for this student group or that.

GV: I would encourage everyone to speak with Justin on this and to receive more information. We are re-evaluating a lot of our internal procedures in terms of how we deal with the budgetary process. These are great ideas and I encourage the discussion. Other questions?

CL: Is there a way you could, I'm not sure if you can summarize this, to what extent were tough decisions made regarding some organization's budgets? How was the allocation made?

JT: As far as the BC process goes, seven people were selected from SBA representation. The procedure for each group, was that we would have an open discussion as it was being submitted to us, this part was generally a more informal discussion on what people's thoughts were on particular allocations, and we would come to a point of particular consensus, noted on the budget. The is the first time have done this. We did live document sharing. At the conclusion of the discussion, for a student group budget, the Budget Committee would vote, and majority goes, Every person has a single vote. For particularly contentious items, we would do a line item vote. At the close of the Budget Committee session on Friday, having gone through each group voted on individually, that's every group and SBA, we voted on final proposal that sits before you and the tally for the final vote: 6 yeses, 0 nos, 1 abstention.

GV: Does that clarify as far as the process is concerned?

CL: I'm just asking in generalities. I see some allocations higher than the others, as long as monies are not unevenly distributed, as there are a few events with a high dollar allocation, and I'm not saying there is a problem, I just wanted to make sure that the other student organizations were not shorted because of a few events that are pretty high priced.
JT: We did not actively short change just because it was high or not high. Looking at the merits of different proposals, what groups wanted to do, how prudent it was to spend on a particular type of activity. Thankfully, The way it came out with our allocations, we were fortunate enough not to get into a serious position where we had to go into serious cuts. The requests worked very well for our budgetary goals this year.

GV: To chime in, to share from my experiences from the previous year as Treasurer and sitting down with Justin this year, the Budget Committee provides a policing function and we have to make judgments on occasion about what serves the community the best. Fortunately, we were in a position where we did not have to make a lot of hard decisions. The other things we go by very much is precedent: how much have groups received in the past? How active were they? To some extent, the budget sets itself based on previous activity of the student groups. You can have a case where a group was very active two years prior, and this year they request less because they are less active. We also have new student groups this year to the fullest extent out of fairness. There is a bit of an ebb and flow. We try to avoid making heavy and subjective judgments. That is the checks and balances of having seven people. The other thing important to note is where there were conflicts of interest, people on the Budget Committee would sit out.

BH: I have a question, not necessarily a problem, but just wondering. PILJ: there is over 1600 for administrative costs, I was just wondering what this is. It just seemed like a big number for something like this.

JT: I'll pull up the specific for you now.

GV: Certain organizations, such as the journals, and I'll let Justin speak more on the details, their operations are comparatively complex, when comparing to a student group that puts on two events. To that extent, it is easy for us to do simple line allocations. For a more complex group, where their expenses are relatively complex, the Budget Committee sometimes feels like it's not our place to say how much the journal should spend on each items.

JT: To speak more specifically to your inquiry, these things include copy cards for the library copiers, toner cartridges, phone lines for the office, copying fees, and things like citechecking supplies. A journal a massively complex organization when it comes to administrative costs, so we don't think it is worth our time and we don't want to insult the groups by micromanaging them.
GV: Keeping in mind, as a second procedural safeguard, every expense incurred gets checked again at the reimbursement phase, and Justin sees every single reimbursement. If we make a block allocation, we still check it for appropriate funding.

MY: The same goes for the Social Committee budget.

JT: If there is an inappropriate expense, I will have something to say about it.

GV: It's a good question, and it's nice to see that you are all taking this seriously. Anything else? In interest of time, if there are no more questions, let's vote.

WM: Motion to Vote for the Fall 2009 budget.

BH: Second.

Yes: 21
No: 0
Abstention: 1

GV: We all owe Justin a thanks for the hard work. We are doing well in terms of time. To move forward, I want to add one thing, and simply introduce Jane Brown, who is our faculty advisor. Do you want to briefly explain your role as SBA advisor?

JB: I'm Jane Thierfield Brown, Director of Student Services and advisor to this group, so anything that you all need. I do everything non-academic, people that have all kinds of issues that are not classroom specifics. That includes all of the events that you are scheduling. I am the law school scheduling center. I am happy to help in any way I can.

GV: Jane has been a tremendous asset to the student body. We hope to see you more.
GV: John Rosato, I want to introduce him, this is entirely unexpected. If you are interested in Facilities work, this is a nice segue way to the end of our meeting. John will be coordinating the Facilities work on campus and has a true passion for this subject matter. So take a look, that’s his face. Moving to the final item, the other remaining committees that everyone signed up at the last meeting, with the exception of the Social Committee, and Mike will comment on that briefly in a moment, we are going to send an email and just ask to confirm if you did put your name down, and you want to be removed, just let me know. Otherwise I will assume that you want to be on that Committee.

MY: We have high expectations, a generous allocation, we already have about a dozen volunteers including four SBA reps, interested in the committee, I would like to see 4 or 5 more for several reasons: because we already have a lot of good stuff to do. We already have the groundwork set. We have room for more, the more people we have, the more ideas we get and the better things are planned. Because we have a good level of interest to start with this year, I won’t be pushing for any more than biweekly, and frankly, on an as-needed basis. If the event are getting done, then I’m not going to drag people in to a meeting. We have a generous allocation and a lot of good idea a good way to put this to good use. Because SBA is only allowed to vote, I would like more SBA members o the Social Committee. Everyone has to be on a Committee, I encourage you think about Social Committee, but you can do more than one. Last year I did Budget and Social and thoroughly enjoyed it. You won’t necessarily be locked into a certain assigned area. You can do what interests you and get involved, so I encourage everyone to consider it.

GV: Thanks Mike. As discussed previously, we do expect all reps to be on at least 1 committee and strongly recommend you being on more. Any other items of business? Public comment? Questions?

MY: One more thing: If you could please send me an email, we will have our first meeting sometime probably next week. I will mail everyone. We will have non-pizza food and talk about what we want to do.

GV: Final comments? Excellent. Thanks everybody.

Motion to end meeting: Al
Second: All

Meeting ended at 5:27pm.
**SBA Officers in Attendance**
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1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - Walter Menjivar - WM
1L Day - David Shufrin - DS
1L Evening - Jeff Kanca - JK
2L Day - Jeffrey Chase – JC
2L Day - Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day - Angie Lachhman - AL
2L Day - Zohaib Rasheed - ZR
3L Day - Michael Tehan - MT
3L Day - Alexander Tingey - AT
LLM Rep - Katja Giese - KG
Upperclass Evening - Daniel Csuka - DC
Upperclass Evening - Chris Lent - CL
Upperclass Evening - Cara Tonucci - CT
Upperclass Evening - Danielle Most - DM
Faculty Advisor – Dr. Jane T. Brown – JB

**SBA Diversity Committee Attendance:**
Tony Lu - TL
Mari Collazo - MC
Amanda Johnson - AJ
Lisa Rodriguez - LR
Heidi Cha - HC
John Rosato - JR

**Motion to Begin Meeting: AL.**
**Second: WM.**

**Meeting Begins at 5:09 pm.**

GV: Given Mike’s time constraint, I’m going to let Mike speak about the Social Committee.

MY: It’s been a bit of a whirlwind with the med school, but in the last few weeks we have pretty much got everything settled. The schedule as of right now, as the Social Committee discussed, the med school decided to pull out of the tailgate. So next Saturday, the 24th at Wood Tap from 12 to 3, we will have a tailgate. The Social Committee allocated $1000 for that, which at West Wings will get a good amount of food and pretty high quality for people to come and enjoy, football fan or not. This will be a nice lunch on a Saturday. The following Saturday, Halloween, we have West Wings from 9 to 12pm, we are not sure if the med school is joining us or not. But that would add open bar funding if they do. Hope to have word in the next few days. We
will be sending out an email later today discussing all of these items, so that everyone knows what’s lined up. Fall Ball is scheduled for November 14th at the Hartford Club from 9-12pm, we have negotiated $1200 in sponsorship from BarBri, which helped to make that a nicer event than from individual ticket costs. Weekend after that, PILG has its auction the 20th, which will be running itself and it’s a great event every year. We have been in discussions with the Dean’s Office about a Holiday Reception that might be a wine-and-cheese style, but high quality food. December 2nd, which is the Wednesday right after we get back from Thanksgiving. At that point, we are essentially done for the semester. There will be a midnight breakfast, the 14th probably, the night before exams start. We are excited for that. We will also have free coffee throughout the exam period. And hopefully that will be enough.

JP: Massages?

MY: That is generally through the Health Law Interest Group (HILG), but Social Committee might add for massages.

GV: I think HILG plans the massages at the end of the year.

MY: Anyone have any questions? I will be sending out an email with this information, so if anyone wants to reply to that, that’s fine as well. Thank you everyone. I want to thank everyone on Social Committee and I really appreciate everyone’s diligence in making these things happen. I think we are on track for the rest of the semester.

GV: Thanks Mike. Going back to agenda items, let’s go to the Diversity Committee.

YM: Minutes?

GV: Yes, minutes first.

YM: Sent out the minutes any questions about that? Anyone not get the minutes? Are we ready to vote on the minutes?

Motion to Approve the 10.1.09 Minutes: BH.

AL: Second.

Vote:
Yes: all
No: none
Abstention: none

The 10.1.09 minutes have been approved.

YM: Wonderful, thanks everyone.

GV: Moving on into introductions to the Diversity Committee (DC). Yam, do you want to speak on this as well?

YM: Yes, so first of all, I hope that everyone has the sheets that I passed out. The first page is the PILG Conditions, and the rest is the Bylaws for the DC. So we are going to be talking about who the DC is, we have the Committee here for approval by the SBA. I’d like to introduce them, so I’d like to introduce the chairs of
the DC, Tony Lu and Mari Collazo. They can discuss what the committee’s goals are, what the functions are, and we are very happy to have them all here. Thank you.

Tony Lu: As Yam said, our entire mission is here, so I won’t read it out loud. Our members are back there (in the room). We have three overarching goals this year with the Diversity Committee: 1. To make our presence well known on campus. Over the last few years, we have been relatively subverted on the campus scene. We want to make our presence well known through a number of events this semester and next semester. 2. There is a Diversity Action Plan created 2 years ago. Has not had a lot of action, it a dormant document that is sitting, but what we hope to do is to ensure that the ball gets rolling with regard to the plan. Lastly, our goal is to serve as a bridge for a number of the student organizations and collaborate as it relates to all diversity issues on campus. That’s

MC: I made a list with Tony, he read it.

GV: The DC was formed several years ago. It’s been a young relationship between the SBA and the DC. This grew in part out of a need to response to a very difficult event on campus.

We want to form a relationship with this group and the campus. We want it to be more than a reactive element, but a proactive and reactive component to this group to promote cohesion on this campus, rather than just taking a passive role. I know that Yam and Tony and Mari have been working closely to chart out goals. I have received statements from individual members and have communicated by email. The next step is for the SBA to approve the Committee. Regarding how the students were chosen, it was a combination of conversations that I have had with students, input from Yam, Tony, and Mari, communication with student leaders on campus. In the future, we will explore ways to open up the process and shift this to the Diversity Committee as it flushes out its identity role, so we will likely be facing some by-laws changes in the future. If the DC nominees could come up and introduce themselves.

YM: If you could come up and introduce yourselves, that would be great. Thank you.

Lisa R: I’m Lisa Rodriguez. and I’m a 2L.

John R: I’m John Rosato, I’m a JD/MBA 2L/3L, I represent intellectual and political minorities.

Amanda: I’m Amanda Johnson, I’m a 2L. I’m committed to social activism and creating a better climate for everyone on this campus.

Heidi. I’m Heidi Cha, I’m a 2L. I echo Amanda’s sentiments.

Mari C: I’m Mari, I’m a JD/MPH, 2L/3L, and I’m chairing the Committee with Tony.

Tony: I’m a 3L, and Mari and I were on this Committee last year. We hope to make the Committee stronger, as we were the only remaining members from last year.

GV: If you have any ideas that the DC can serve this community, we encourage you to speak to Tony and Mari. We have this relationship between the DC and SBA, the SBA initially created the DC and votes on it, but beyond that there is a notion of independence that is important for them to function and handle issues on campus. Don’t hold back, it’s a pivotal point and we have a great group of students, so please contact them.
Jane: 2 years ago it was created in response to a difficult event on campus, but also to give a voice to all the different groups on campus that were sort of floundering and trying to get a broader voice. What I am seeing now, as the events person in my office, instead of what we really tried to go towards in the past few years regarding collaboration, but instead I’m seeing everyone factionalized. Everyone wants their own panel/symposium, where I think that a lot of voice together would be stronger. I would encourage you to come together and work with the DC to lend some of these ideas. What I am seeing on campus is the beginning of diversity being factionalized and creating more resistance to diversity because everyone wants their own identity instead of working together. I hope you can help with this.

MC: This is something the DC had discussed extensively and is definitely willing to work towards.

GV: I think all academic environments struggle with identities, and we hope to bridge some of these gaps on campus. I would love to see this going forward. Putting forth for approval.

**Motion to Vote on the Appointment for the Diversity Committee: WM. Second: JK.**

**Vote:** 15
**No:** none
**Abstention:** none

The Diversity Committee has been appointed and approved by the SBA.

CL: Do we have a full DC or do we need one more spot?

YM: Mari?

MC: We need a 1L Evening Student.

YM: So we still need a 1L Evening Student.

Ingrid Festin: I am interested in being the 1L Evening member.

GV: I would have you reach out to Mari and Tony if you are interested, put forth a statement, and we can go from there. This is important to maintain the current process, particularly as all of the other members have been through this process.

MC: So you also cannot be an SBA member and on the DC.

GV: Part of the reason is because of the need for the independence for the DC. Okay, so PILG funding conditions. I’m going to turn this over to Justin.

JT: You all have the sheet that Yam passed out. There some minor changes to make to this. We decided to keep the funding constant as our revenues are constant and we felt like examining the budget, we have the right amount of money to provide this to people for their summer public interest jobs who may not be able to afford to do such work otherwise. The Budget Committee recommends $8000 for the fellowships so that PILG can select people who are doing worthy public interest work for fellowship opportunities. What you will see in the current conditions, the goal is to get people this money but to make sure that we fulfill our fiduciary duty to the students. In the case that someone is earning the amount of the fellowship or more, we ask them to
pay it back to the SBA. Also, judging panels that are inclusive of faculty, staff, as well as clinicians and teaching instructors. One issue to bring up, is that staff may be interpreted to be a student. So under B, if you go to the end, where it says “and staff,” to “professional staff.”

MT: How about “nonstudent staff?”

JB: We should change it to nonstudents.

MT: I don’t know that professional has the definition of including or not including students.

JB: My title is professional staff. Over the years, we have had professional staff who are law students. The last one we had on staff graduated in May of 2008, so at the moment, we don’t have any professional staff, but you do most of the time, so maybe “nonstudent staff” is better.

GV: Just to clarify, there have been slight changes to the proposal.

JT: We just wanted to keep the process unbiased. The other change that I have made was just eliminating some unnecessary verbiage. Under B, the first paran, I took that out. One of our considerations when we met with PILG was that we don’t want to step outside of our bounds of expertise. We don’t want to tell PILG everything that they have to do and tell them how to do their job. We are trying to keep it basic and keep the important stuff in. We don’t want to micromanage them. We are trying to facilitate communication between SBA and PILG to keep it productive and keep the lines of communication open with trying to keep people to come back and do work for them. One of the changes we had to make, because it was impossible to comply with the past provision, was that there were no exception for people with extenuating circumstances for people to come back to apply. We have two study abroad students. The first paran in B is changed, and change to add non-student are the only changes. Aside form that, I would like to submit the conditions and put forth for proposal.

GV: Any questions. Do you understand the changes between the sheet in front of you and what we will be voting on?

WM: Did they ask for $8000?

JT: This year they requested 20k for the whole year, and we have not done that in previous years, and we wanted to keep it in line as last year for the 8000 per semester. We want to keep it consistent.

WM: So it’s 16k this year?

JT: Well, it is always subject to next semester’s voting. That is generally the case.

GV: Other questions about the substance of the conditions? Wording? Anyone want to motion to vote?

Vote to Motion: EA
Second: DS

Yes: 19
No: 0
Abstention: 0
DeVaughn: We appreciate your input. Thank you everyone. This will go to a lot of needy students. Thank you all so much.

GV: Moving on to Facilities (FC) update. I will discuss briefly. Dave can talk some more. FC met yesterday and had a very productive meeting and discussed a few capital improvement projects including common spaces on campus. Specifically the student lounge in the library, which right now is an intermediate study space, the expected use of that student would go in and study and eat at the time. The FC would like to see this space developed, something akin to Knight Lounge. The vision is to maintain the use. To that effect, we had a meeting earlier this year with Darcy Kirk and discussed her concerns about making sure the uses of the facilities are preserved and the physical constraints. The committee discussed this. We came up with a game plan. We will construct a formal proposal and John will head this up (he will discuss this) and we are also arranging a basic poll to gauge interest because we all felt it was important for students to support this in order to justify this expenditure. It is important for the administration to see in addition to the fact that there is a lot of interest for this. These were the two strategies addressed. John, do you want to discuss the formal proposal?

JR: This proposal will go to Darcy. We envision more than just the lounge, we want to use the foyer space and the lounge area. While we could use a student union type of building, we would like to see the return of lockers. With the transformation of the lounge, it can be a multiuse room that does have spaces where you can sit down and eat at tables. We would like to see some TVs in there, with stations running and captions, to avoid bothering people. Also, couch clusters to facilitate the group meeting and comfortable seating. We would like to see long term the return of a coffee machine with the ability to have to have K-cups. We want to turn that space into a mini student union, not just an extension of the library. We want students to feel like it is a central spot for student life and distinct from the library. That is our vision. That is what we are pursuing. The poll should be written by next week and we should have the poll running by Wednesday. The following week, the deadline would be for us to have the proposal done. The first week in November to propose this to Darcy.

JT: Encourage everyone you know to take that survey.

GV: What do you all think?

DM: I think it’s long overdue. When prospective students come, the first two places they want to see are the bookstore, both of which are in a basement. This would be great and we want to show this off.

GV: I think it would be great. If people saw a modernized lounge, it creates as close to a student union as possible. There is a wonderful foyer area where people could set up tables and advertise events. We could interact there. It really has a lot of potential. It was originally designed to be a student space like this.

EA: I feel that our campus is so big, it is surprising that we can’t seem to find one room that could be used like this. I feel like our campus is big enough for this. Can we use this space for example?

JR: I don’t think we can invade classroom space, because that is very short on this campus. Long term, one of the other spaces to look at is that pseudo cafeteria and the hidden cave study area to the right of the cafeteria. If we re-vamp Knight Lounge in combo with the library space, we can accomplish this realistically.

Gv: We have discussed other options on campus, and this space naturally lends itself to this. There are those institutional constraints. Long term, I would love to see the FC and the SBA succeed with this space first, and
then venture out into other spaces. They can make a recommendation, talking to students, and make such plans.

JR: In college, we wrote a paper on long term strategy on student life. I thought it was a great document, and since leaving, many of the things happened. When you really codify what the long term vision the students have, the administration listens, because they are often concerned about the same thing, but often they are not in tune with what we think the needs are. I so think that maybe the FC could pursue the paper. I have the template from what we did.

GV: This is a great suggestion, and please continue to think along those lines. I think that will be a secondary phase. This is the primary step right now. To the extent that you have these ideas, please bring them.

CT: The existing space, it is unfortunate that we cannot utilize Truffles space, but there are also no power outlets, so its very hard to use that space, I’ve tried. There is nowhere to plug computers in. I don’t know how major of a change this is, but we may be able to attract more people down there.

JR: That is a simple change, I will bring that up at the next meeting.

Gv: We have the SBA Facilities Committee and the Faculty Facilities Committee could be done for this.

JP: It sounds like a great idea. What are the objections?

GV: I’m not entirely sure. What was expressed to me was a few points. One is the concern about preserving the use for an existing group of student for the space as a study space. I understand that there are 10-12 students who are commuters and tend to set up shop in there for 6-8 hours and they really value that space, being able to work and eat lunch right where they have their computer and books. You cant do that in the rest of the library. She is concerned about that group. It is a vocal minority, and I would not be surprised if, as we move forward, we hear from them. I think she has heard a lot more in the past from that group. The second issue is, as they describe, maintaining the flexibility of that space for luncheons. Most of the luncheons have been elsewhere on campus, and they tend to happen 1 to 2 times a year. Assigning weight to that, I would prefer to see other spaces used for luncheons when they can find an alternative. The third issue was lack of facilities to support for moving furniture in the case that they do want to use the space for a luncheon. They had a concern about using the space and moving heavy furniture. They were concerned about the furniture being of a type that the library staff could move. I understand that she has a constituency and the reality is that she is charge of that building, and it has been made clear to us in our conversations that it is very important to have her consent. To that effect, we need to work and incorporate those concerns.

BH: Any inklings of not feeling that this is not a good idea? Dave and I brought this up in our large section class and only 1 voiced severe concern, and most everyone else uses it.

JC: What was her problem in there?

BH: She doesn’t want to see it become a raucous hangout, because she is a single mother commuter who uses the space to study and likes it being quiet. We tried to explain that there wouldn’t exactly be a rave going on in there, that is what we tried to equate it to. There would be tvs on mute to give students something to do, you can sit and talk and she wanted nothing of it, basically thinking that we would be destroying everything good about her law school.

JT: To me, how long do you spend eating?
BH: That is exactly the point we raised, but she apparently likes to sit there the entire time. And honestly, there like 700 carrels, there is not reason to sit there the entire time.

GV: At some point there is going to have to be a balancing of needs. We want to poll because this is prominently on the library staff’s concern, is accommodating to that group this concern for the minority. So there will be a big “get out the vote” effort.

JP: The only thing I can think of is that maybe there is never really a lot of activity going on in Knight Lounge, so I don’t know if having a new lounge would spur new congregation, or if it would matter, no one would be in Knight Lounge. I’m not sure how well it would be utilized in practice. In theory, it sounds like a great idea. But you know, Knight Lounge also has a tv and comfortable couches and I never really see anyone in there.

DS: Between 12:30 and 2, the room is almost always packed.

BH: nobody will be sitting outside soon due to weather. This would leave space for 12 people in Knight.

DS: The outlets to Truffles would be a good idea for this. This would be a good space for people to eat and study and this does tend to be a relatively quiet space.

CL: Have you thought about making Knight Lounge a study space and the library lounge a student space? It is adjacent to a classroom, maybe more conducive to a study area.

GV: We are looking at alternatives used after getting it developed, and it is something that we certainly could consider. I think it will be important to look for an alternative space during this transition phase. And maybe down the road we can find something more adequate.

BH: It’s really quiet down there.

Gv: I don’t want to make modifications on the lounge conditional on too many outside plans occurring, because that may occur a year down the road and there may be an overlap time. It is certainly something that we should have in our vision for the future after we modify this.

JR: Having been at the business school and seeing their lounge and lounges, it is unfortunate to me that the many uses that the lounge has cannot be compatible at the law school. They were compatible at the business school. I don’t see why all the uses cannot co-exist.

MM: What does the library lounge give you that Knight lounge does not give?

Jr: More space. For example, when you have a group meeting in Knight Lounge, it takes up the entire space. It is a very cluttered space in Knight already, not inviting, not cared for, disorganized.

Gv: This is a key point. It feels like a classroom.

Ct: There are no tables and you cannot set up comfortably with a notebook, casebook, and laptop. I think this would be another differentiator between the library and Knight Lounge.

CL: Would the library be open to allowing one of their study areas for food? People eat in there anyway.
GV: I would love if they did that. The reality is that people eat in those rooms anyway. It would be great.

CL: I would prefer that and study and eat.

GV: There are better alternatives, and there is no reason, and many of us believe that this room should not be held captive for the use of 10-12 people on campus. What I hope is borne out of the survey is a large majority of students saying that there is a great need for such a space on campus. I think we can still do that and have tables as John described. There is a much better way to use this space. Dave mapped out the dates for the committee. I would like you to look at this.

DS: This Monday, we will bring a draft proposal of what we want to change in the library, and this will include all that we have discussed.

GV: Before John leaves, if you have any other ideas, please bring to John Rosato and bring to the Facilities Faculty Committee.

JR: I will also raise changing the power strips, tables, and chairs.

GV: People used to bring this up to me as a rep, and John is a great point person to talk to about these items.

CL: Will you be pursuing the library hours?

JR: That is not a Facilities thing.

BH: We have a Committee for that, the Library Committee.

DS: Wednesday will be a poll emailed to the students. It will probably be open over the weekend, like Sunday into Monday. Then we will meet as a Committee again and talk about the results.

MT: Can you send it to lawmail and not husky?

DS: We can actually send it to both if needed.

JT: What will the poll look like?

DS: We plan to have 4-5 questions, yes or no questions. Quick questions, because people don’t like being bogged down.

DS: We will bring this to the next meeting, and in November we will discuss how the poll went. As for lockers, the problem is that when someone loses a key, you have to replace the entire cylinder. It’s not expensive, it’s $15, and you need to get a locksmith every time, so Darcy really doesn’t want to put those keys in those lockers. We were looking for management free ways to do this, but this is a cost issue. Would you be opposed to have a coin-operated locker? Do you prefer free lockers? If you take the keys, it becomes a problem. Does anyone have a problem with renting out a locker?

GV: There is an issue with accountability.

DS: With free lockers, you would still have a key that locks. We have a few options. You can have them as first come first serve or we say each night, someone will come in, take the stuff out, and move it behind the library
desk, and to retrieve it, you have to pay a $15 dollar fee. This would discourage people from turning them into personal lockers.

JC: Do we not have enough space for lockers now? Are these the cube lockers?

DS: They will likely be smaller than the cube lockers. We will need to talk to the library regarding the space for the lockers. The problem is space. There is dead space underneath the stairs. You can it some lockers there and by the phone banks. I am getting the sense that people might not like personal lockers, so everyone cannot have one?

DM: 1/3 to ½ don’t need lockers. Some people really need them.

DS: A locker you can rent out perhaps?

DM: They have been sold at the PILG auction. We could do something like that or maybe something a lottery?

EA: A lottery may not work, because people may need it more, expressing need. I bet there is more of an urgency for some people.

GV: The one issue is management. If the SBA selectively assigns rights to the lockers, people will bitch to us.

CL: Can you add a question to the poll to get a sense of who truly wants it?

GV: We have a draft for this, a simple yes or no. With the lockers, we would love to see this happen in addition to the development of the library lounge. It’s a complicated secondary issue, and there has been resistance by the administration, particularly concerning the management of the lockers. This will probably be part of the plan recommendation as a secondary recommendation to get this in, but we don’t peg it to the other capital improvements.

JP: Where would it be in the library if not in the dead space on the first floor?

DS: The two spots now would be, and this is all conditional on whether the library would allow us to, is by the vending machines, maybe 30 lockers could fit there. Maybe 50 go at the bottom floor by the stairs.

JP: Perhaps the dead space in Truffles?

BH: I think it closes at 8.

JP: But does the building lock?

DS: Yeah, I think so. Would people be more inclined to swipe an ID, and rent a locker, have it for 6-12 hours, and if you don’t reclaim, you get a fee?

(general “no’s”)

MT: I like renting by semester. $15 a semester, not a high fee, and you have it for the semester.

BH: I agree.
CL: Or deposit for the key and if you lose the key, you lose the deposit.

DS: Some people were saying that it would be nice to go play Frisbee but you don’t want to carry one, or a chessboard, so I was thinking about SBA putting $100 down for Frisbees, footballs, chessboard, and puts it behind the reference desk, and they can rent it out like a book and take it to the lounge. I talked to Darcy, and she is all for it. Opinions?

(general “yes’s”)

GV: Do you support the plan? (unanimous) Any objections? This is good. This is going to be a substantial initiative for the SBA, we will ask for your help even if you are not on the Committee. Last thing, I will send an email for the remaining faculty committee reps. This is a faculty composed committee where two students sit on it. I have made a bunch of appointments already. There are some positions left for which I am soliciting interest. Any final business?

AT: To deal with questions we had about the expectations for the space, I think if you put an effort towards rebranding the space, give it something else, it would really help.

GV: This is a great point you make. Advertising is important. It would be great if word gets out about it. We could have free coffee in there periodically.

Vote to convene: DM
Second: BH
Yes: all
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Meeting ends at 6:10 pm.
SBA Officers in Attendance
President – Gabriel Vidoni – GV
VP/Social Committee Chair – Mike Yedinak - MY
Secretary – Yam Menon - YM
Treasurer – Justin Theriault – JT
1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - David Shufrin - DS
1L Evening – Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Jeffrey Chase – JC
2L Day - Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day - Angie Lachhman - AL
3L Day - Michael Tehan - MT
3L Day – Michael Molloy - MM
LLM Rep - Katja Giese - KG
Upperclass Evening - Daniel Csuka - DC
Upperclass Evening - Chris Lent - CL
Faculty Advisor – Dr. Jane T. Brown – JB

Justin Theriault
Eleni Alevizos
Walter Menjivar
Blake Holler
David Shufrin
Jeff Kanca
Marco Allocca
Angie Lachhman
Jackie Preville
Jeff Chase
Zohaib Rasheed
Cara Tonucci
Tom Mott
Michael Molloy
Alexander Tingey
Dan Csuka
Michael Tehan
Chris Lent
Danielle Most
Katja Giese

SBA Diversity Committee Attendance:
Tony Lu - TL
Mari Collazo - MC

Motion to Begin Meeting: BH.
Second: DS.
Meeting Begins at 5:05 pm.

GV: I know that the welcome back event for the library is going on right now, so to those of you who are here, we appreciate it. It does make it difficult when we do not have enough reps to proceed with quorum. As such, we need to be able to carry forward with business. Unfortunately, barely having enough reps does put us in a really tight spot.

YM: I just want to reiterate the need for the 48 hours notice for meetings. If you provide me with 48 hours notice, which ends up translating into Monday by 5pm, it gives me enough time to reschedule the meeting if I have to, in case we don’t have quorum. This is not just for us, but for you as well, so you don’t have to end up showing to a meeting that we have to cancel.

GV: There are time-sensitive things going on tonight. I know Tony and Mari have class tonight, so we will push back E-Board update and other discussions and bring forth the Diversity Committee to nominate the last member, who has put forth great ideas and has spoken with Mari and Tony and Yam.

YM: And thank you again for coming back.

Ingrid: Hi, I’m Ingrid Festin. I didn’t know I would have to give a speech. I’m a 1L and as I stated in my statement of interest to Gabe, Tony, and Mari, I’d like to join the DC to help create a more cohesive community. As Dr. Brown mentioned, in the last meeting, every club is doing their own event, but I think that more joint events and collaboration with organizations outside of the school should be encouraged. One of my ideas was to encourage more people to take the pro-bono pledge, especially now that the law school is awarding an honor on your transcript, so in turn we can capitalize on that and build stronger community partnerships. That is why I would like to be on the Committee.

TL: Questions for Ingrid?

Vote to add IF: BH.
Motion: AL.
Second: MA.
Vote:
Yes: all (14)
No: 0
Abstention: 0

GV: Moving forward to E-Board updates.

YM: Let’s do the minutes quick.

Motion to vote on minutes: BH.
Second: AL.
Yes: 13
No: 0
Abstention: 1

GV: We have been meeting as an E-Board to discuss the various projects that we have been working on. We have been working to get the SBA office up and running. We have discussed getting some furniture. We have looked to get office equipment, not just for us, but for student organizations to be able to use that space as
well. One of the ideas I have for this office is keeping and securing internal documents for student organizations. There is a problem with continuity because when students leave and graduate, pertinent information does not get passed on and this creates a problem for new students trying to organize their group. We will print out previous year’s budget requests for the groups and consult those for the following year. We are still working out some issues with access and card access on weekends to Starr Hall. Justin will discuss funding guidelines shortly. We are dealing with issues to be discussed later on, like the number of activities going on on campus right now. It is great that we have such a great and active student body, but the level of activity creates significant administrative and other challenges, including inefficient use of funding, including events that are underattended due to the overflow of events. There is also the issue of practitioners coming to campus and no one showing up, as they may see how little people attend and may choose not to come back, which does reflect on us. As an SBA, something we are talking about is the funding side and the efficient use of money. So that is enough from me for now. Any questions about SBA operations in general? Committees have been discussing and planning.

John Rosato: What is the current office down in Knight? What is in there? How is it being used?

GV: The E-Board explored in that office a printer, computer, some desks down there. In the past, this was likely the operating center. My reading is because it is in the basement, it is not an appealing nor inviting space and it is exceptionally crowded as a small space. Using it for our financial record storage operations in addition to it being a working office is difficult. Any of the disbursement from the funds is recorded and Justin creates folders for state auditing requirements.

JT: I have LOTS of budget and financial papers.

GV: It is best that this not be commingled with other items, and we want to have this as a segregated storage area for files and make this our operation center. We will have some storage, but we see this as a combined student open space open to the groups in addition to the SBA. On another note, have you all received commentary or feedback on how the SBA is doing this year or how it is operating? Have you heard at all about the survey? Not the effects of that issue particularly, but what SBA is doing this year, how we come across to people? What is the general sense you are seeing as reps in your classes?

AL: People have been appreciative of events like the Welcome Back BBQ and the tailgate. Still working with Career Services, there are major complaints from the 2Ls on that. This remains the biggest issue. They feel that Career Planning is not doing enough, especially considering how difficult the market is making it for us to find jobs. The NY Fair, for example, more than half of the firms ended up dropping out. That is a huge problem as well.

GV: Do you feel lack of something specific or general? From my standpoint, I am trying to sift this out as well to whether there is a concrete or specific concern that students are raising.

AL: I think part of the frustration comes from more with the job market, but because of the market, people are looking for career services to step up their own game and provide different opportunities for students. The couple of people who approached me about this is that OCI is basically done, no callbacks, what now? This is kind of the idea now.

JP: I heard people complain about talking to firms and OCI events, and firms will say that they are not hiring and this is just a favor to Career Services. People say, why waste our time? I think the environment is just terrible, but it seems like on one end, they are not doing a lot.
John Rosato: I think having friends at other law schools, we all know what the market is right now, but even considering that, I think we need to give Career Services some credit. The fact that we had 20-30 firms is better than other law schools, some of which were particularly decimated and only had about 5-7 firms show up. I think a lot of it stems from people’s frustration with the job market. I think we need to give them some more credit. It is also a matter of resources. There are only so many people in Career Services, and so they are also limited in what they can do.

MY: If I may add to this, I hear the same things. I am working as the liaison this year to Career Services. One thing I notice is that sometimes there will be complaints about filling out this survey, but this comes with the territory. Often I hear general complaints, but if anyone hears specifics, I think they (Career Services) are open to hearing about it, and sometimes I myself can be frustrated at times. The timing of the events was also problematic. If there are specific things like that, those kinds of things, anything specific, please do pass to Gabe or myself so that we can try to work on it and talk to Career Services.

GV: Mike has been in conversation with them throughout the year. To their credit, they have really reached out to hear more student feedback. We have had regular meetings with them and we have been sympathetic to them and they understand the difficulty in the market. Concrete feedback would be more helpful, so please pass this one to us. They are waiting for us to give this feedback and would be happy to receive and work on such feedback.

MY: I am also hearing the positives, so it is important to relay that as well. For example, people have expressed great support for the recent addition of Nicole Ayala to Career Services, so it is important that we convey this as well.

AL: I think a lot of the people who complain to me have literally just put resumes on Symplicity and just applied for jobs and wait for something to happen. A number of people have done the minimum step and expect Career Services to do something additional aside from that.

MY: Just so everyone knows, and I didn’t know this before myself, but Career Services is not allowed to recommend students or not recommend students. This is in accordance with the NALP guidelines.

GV: I appreciate everyone’s taking the time to discuss this, but I do want to move on. Please continue speaking to Mike about this and about Career Services. Anyone want to add something for the E-Board update?

YM: So Gabe and I have been taking a look at the website and trying to re-organize it and re-structure it so that it makes more sense when people navigate it. For example, we changed the “About the SBA” page and have added committee pages and so forth. So in the massive amount of leisure time that we all clearly have, if you can just take a few minutes to navigate the website and provide feedback, things you like or don’t like, that would be great. If you would like to see something in particular, please let me know. This is also important to prospective students and the public to see how the SBA functions and works, so this is an important update.

GV: Yam has done a lot of work with actually restructuring the pages, so we are trying to mirror the structure of the student government and also show what we actually do. The issue is also continuity, it also says to future SBAs, this is what we should be adhering to. The other thing as far as your interest as far as your interest is concerned, is that you will come up in Google because your name shows up on these pages.

MY: So I hope you put something good up there! Quick update on Social Committee - we went back and forth with West Wings, but we are now good to go on insurance. The med school and dental schools are in, and
they might end up purchasing alcohol. That will be Saturday from 9 to 12, and there will be buses. I hope that people come out. The med and dental schools are excited for it.

JB: So who pays for alcohol and for food? Can you work that out?

MY: There is word that some mysterious people be putting substantial money towards wine and beer. Afterwards, the manager offered some fantastic drink specials as well. We are looking good for that. The Halloween thing has taken up a lot of bandwidth, so the Social Committee will have to jump on Fall Ball pretty quickly. We do have the Hartford Club confirmed and will confirm insurance shortly. We have buses laid out for it. Question for you: do we need more than one bus for Halloween?

BH: One of our friends was asking when the last bus leaves?

MY: Anything associated with our event has to end at midnight. Jane?

JB: Yes, but I would check in with Dean Crawford about it.

MY: We do have it until 12:15. My inclination is to have the last actual bus leave at 12:15 and we may or may not have some leeway as to who ends up on the last bus.

MM: Is 12 the last call for West Wings?

MY: It is for UConn Law. The official event ends at midnight.

BH: Can people park on campus, take a bus, and leave their car on campus? I am concerned about cars being broken into.

MM: I have not had any problems.

JB: We have had a lot of problems with breakins. We have had 3 this semester alone.

MY: (to JB) Do you know the police policy on leaving cars in the law school lots?

JB: Previously they have not ticketed for that kind of thing, but I am not sure.

GV: We can check with them.

JT: If they do have to leave their cars, advise people that anything of any value is taken out.

John: Don’t leave anything in plain view.

GV: Bags are an invitation.

JB: People must be careful.

My: We will be starting ticket sales for Fall Ball soon. We will be sending out reminders as well. And of course the PILG Auction on the 20th.

GV: Thanks to the Social Committee and to Mike for this. Justin?
Jt: One of the things I have been working on is trying to get some more guidance for the Budget Committee as we fund different sorts of events, and we want to make sure there is some continuity. We wanted to get through the uncontroversial ones before we get to the ones that get more discussion. I would like to propose the following as additions to the current guidelines.

GV: These are additions to the current guidelines.

JT: The first pertains to journal expenses for proof days and orientation. We capped at $250 to provide a good amount but not all of it. Orientation expenses, this is usually a one time cost per year. We picked 250 because it seems a fair number and usually this does not cover all of the costs. The average used was 80 out of 200 discretionary. 3 is giving the Budget Committee something to point to. We discourage this and we want to make it so that we have a rule in place for this. Just considerations, some people do not feel comfortable going to someone’s house.

GV: Generally the Budget Committee has not authorized the use of student funds to finance an event at someone’s house, but sometimes a student group will use discretionary and come back to us for us.

JT: This way, we can point to this. 4 is a confirmation of what we knew before, about funding sushi for events.

CL: Would it make sense to specify 4 regarding the raw meat and sushi portion?

JT: We have interpreted the raw food guidelines as people having barbeques rather than people buying professionally prepared food. We are trying to make it so that people are not undercooking for a barbeque. This just confirms that. There are a number of stringent requirements and we want to make sure it is very clear.

GV: Other questions?

DS: Is there any limit to the number of proof days journals can have?

GV: I don’t think funding restrictions are necessary, given that there have never been more than 4 proof days per semester for any journal. These are 6 hour long Saturdays, so there is a great disincentive already to create more.

Motion to Vote to Approve the Guidelines: JP
Second: MA.
Vote:
Yes: all (14)
No: 0
Abstention: 1. (JC)

JB: Easy way to deal with sushi, get a caterer. We don’t have the responsibility for the law school then.

JT: We had some concerns over the Tax Law event on Monday night, and there were concerns that sushi was not being served to non-Tax law panel members. After receiving these complaints, I contacted the group and I encourage others to do this as well. I asked the President and Treasurer to be here.
Tax Law: At least at the place we ordered from, the issue was raw meat, not sushi. We had sushi available for everyone, the only thing we were concerned about was the raw meat.

JT: We put sushi down this way because if it is not raw, then it is not subject to the rule.

GV: The question was whether it was being served openly.

Tax Law: We kept an eye on these regulations which speak to student safety. We took the meat sushi off the table. 10 bucks of the 40 bucks was what was an issue. I admitted that I chose poor words but we were more concerned about safety. It was not being restricted to anyone in particular, we were just complying with the regulations.

GV: Any questions? Concerns?

JP: I attended the event and I, along with other people and was asked if I was attending to see if I was going to eat at that event. I was planning to go to a part of it and ended up not going. I thought that “open to all students” meant “open to all students.”

Tax law: I conveyed to people that students would take food and leave.

JP: No one is going to be happy that this happens.

MY: I think that the communication part is big. We spoke about this. I think if we can just improve the communication, things won’t get to this point anyway.

GV: Thank you for coming to speak on this. Justin is that it?

JT: Yes.

GV: I know it’s getting late, so let’s move through this. There has been a lot of work on the SBA Facilities Committee and we will do a quick rundown on the SBA survey that we are going to finalize over the coming days. I’m going to turn it over to Dave and he has a Powerpoint to show. (brings up Powerpoint)

DS: We are discussing this room in the library lounge. 237 people responded. Because it was on the login, those were unique responses for the SBA. One question was whether this room should be changed to a multi-purpose space and 74% said yes, so there is a small group said they want a small space.

GV: A number of people who said no left comments and said that this is the only place where I can eat and study, so if there was another space, we would support this.

DS: The thing I said is that there is a quiet space, behind Truffles if you go to the left. I think it is a relatively nice space. If we get the word out there about it, then people can really use this space. The last question was lockers. 63 percent said they want lockers. Everyone else who left comments said they have a car. We see this as a good thing because we can only provide lockers for so many people. 237 total responses. We have three floor plans ideas where we would have tables on the bottom, there are display cases. And on top there would be a table here (looking at PDF) and here. This seems to be the favorite amongst everyone. We would replace the tvs. We would make the top still study space. Questions on any of the 3?

MT: Can you do another cycle through these?
MY: One of the nice things about this as Social Committee chair, was that last year we had a number of events in Knight Lounge like March Madness and the Presidential debates, and it was not a perfect space. It would be nice to have comfortable space for this.

John: I have noticed already that if you go into both lounges during lunchtime, they are both packed now. The other one should be student-oriented.

DS: I think all 3 have a space where people can gather, pull chairs.

John: We tried to make sure the tables were in close proximity to the walls for laptops. We tried to accommodate both.

MM: Who would stay there for 4 hours in a laptop?

BH: All the people who said no on the survey.

JB: Why don’t you put some electrical work in the design to add this to tables? It may be expensive, but it would be helpful to the students to have these tables turn into laptop-friendly ones.

DS: The red circles are where I saw outlets in the room. We were concerned that this would cost a lot of money. I don’t know the exact process. I didn’t want to break up the floor in order to do this.

JB: They have figured out a way to do this without breaking up the floor. Also, just some pictures of some other law school lounges.

JB: You may want to put where these pictures of lounges are coming from.

MM: Do we have anyone willing to sponsor this?

DS: As for the lockers, we would have them available per semester, for rent. It would be coded to fit in with the library.

GV: We have incorporated this into a written proposal. Much credit to John Rosato for writing this proposal and putting a lot of time and coming up with this vision. To note, this is a draft, I want to make a couple more changes to it and emphasize some points. I want to gauge support. I want us to vote on expressing interest in re-developing the space, not specifically a dollar amount at this time. This will be a published document.

JB: Who will see this?

GV: We will show this to Susan Severo and Darcy Kirk on Friday. I want you all to have read this and to speak about this to your constituents. I think it is in everyone’s interest to redevelop this space. It really does re-emphasize student life as a focal point. It really makes the argument, sums it up, and puts it in perspective.

MA: Are these campuses reflective of ours?

BH: A lot of these things were in the design of what we hope to bring.
MA: We have a unique position of being on campus. The Storrs campus has a really nice campus. It is also a valid consideration to take, because if I was the administration and they don’t want to go along with it, there could be some issues.

John Rosato: Dean Paul and other don’t like being compared to anything to Storrs.

MA: Are we comparing ourselves to the law schools of these schools?

GV: We may add a qualifier for these pictures. We were asked to come up with ideas that were conceptual pictures, and that is what these reflect.

MT: Are those pictures at law schools?

GV: The worth of putting these in here is not in the fact that it is a law school. These merely express a theme which is having a better space and the multiuse that we are hoping for. Regardless of what kind of institution it is, it conveys what we want. These are contrasting visions, but the reality is that the library already has a theme and what we have must comply with that to some extend.

MT: Are these all private schools? Because if they are private schools and the students are paying upwards of 40,000 per year, then this effects the campus.

MY: These pictures are really meant to reflect and just say, “Here are some ideas of what it might look like.”

John: I was going after pictures with couch clusters. We were trying to come up with examples of this.

GV: We are not looking to knock out the library with a multi-million dollar upgrade, we are discussing a small upgrade on a realistic scale. There are certainly other realistic possibilities for upgrading this space.

JB: All of these were funded by their law school, not their SBA. You are doing this as an SBA because the law school cannot ight now. No matter how much it costs to go to these schools, I don’t imagine the SBAs fund these. I’ve been here 15 years and no SBA has ever been willing to do this.

GV: That being said, we would like and hope that the administration would see this as an opportunity to match or add to this. It would really help.

MA: I was just playing devil’s advocate. I do agree with it overall.

MT: Are we doing anything with the walls?

GV: No structural changes to the room. It is beyond our means and is poorly timed. The Committee can look at this for the future, but this goes beyond the scope of this plan. That is for 2-5 years down the road.

Ds: There is a counter-space where we would like to replace with lockers.

BH: If we got a flat panel tv for the wall.

GV: No major structural overhaul?
KG: Are there any concerns that any non-law school people will go into the library and use this potential space? I have seen some sketchy people in the library that are clearly not law students.

GV: It is possible, my impression is that the difference between what the lounge is now and what it will be versus any other part of the library, we have not had a problem there, so I don’t think it will increase the risk significantly.

JB: Hopefully, this space will get better used, so that you have enough people coming in and going so that it doesn’t happen.

GV: Are you comfortable with us adding this statement that we as an SBA are willing to commit funds?

MA: Like a statement of position?

GV: That is more appropriate, yes.

DS: And have names of support listed.

GV: I will add everyone’s name.

MA: Should we just say SBA or have everyone’s names listed?

GV: I think the collection of names says far more than just the “SBA.” It is more powerful and is a statement of actual interest.

MY: I think we need to be accountable to that degree.

Motion to vote on statement of position.
Vote on statement: JP.
Second: DS.
Yes: all (15)
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Vote to convene: CL
Second: MA
Yes: all (15)
No: 0
Abstention: 0
Meeting ends at 6:10 pm.
University of Connecticut School of Law Student Bar Association Meeting 11.11.09

SBA Officers in Attendance
President – Gabriel Vidoni – GV
VP/Social Committee Chair – Mike Yedinak - MY
Secretary – Yam Menon - YM
Treasurer – Justin Theriault – JT
1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - David Shufrin – DS
1L Day – Eleni Alevizos – EA
1L Day – Walter Menjivar - WM
1L Evening – Jeff Kanca - JK
1L Evening – Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Jeffrey Chase – JC
2L Day - Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day - Angie Lachhman – AL
2L Day – Zohaib Rasheed - ZR
3L Day – Alex Tingey - AT
3L Day – Michael Molloy – MM
3L Day – Cara Tonucci - CT
Upperclass Evening – Danielle Most - DM
LLM Rep - Katja Giese – KG

Diversity Committee Attendance
Tony Lu

Motion to Begin Meeting: AL.
Second: DS.
Meeting Begins at 5:05 pm.

GV: We are going to try to get through things quickly to get out by 5:30. To start, public comment? (no) E-Board update, and I’m going to take a moment during my section to talk about the library. Last week John Rosato and I met with Susan Severo and Darcy Kirk and put forth the proposal after much hard work from the Facilities Committee, and I think they were impressed, and we will see whether it brings about any action in the end. They are reviewing it now and they are looking at furniture options and considering our request for use of the space. Hopefully they will want to work with us on this. The timeline is that they should be letting us know in a week or so. Then hopefully we can move forward if they are interested in re-designing the lounge. Additionally, if you go on the website, additional information has been added, there is a page with Faculty pages, if you can check it out, this is good to know and tell people about. I think that’s it.

YM: So we are looking to get office supplies and furniture in the Starr SBA office. I understand that the turnaround time on ordering is quick, so we should be receiving the items shortly. We are looking to have a computer in there with a multifunction so that student groups can use that machine to copy, scan, and fax. We hope to have those facilities available shortly, so as soon as this is done, I’ll let you all know.

GV: We now have an open 3L day position for representative. One of the reps had a perpetual time conflict and stepped down. If you know a 3L that is interested, I have been talking to a few people, we are going to
extend out the nomination. The reps will vote on this. Anyone can attend the SBA meeting, but it is not a public vote.

JT: Are we going to be rescheduling our SBA meeting for next semester?

GV: We can definitely re-visit if there are problems. Does anyone know already that there will be a conflict next semester?

CT: I will have a conflict.

JT: I will have to leave a half hour into every meeting.

DS: Me too.

GV: We will look into that. We will discuss later, after Thanksgiving. Any questions about the library proposal?

MY: Social Committee, we are in good shape. We are looking this weekend at sales for Fall Ball at the school co-op. We have attached a second drink ticket to anyone who makes a donation, they can make the donation at any point this week, just make sure the person at the desk sees that you did because there is a check box by the ticket number. We will be stilling tickets at the event the night of the event. They can also bring food donations the night of the event. We cannot handle money the night of the event, the Business office is not comfortable with this, so we are good for that. One quick question. I asked that we have a vote on the Social Committee on coach buses versus regular buses. Should we go forward with regular or coaches? I would like to check on this.

GV: what is the cost difference?

MY: About $400.

MA: I think that is enough money to care.

BH: It might matter more to girls than to guys.

JP and AL: I don’t mind.

DM: Definitely the school buses. It is not worth it.

MY: Lacking any objections, I will go ahead and go for school buses rather than put this to a vote. In terms of additional events, we are going to have a Holiday party with the Dean’s office on December 2nd from 5-7, there will be drink tickets and appetizers, egg nog, hot cider, should be a nice little event. We will have a midnight breakfast, the 14th of December, and have that catered, so it should not require student work on that night. We also will, not pending verification, we will be paying for coffee during exam week, and pending a Social Committee vote. It is a bit premature to announce, but this will likely be happening. We have, pending final confirmation, someone from Shaw’s has offered to add something with it, like coffee and donuts. That’s about it for the rest of the semester. Please keep the buzz going about the Auction next Friday night, it will be a great event.

CT: The bar is a cash bar or credit card for Fall Ball?
MY: I’m waiting to hear back on this and will know by tomorrow. I as in conversations on that today.

Ct: If you send another email, that would be good to know.

MY: I will be sure to add this.

EL: You may want to say in the email, you don’t have to go with a date.

MY: We should work on messaging for that. Let me put it this way: last year at Fall Ball, a very significant portion of people did not have dates, maybe 40 percent.

AL: One more thing, if there is any kind of music you want to hear, let me know. I sent an email to the Social Committee, I’ve gotten some interesting requests. If there is anything you really really want to hear, let me know so I can make sure he has your special song for you.

JK: Some people were expressing concerns about what to wear, what the attire is.

MY: We use the term semi-formal. Some women wear short dresses, some long. It’s probably 60-40% short dresses, cocktail attire.

JK: Do you have a schedule of buses for Saturday?

MY: I am trying to figure this out, we could keep it on the 15s, we can specify. What do people think? It could be every 10 minutes if we don’t specify?

AL: Can we just have 4 pick up times and 4 drop off times?

MY: We could arrange for that?

JP: What is the benefit of doing this?

EL: I think we should keep it rotating because I think some people will go in a group and not all want to come back.

MA: I’m concerned about the last two buses getting swamped.

DS: Rotating going there and a set schedule coming back. This was a potential problem during Halloween, people were wondering when the bus was coming.

MY: We are going to have twice as many buses. I think that is it unless there are other questions. Please spread the word and let me know.

GV: Next, the Pro Bono and Public Interest Committee, I’d like to solicit interest to sit on this committee. This is in the by-laws. The role is to evaluate the public interest of the law school, its not a lot of work, its just coordinating with the pro bono student faculty reps and reporting to the SBA reps. (MA, EL, AL raise hands for Public Interest Committee)

GV: Can you all touch base with Patricia Ryan about meeting? Faculty committee rep updates. Institutional Rep, major conversations about rankings at this point. It is more in an analytical phase and seeing what our
options are, based on changes in the survey. They are still gathering data and analyzing. There is going to be another meeting next week. Clerkship and Career Services Committee. Mike and I have been sitting on that committee. We met once a few weeks ago to go over the general state of employment challenges for students, new programming, updates, and general conversations about the clerkship app process. Questions about these committees? (no)

YM: I’m on the Conduct Codes Committee, which I understand is currently evaluating when students have nonacademic issues on campus, how does that process work. The current process is that all of these concerns end up going to Storrs, which is problematic, because it means that we are not dealing with these concerns on campus, so we are currently looking for a way to at least have an intermediary in campus to handle such issues that would otherwise go to Storrs, 40 minutes away. I’m also on the Web Enhancement Committee which is also currently in the process of evaluating student surveys and feedback on the website. I’m on the Current Students page committee, so I was telling them all the things that suck about that page and changes to be made. Please feel free to make changes and let me know. And quick on Diversity Committee, they are having their event at 12:30 on Monday. Actually, Tony, do you want to mention it?

Tony Lu: We are holding a collaboration lunch on Monday to encourage ways we can work together with one another for various projects to be determined. An additional update, we lost one of own resignation, John Rosato is resigning, citing a crazy schedule. We need to fill his position at some point in the near future.

Gv: Thanks. Any questions on the Diversity Committee?

DM: Public Interest and Pro Bono Committee met twice and the overall feeling is that we will have a lighter year. We worked to get the pledge last year instituted, so it was really intensive. Now that it is back up, it will be easier. The pledge is in its final form, so please spread the word and have people sign up.

YM: Are people familiar with this program?

GV: Does this work retroactively? You can have retroactive documentation.

DM: Yes.

GV: How do they define public interest?

DM: It is on the website. The actual definition, which was why it took a whole year to draft this document, because we wanted to incorporate a lot of opportunities. 20 percent of volunteer hours can be non law related. The law work has to be supervised by an attorney.

CT: How do you document it?

DM: there is a form on the website and you need to have your supervising attorney sign for a number of hours. If you are doing things in the future, it is helpful to get pre-approval ahead of time.

YM: I understand there are two different designations, 50 hours and 100 hours?

DM: You get a notation on your transcript for 50 hours, and an additional honor for 100 hours, maybe like at Awards Day.

GV: Anyone else have additional comments? I think we are done.
Motion to Adourn: DM.
Second: BH.
Meeting ends at 5:26pm.
SBA Officers in Attendance
President – Gabriel Vidoni – GV
VP/SC Chair – Mike Yedinak - MY
Secretary – Yam Menon - YM
Treasurer – Justin Theriault – JT
1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - David Shufrin – DS
1L Day – Eleni Alevizos – EA
1L Day – Walter Menjivar - WM
1L Evening – Jeff Kanca - JK
1L Evening – Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Angie Lachman – AL
2L Day – Zohaib Rasheed – ZR
2L Day – Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day – Jeff Chase - JC
3L Day – Alex Tingey – AT
3L Day – Mike Molloy - MM
Upperclass Evening – Mike Tehan – MT
Upperclass Evening – Chris Lent - CL
LLM Rep - Katja Giese – KG

Motion to Begin Meeting: MA.
Second: DS.
Vote: All
Meeting Begins at 9:34 pm.

Gabe: As an initial matter, the E-Board has discussed Yam typing furiously throughout the entire, which greatly prohibits her from participating. In trying to remedy, this we were hoping that someone would take an audio of recording, for the purpose of transcribing only. We need, by Connecticut state law, permission of everyone. Does anyone object?

MT: I would prefer not to do this.

GV: This would only be solely for this purpose.

YM: I would make that promise and commitment.

GV: Would that allay your concerns?

MT: I won’t vote against it if everyone else votes against it.
DS: Do we have to vote before everyone meeting?

MA: Please note this for guest speakers.

GV: We are looking at alternatives, like a student worker, but we are waiting on administration.

YM:

GV: With that understanding, we have consent.

YM: Thank you . . .

GV: Approval of minutes. He is currently a member of the law school foundation, and a former SBA president. He is to speak about the class gift.

Bruce Adams: It’s fun to be back here. Now I work at the Law School Foundation,

WM: Where does the money go?

Bruce: The Law School Foundation

DS: What has the LSF funded?

Bruce: Symposia, scholarships, PILG fellowships,

JT: We are in a unique position.

Bruce: That is absolutely true.

GV: The Foundation help the SBA co-sponsor the community events last semester . . .

MY:

AL: Can you specify where the money goes?

Bruce: Yes, in a word.

DS: Do you post the total anywhere?

Bruce: Yes. Our Honor Roll of Donors is a snapshot

GV: Anyone else?
Motion to approve minutes: CL.
Second: DS.
Yea: all
Nea: 0
Abstention: 0

MY: Social Committee update. Chinese New Year, Spring Fling, March Madness

JP: Do you know what date is Spring Fling?

MY: April 17th likely
JT: I will try to do this as quickly as possible. I will attach a Treasurer’s Report.

**SBA Financials**
Income: 60,765
Expenditures: 62,721
Net: -2000

Checking Account August 2009: 42,509.21
STIF: 20029.01

JT: As a final matter, we currently hold 40,553.

GV: Election Committee:
DS:

GV:

Volunteer - DS and MA and EA

GV: Pro Bono Committee

EA volunteers

GV: Campus Safety Committee

ZR, AL, DS, MA, BH, JK, MY

GV:

MA: Is the locker request separate from the library lounge proposal?

GV: Yes.

Motion to Adjourn:
Second:
Vote:
Yes: All
Nea: 0
Abstention: 0
Meeting ends at pm.
SBA Officers in Attendance
President – Gabriel Vidoni – GV
VP/SC Chair – Mike Yedinak - MY
Secretary – Yam Menon - YM
Treasurer – Justin Theriault – JT
1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - David Shufrin – DS
1L Day – Eleni Alevizos – EA
1L Day – Walter Menjivar - WM
1L Evening – Jeff Kanca - JK
1L Evening – Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Angie Lachman – AL
2L Day – Zohaib Rasheed – ZR
2L Day – Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day – Jeff Chase - JC
3L Day – Alex Tinge - AT
3L Day – Mike Molloy - MM
Upperclass Evening – Mike Tehan – MT
Upperclass Evening – Chris Lent - CL
LLM Rep - Katja Giese – KG

Motion to Begin Meeting: MA.
Second: DS.
Vote: All
Meeting Begins at 9:34 pm.

Gabe: As an initial matter, the E-Board has discussed Yam typing furiously throughout the entire, which greatly prohibits her from participating. In trying to remedy, this we were hoping that someone would take an audio of recording, for the purpose of transcribing only. We need, by Connecticut state law, permission of everyone. Does anyone object?

MT: I would prefer not to do this.

GV: This would only be solely for this purpose.

YM: I would make that promise and commitment.

GV: Would that allay your concerns?

MT: I won’t vote against it if everyone else votes for it.
DS: Do we have to vote before everyone meeting?

MA: Please note this for guest speakers.

GV: We are looking at alternatives, like a student worker, but we are waiting on administration.

YM: Yeah, there have been unfortunate administrative hurdles in this process involving paperwork, and unfortunately resistance. In other words, we did everything that we could, we made a concerted effort to make the recording a last resort. We understand that that could be potentially problematic.

GV: With that understanding, I see that we have everyone’s consent.

YM: Thank you everyone, I just want to say that I really appreciate that you are allowing me to do this because this makes my job so much easier and I now have an opportunity to participate in a way that I really wasn’t able to before, and I really appreciate that, so thank you.

GV: Before we approve the minutes, we do have a guest here. Bruce, who I assume is okay with the recording. He is currently a member of the law school foundation, and an honored guest this evening as he is a former SBA president. He is to speak about the Law School Foundation and the class gift committee, as well. You are more than welcome to come up here or speak from where you are.

Bruce Adams: No, it’s fun to be back in this part of the congregation. I’ll step to the side. Now I work at the Law School Foundation, which is right over on the second floor of Starr. For whatever it’s worth, I’ll just let you know, I graduated in ’06, and I clerked for a year and I practiced for a couple of years at Day Pitney, and then came here. For the record, I was not laid off, so now that that’s on tape . . . and I came here for a couple of reasons to do this work. First and foremost, because of the economic realities and the fact that attorneys to the left and to the right of me were leaving the hallowed halls of Day Pitney, I realized my workload was going to jack up and my wife and I had a baby in March, and so I wanted to have some time home with her, both of them. So that was the chief reason. The second reason, though, is that I really, I never have been really a school spirit kind of guy, I did not do class gift stuff. I was usually in detention, or some other problems. I got her and I sort of fell in love with the place. And I don’t know why, as I’m sure you all know, as you have experienced this past semester in your time here, there’s plenty of things to be frustrated about in this joint. But for whatever reason, you know, some of us sort of catch a fire, and I did. So, given the opportunity to come back, and work on what is most easily described as fundraising for the law school, I jumped at it. It really is, from a transition perspective, it is really just concentrating on all the client management, client development aspects of lawyering into your job and leaving out the substantive work. To the extent I get to work with people on making bequests or other sorts of planned gifts, that affords me some opportunity to do some substantive work to the extent we run up against some state statute or something and what we do is I get to look at that. But for
DS: what are some of the activities that you have actually funded in the last two years?

Bruce: Excellent question. The Law School Foundation is its own charitable entity, it’s its own 501(c)(3) non profit. It is fully separate from the university. It is fully separate from the law school. It exists solely for the purpose of benefitting the law school. It’s not controlled by state agents, it’s not subject to FOIA, it is a fully stand alone entity. So gifts that we given to the Law School Foundation are unrestricted gifts, like a class gift, go into the Foundation’s sort of general account, what is called it’s annual fund, and we have to use that in the next year for the programs and activities and scholarships or events that take place on the law school campus.

DS: what are some of the activities that you have actually funded in the last two years?

Bruce: Virtually all the symposia, almost every speaker that comes to campus, there’s a campus green beautification day in the spring, that is the result of an endowed fund, actually, people can give to that throws off some interest. All the Dean’s scholarships, a number of PILG scholarships, huge chunk of it is scholarships. Or that Are You Happy Hour, I think that’s a joint venture, isn’t it?

GV: All Dean’s Office.
Bruce: All Dean’s office? Those Are you Happy Hours are all coming out of that general fund from the foundation.

JT: Just as a commentary, and correct me if I’m wrong, but this was a big deal to me when I thought about giving, was that the law school, with our foundation, is in a very unique position from the rest of UConn. If I’m not mistaken, UConn has two foundations, the law school foundation and the foundation for everything else. So, compared to a lot of other schools we are in unique position that we can make sure that our donations would go to what we care about.

Bruce: That is absolutely true. And that is my point about us being a stand-alone, separate non profit entity. The Health Center used to have its own stand alone, and they got swallowed up by the mothership. But we are fighting the good fight.

GV: The other thing is that the Foundation contribute to the, Foundation funds help the SBA co-sponsor the community events last semester with the Dean’s office. For me, one of the larger realizations was that this university, when I matriculated here I was under the impression that essentially everything was paid for by tax dollars as opposed to the university, particularly the law school. And it’s been quite a significant realization to see from being in Justin’s position last year and working with people on campus seeing how that funding falls short in a lot of respects and how significantly impacted our experience is as a result of contributions by alumni, by this community through the Law School Foundation. And UConn would look very different, physically and as a matter of the experience that you will have, if not for the Foundation. I had the privilege of going to one of the board meetings last semester and I was really amazed to see people coming after long work days, some very distinguished people in this community, to talk about bringing money into the foundation to benefit us right now, ways they could improve the school, ways they could help the future of UConn, and these are all people volunteering their time, and it kind of all happens in the background and not many of us know, we see the product of it every day, but I don’t think we are all as aware as we might be of the differences that it makes. So, you know, to that effect, we are gearing up a class gift committee, which is working, I’m sure you have seen some of the emails from Bruce . . .

Bruce: I apologize

GV: But they really do speak the truth, it benefits future generations but it also benefits us now. It is true that we are sustaining, but giving both by existing students and alumni is a proxy for reputation and community. People do look at these numbers. It is a very large indication of satisfaction. So, in a sense, the act of giving, there is direct feedback for it.

MY: And if I can just add, from the Social Committee perspective, this doesn’t apply as much to first years, but for second years, one of the thing we were able to do this year that we have not done before, Foundation makes the difference, working together with them made the difference this year. So far, we have had a very well received and successful social agenda, it
really makes a difference to us. When I go to Anne Dailey or Claudia Norsworthy, when they say that the Foundation is in on this, that tells me something for what we are able to do.

Bruce: That’s good to hear.

MY: It makes the difference.

AL: Can you specify, if you give money, that you want it to go to scholarships or something like that?

Bruce: Yes, in a word. The class gift traditionally is an unrestricted gift in the name of the graduating class, that’s really more for administrative purposes than anything. If somebody from the Class of 2010 gives a gift and, you know, hands us a check and says, “For Bruce Adams,” it still would go to the Class Gift, well, that would get rejected, for some scholarship, it would then get used for whatever scholarship you specify. So that does happen, but we sort of don’t market that because, when we have tried that in the past, what you get is 250 people designating 25 or 50 dollar gift and the administrative burden actually ends up costing us more than the money brings in. So class gifts are, we market them as unrestricted gifts, but if a person wants to designate, they can. We are toying with the idea, I’ll say this, we are toying with the idea of having class gifts, giving people sort of three options: they can go to scholarships, events, or some other bucket of purpose. But so far we have not had an uprising from the students demanding that, so we sort of lie and wait as our next option. I don’t want to make this a pitch. I hope you all sort of get it. To Gabe’s point about the current benefit of giving is really about this school’s opportunity to play in the marketplace of law schools. And that really is the great benefit you are giving by giving your class gift. In terms of the dollars you raise, and in terms of your participation. And in terms really in the context of the people that get the idea of annual giving. They give an amount they feel comfortable giving year after year and that really does is give us leverage and independence within the university system and gives us the free dollars to spend without the control, without the state’s strings to put in an electronic whiteboard, really enhance the facilities and programs, etc. that the school with more money than us do. So for instance, if you look at the school down the street, Quinnipiac, they have other issues that keep them lower in rankings, but they have a pile of money. And they have really, among their core group, totally jumped out ahead because they have the resources to buy all the great stuff. And you know, here we are in a room that is 140 degrees in September and you have got fans on the wall. So when people go out and sot of gripe about that, that sort of pervades into the community. So these are the sorts of things that Foundation money can pay for. And the prime examples are two: one is UVA Law School, and one is University of Michigan. UVA is a better one because UVA disclaims all state money. They just say, “No thanks, we don’t take it, our endowment’s big enough.” And as a result, they can do whatever the hell they want and call themselves a public school. And nobody can compete because they have hundreds of millions of dollars. What they also have is 100 years of building of a culture of philanthropy among their student body, and then when they graduate, they continue to give back. So we are behind that game, but you know, that’s where we are.
DS: Do you post anywhere the total amount you have gained and how much is allocated?

Bruce: Yes, we do. In this Honor Roll of Donors is sort of a snapshot of our financial performance. Our tax returns are public, they are up on a website, I think it’s called guidestar, which publishes nonprofit returns, it’s the Form 990, it’s very detailed and comprehensive and will show you every in and out of what we do. What you are really getting at is can you trust us and, yes, you can. Believe me, don’t I look like I’m trustworthy?

GV: Anyone other questions? Anyone else? Questions? I will take a moment just to invite anyone here to join up on the committee and help out. The entire E-Board is on board and will be part of the Class Gift Committee. And if any of you guys would like to step up, we would love to help.

Bruce: Or even if you are not graduating this year, I mean, it’s not, there’s still plenty of opportunity to help out if you are not in the graduating class. I do want to leave these and I’ll leave you. I know I’ve overstayed my welcome. How many are graduating? (about six raise hands) Have you all received me emails about the breakage fee? Does it make sense to you? Or are you saying, “what the hell is that?” Silence, I take, is a positive.

MM: It does seem like you are pushing really hard for this.

Bruce: You think we are alienating people? I mean that’s a good point. Is that what you said?

MM: Yeah.

Bruce: How do you think we are doing that?

MM: just, email after email saying “I want 55 dollars . . .”

Bruce: And is it the amount you think that is causing people to feel alienated or is it the repetition?

MM: I think it’s both that and a lot of people are upset that they don’t have jobs and you are asking for money.

Bruce: Right. So, the answer to that is a couple of things. The one answer is at some undetermined point in the future, the university will get around to sending you a check. Now you paid this fee when you matriculated, frankly, before you matriculated. So it’s sort of sunk cost for you. Some people will get the full 50 dollars back, some people will get 49.80, some people will get less, depending on if they have outstanding copier charges or library fees of whatever. The Foundation has looked upon this money as money that frankly, some of which never even gets cashed, because they get mailed back to a person’s parent’s address, and they have since moved on, or to an address that they lived at in law school and so it ends up sort of milling around the university and sometimes goes back to the Storrs bank accounts. So the
opportunity for law students to designate that money to us is an important one. The fact that it is 50 dollars is because the fee is 50 dollars. But the ask is, I mean, I would be fine if I got 100 percent of every student to give me a dollar. But this is really worth less, in our view, than a dollar, because it is an uncertain amount given back at an uncertain time in the future. So, for instance, as a legal matter it is technically worth far less than 50 dollars.

GV: But there is significance in the act of giving.

Bruce: That is correct. If you are really feeling that people are feeling alienated or angered by this, that is an important thing for the Foundation to know. And . . .

MM: I think it’s more the jobs.

Bruce: Yeah, I would think so.

MM: And, I don’t know how many emails you sent . . .

Bruce: I think, maybe 4 . . .

MM: That’s a lot.

Bruce: Yeah. It’s . . . I mean, it can seem like a lot. Basic, sort of, advertising theory suggests that one attempt gets you almost nothing. But the repetition gets you more. So many people take something out of their box and go, “Hmm,” and they pitch. But as they recognize it, time and time again, it sinks in and the success rate increases.

MM: Then there is also the worry that if someone doesn’t give this year, someone won’t give for the next few years because of the repetition.

Bruce: We don’t have that worry. But if you do . . . the data suggests that this is not the case. Actually the data suggests that the more that people give while they are in school, the more they will continue to give after school because it is a cultural thing. So once people get over the act of making a gift, it becomes part of, in fact, many people feel good about it and they continue on that practice that they started in law school.

GV: Did you have a question?

ZR: Now, I know I get back money from UConn for spending on books every year. And it is minimal, like 20 dollars or something.

Bruce: Your Co-op rebate?
ZR: Yeah. Now could you guys do something to maybe get money from that, you know, because I mean I use my refund for buying a Sig, and that money, if I had known, I could have donated that to the Foundation, I mean, I had no idea, is there a way to do that?

Bruce: Well, certainly, you can take your check and endorse it and I’d be happy to receive it from you.

ZR: I didn’t know you could do that because they say that you have to spend it at UConn . . .

Bruce: Oh, do they now?

ZR: Yeah . . .

Bruce: Oh, they did not have that when was a student . . .

GV: It’s not cash.

MM: It’s cash, or if you use it at the Co-Op, it’s double that.

GV: I received what was essentially a credit.

MM: If you have a check for 4 dollars, and if you go to the Co-Op, it’s worth 8.

Unknown: Yeah, I think you are right, I think that is what it was for me.

Bruce: In any event, going through the Co-Op, which is sort of its own company, is a political disaster. So I would love to do that. I mean, there is more money there, their financial systems are more robust, it’s really not a technical problem, it’s a people problem.

GV: Guys, I just want to be mindful of the interests of time to move on. If there isn’t any other questions . . .

Bruce: I just want to invite you all to reach out to me with about any more concerns. Unfortunately, unless there is a great human cry from the student body, there is going to be more repetition. You are welcome to toss it out if you want. If there is a vocal opposition, please let me know. The last thing we want to do is alienate our student body.

GV: On the flip side, if you do want to give a hand, it would be genuinely appreciated. Please feel free to contact Bruce, contact us. If you have any questions, ask. Thank you very much, Bruce.

Bruce: Thanks.
GV: Moving on, want to address official matters of business. Minutes from the last meeting that was sent by Yam.

Motion to approve minutes: CL.
Second: DS.
Yea: all.
Nea: 0.
Abstention: 0.

YM: Thanks.

GV: I want to briefly give an update on . . . are you still pressured for time? Why don’t you give the Social update?

MY: Social, real quick I’m sending out an email to everyone, I’m sending an all campus email as well inviting anyone. We are looking to have a meeting sometime within the next week so we can get right on event planning. The Dean’s Office has invited us for the Chinese New Year which should be pretty good, and we will be serving Chinese food and drink tickets and so on and so forth. Think we will be helping out a bit with that. Shouldn’t be too high an expenditure. Spring Fling is always the big event of the semester, pending Committee support, it looks like we should be able to have it on a boat, obviously subject to a vote, that’s what we are looking at. Lady Katherine loading right out of Hartford. Should be fun. Other than that, looking at potentially some March Madness, I’m looking largely at what we did last year. We are starting earlier in the semester here so it can be a little bit more collaborative. I’m going to be looking to outsource things more, like sending out some of the things like Yoga, that kind of thing. This week I was a little behind in scheduling getting an email on that. I’m willing to see if there is someone looking to do communications type things. So I’m really looking forward to working together with everyone this semester. St. Patty’s, the Med School is interested in doing something like a barbeque like last year, probably won’t work on the big events, having had some difficulty last year, but, I think there are a lot of different opportunities that I’m looking forward to doing.

JP: Do you know what date you are thinking of for Spring Fling?

MY: Right now, looking at April 17, which is a Saturday. Availability is somewhat limited. The 24th weatherwise might be a little bit better, but exams start May 4th. That is the weekend that we seem to do every single year. So I think we are going to try and stay with that again. Questions? Alright.

GV: Jeff, since you came in late, right now, we are producing an audio recording of the meeting, and you are aware?

JC: Yep.
GV: You are okay with that?

JT: Yes.

MT: He is now.

MY: If not, please explain on tape.

GV: Budget. Finances.

JT: I will try to do this as quickly as possible. I wrote a Treasurer’s Report, kind of a mid year report, where we stand financially, I will attach to the minutes when Yam sends them out. Just as a general overview, between student activities fees and ticket sales, we put together an income 60,7656 bucks. As far as expenses are concerned, we spent 62,721. This is in line what we were planning for the year, because, notably, if you look at this, that amount if what was rolled over to us from last year. The typical amount of money that is rolled over, looking back at the archives from year to year, even in relatively active time, versus inactive times, was 10-15 thousands bucks. So we received a pretty big windfall. So as a result, what we wanted was to put in a lot more money for capital improvements. That explains why we were willing to tap a little bit into it from last year. All said and done, this is below, around 2000 dollars net loss on the checking account, but as far as tapping into our rollover from last year, we tapped into less than 5 percent. This coming semester we anticipate having lower expenditures, for the most part, because we were told by the administration that a lot of room reservations were all booked up. So we are probably going to be dollying out less money to student organizations than we would normally, but . . .

GV: The other thing is that there was an intentional frontloading of expenses for the fall semester.

JT: As a final matter, we currently hold 42,500 in the checking account. We are probably going to get something similar to this to the student fees at the beginning of the semester every year. And we got about 50 dollars in interest. Our STIF account is just a rainy day fund. The current plan that I just laid out in this Treasurer report is that try to act consistently with our spending guideline expenditures as we did last semester, probably less, and still have the opportunity to deposit maybe 10-20 thousand dollars, and then still have a little bit left over probably somewhere in this range to next year’s SBA.

GV: As a historical matter, the savings account over the course of roughly 5 years was drawn down somewhat significantly, so what you see while this may still look like a significant number, this is pretty much a bare minimum for emergency for the Student Bar Association might encounter, some sort of unanticipated need or expense. So we ideally would like to add some of that. Just, this should not be conceived of as part of our income for the operating budget.

JT: We pretend this doesn’t exist.
GV: Yeah, basically.

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Income: 60,765
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BH: What would you need that for? What would possibly come up that you would need that?

GV: I have no done the forensic research on what... but the issues might be . . . there’s a couple of things. The SBA does, for example, when I was Treasurer, there were examples where a number of students ran into financial trouble in the beginning and there was a problem with financial aid and the Student Bar Association will actually provide very short term loans to students so they can matriculate. This is not a regularly . . .it happens with one or two people per year, but the issue is, let’s say the SBA was running really tight to its annual operating budget and there was a situation where a student, through no fault of their own, would be forced or unable to matriculate, and the university was unable to provide them the money in that short period of time. The SBA would help. That is part of the service that we provide. That might come out of the STIF account. That is one example. There might be poor planning on an SBA in the future, expecting to get rollback like we did the year before, and groups actually follow through on plans. You might have a bumper year where there is a significant demand and expense go up in one area, this could be a matter of inflation, increasing our prices, and we would otherwise increase the student activities fee. So there surplus comes into play. There’s all sorts of unpredictable situations that necessitate having a reserve and not cutting in too close. Now, that said, spending a little more than we took in is not a big deal in the carryover. Maintaining some needed investments like we did when putting together the new office in Starr, the idea that we talked about possibly putting some money into a new library student lounge, hopefully, lockers, etc., these are not things out of line with the carry forward we have from last year and still would allow us to put some money into the account.

MY: And particularly in this budget environment for the state as a state school, the reality is that everyone is getting squeezed and so even what we have right now in terms of administration support for different things is not guaranteed in terms of the Social events, which they put substantial money into working together on. To a certain degree, without those kinds of guarantees for the future of what the state budgets are going to look like it is particularly important that we take seriously having some buffer so that we, in future, if there are issues of what student activities can be charged, and if there are just accounting issues, then we might be without access to certain kinds of funds, we have our own life jacket.
GV: Mike makes an excellent point. For example, I think almost every journal on campus receives some sort of subsidy from the university. If that were to some to be targeted by the budget cut, and the journal could seize operations, I think people would likely come to the SBA. Same with the competition groups, same with other organizations. And such other groups that routinely receive funding from the university. We don’t anticipate that happening, and I really, really hope that never happens, but it is something to consider when you look at these numbers. So, any other questions about this? Thank you, Justin, for putting this together and publishing the information. Remember, these reports are online, we are a public entity, these are online, the accounts are going to be posted downstairs and posted to our website.

JT: If you want a general idea of what specifically our expenditures were on and how they broke down, area by area, it’s in the reports, so you can look it up. There’s capital improvements category, SBA operations, committee expenditures, as well as student expenditures

MY: and another thing about being in this position is that , as we go forward discussing potential upgrades and renovations to the student lounge, that’s not something would be otherwise on our radar, and you never know when those kinds of things are going to come up. If it ends up that it slowly builds up for a number of years, it takes time to get to a point where you could even consider putting money into capital improvements as a student organization and it is an opportunity that we have

GV: Can you, quick, run through the dates of the spring budget cycle?

JT: Yes. The student organization on campus, the due date for their budget requests are going to be Feb. 1, which is a Monday, and Thursday and Friday I’m going to take a couple of days, I’m going to look over the requests that I received, I’m going to make sure that the requests are consistent with the requirement that I have laid out for student groups, the tight schedule on room reservations, I’m going to make sure that groups adhere to the calendar and properly reserve rooms with the administration, and after that, the Budget Committee will be reviewing those requests on the 4th and the 5th, which is a Thursday and Friday. We will be meeting for formal deliberations on Sunday, February 7th to try and hammer out a budget proposal for all of you and we will be posting that the following day. We have posting requirements, which means we have to post on the bulletin board downstairs for public viewing before we actually vote on a Budget proposal. Ideally we are looking at a February 15th, which is a Monday, vote from the SBA on the budget proposal by the Budget Committee.

MY: And can I ask just a quick question: for those of you who are on Social Committee, would a meeting Friday at 12:30 or 1:00, do any of you know that you couldn’t do that?

BH: I’ll be gone.

MY: Ok, thanks.
GV: Any final questions on the budget matters, finances? Ok, one last item, we are working diligently on an overhaul of the bylaws pertaining to the Budget and Social Committees. There will be some substantive changes in the proposal. Mostly in terms of how the Budget Committee is selected, but by and large, this is codifying current practice. The constitution says that there shall be a Budget Committee, the bylaws say who shall be on the Budget Committee, and currently say who chooses the Budget Committee, buy beyond that, there is virtually nothing specifying the operations, number of votes, how matters are carried out, so on and so forth. This is a tedious process and is somewhat long, as you can see. We will send out the proposed text of any change and hopefully put this on at the next meeting.

MY: The Social Committee, our votes, this is not codified, it just seems like best practices, and that’s really what we are trying to get into writing.

GV: Yes, across the board. So you may see more of these and that was is a major objective of the E-Board this year. We want to make sure to capture those. Okay, election committee. I need a couple of volunteers to be on an election committee. It is in the constitution, it is a constitution and bylaw requirement, can’t remember where exactly, but we need at least two people preferably to help out with the upcoming elections for officers, representatives, and thereafter it is a separate election for the Treasurer, which is not handled by the election committee, that’s internal, by the reps. It shouldn’t be a great deal of time, but expect to sending an email at some point in time, helping getting up nomination sheets, tracking, maybe corresponding with Storrs at some point. This is also where if there is an election situation, this is where it would be handled. We would really really appreciate the help, I know it’s not a terribly glamorous job, but it is a critically important one.

DS: If someone is running and they are on the committee, how does that work?

GV: There are no rules. As common sense and best practice dictate, there would be a requirement for an abstention. In other words, for someone who is running in an election should not be the individual announcing the election. Someone who is running should not be the individual corresponding with Storrs about the election results. However, there are some areas likely where assistance could be had by an individual who is still running where it was not a direct conflict of interest. So if you are willing to help on some of the more administrative matters, I’m almost certain there will be something that will come up. Any third person in case?

Volunteers - DS and MA and EA

GV: The other thing, Danielle is not here tonight, but Pro Bono Committee, there was one other person who volunteered to be on it last semester. Is there anyone else who would be willing to join the Pro Bono Committee in doing the following: meeting with the members of the Pro Bono, the student reps of the Pro Bono Committee, and briefly presenting to the SBA briefly summarizing their reading of current opportunities on campus and the direction they are going in... thank you very much.
EA volunteers.

GV: Okay, finally, one other thing with another Committee. The Campus Safety Committee, this came up and many of us remember that there was a lengthy discussion which has become more pertinent with the break-ins. Unfortunately the International Journal was broken into, they actually broke through the door and stole a computer. I live right nearby here, and we regularly hear from the Hartford Police about robberies, some of them being home invasions where people were actually in their house at the time. It’s really unfortunately reaching a new level of concern. To that effect, please, all of us personally, be careful on campus, be mindful of the time, don’t leave stuff in your cars, please encourage other people to be careful as well. To that effect, I would like to carry through on some of the ideas on making recommendations on some of the ideas that we talked about last time. Z, we talked about chairing a committee, and maybe if two other people would be interested, who care about these issues, stepping up, that’s great. Yam, can you just . . .

YM: I got . . . ZR, AL, DS, MA, BH, JK, MY

GV: Z, can you come up with a plan and email it out and make some recommendations? Even if it just disseminating additional information, so student would be better educated. I would like to be part of the process. The other nice thing is, and Mike has mentioned it and unfortunately we have not gotten to do it yet, I would like to strengthen relationships between campus safety and the student body. We see them, but we don’t really interact with them. To that effect, I know that we should go over and introduce ourselves.

Okay, Facilities Committee update, briefly, we had a meeting. Dave has done more, and thank you again, kudos to him, he has spent an enormous amount of time sketching out actual details of locker proposals, drafting up floor plans using measuring tape, working with the numbers. He presented to Dean Crawford and we sat down, Justin as well, had a meeting, the administration is assessing our request for an initial, the idea is to have an initial pilot plan based on the data that we got in the survey last semester of possibly putting lockers downstairs in the basement of Knight Hall. There are pros and cons to this, but as far as we have weighed them all, look at other areas, we are hoping to get some feedback from the administration, that is what seems to be the best place. Needless to say, this is before any money would be spent, this would be part of a final request that would go before. We are in planning phase.

MA: Is the locker request separate from the library lounge proposal?

GV: Yes. That is the second part of the update. We have come up with an action plan. Unfortunately the library student lounge planning meetings have not progressed as quickly as I would like and I know many students with the library administration, we were provided assurances that we would hear back from them on our proposal, we have been getting mixed signals and have received positive responses from Dean Kirk and Susan Severo and time passes. Hopefully it is just a matter of communication at this point. But I would not like to leave it to chance. So what we are going to do is to initiate a push on this, which includes publicizing the
proposal with an email, we kind of did it internally, Dave sent one out. I want to put it out in the community. It will be presented on Thursday to the faculty facilities committee, which they are not in a position to take direct action but this is making our pitch in one more area. Finally, as this develops, we will go back to Darcy and hopefully talk about this and get something in order. I would love to see something done down there this semester.

MA: Is there going to be a vote?

GV: Right now, yes, what we are seeking right now is consent from the administration to even proceed. If we can’t, if they don’t have space or deem that it is a violation of fire code, then we need to go back to the drawing board. It’s not even worth bringing to the floor.

JT: This is keeping in mind that any significant expenditure at this point is going to have to go before the SBA. The last semester’s budget cycle is over, so all unspent funds from any student organizations allocations as well as the SBA allocations have rolled back into a general fund.

JC: How did we get to lockers in Knight? We were talking about lockers in the library...

DS: So basically we don’t want to mix the proposals too much because the library is extremely resistance to putting lockers in that area. They have had previous lockers there years ago, people left food and other stuff in the lockers, smells started and they complained a lot. They actually removed all of the lockers they had. So what we kind of want to do is just a pilot program in the basement of Knight of about 80 lockers or so to be determined, depending on administrative details . . .

JC: I thought the Knight lockers were like a second thought, like an after thought, almost.

Ds: Now it is our test place. If we can get those lockers approved and in and it works and there’s no problems with it, we can then put them into the library or at least get the library more on board with putting them in.

JC: Yeah.

MY: It’s the most practicable.

JC: Yeah, I mean, I understand we are going for practical and trying to move forward with something, you guys are here for another year, then who knows what happens after that. We don’t really have two or three years to work on that. I’d like to at least re-emphasize that it’s great to make the library the hub of the campus, and not that this takes away from it being the hub, I just hope it doesn’t become a waste of money and resource and end up failing and making the potential of lockers in the library, because I feel like if we got lockers in the library, if we got the whole lounge together, that would really feed off everything else.
GV: I agree. I think as far as your sentiment, it's shared. As far as seeing the library as the hub of this campus and an essential plan with the lockers, the student lounge, television, I think we would all love to see that. Our concern, and the reason why we proceeded as we did in looking at this alternative space, is even the discussion of lockers in the library right now puts up such obstacles and hurdles, that I think this would just be pushed, and potentially indefinitely. My concern is that if we push the lockers at this moment in the library, that this not only increases the resistance to the lockers, but potentially jeopardizes the idea of getting the student lounge renovated into a student center. So the hope is that Knight will offer an opportunity for a pilot and respond to some of the demand that is expressed right now, currently for students that walk to campus from a distance and so on and getting some lockers in there, that we can push and hopefully succeed on the student lounge in the library and then now that we have our foot in that area, it’s a possibility then for us to look at other options. And once they see how heavily utilized it is how much it increases the use of that facility, they will be much more amenable to the idea of lockers.

MY: I think you make a really great point, there, Jeff, and you know, we are definitely in the middle of a multi-step process. So we will have the opportunity to look at how much we really are spending, and whether this is really going to work, whatever the final price tag ends up being. I think there are definitely valid concerns.

GV: I just want to say, we are going to get booted real, real soon. So I want to try to tie this up real quick.

JT: As far as SBA funds, operations funds are not rolling back, so the cable in Knight Is going to get paid, if we need staples for the office.

GV: Allocations made in the fall semester for events which take place in the spring semester, are still on the books. Those are still liabilities and promises on behalf of the SBA.

JT: We don’t have a huge amount of those.

GV: Any final questions? Please email us if you do, I don’t want to cut us off. Meeting time. It’s late, I think we would all prefer to find an alternative, I don’t know if it’s going to be possible, so what we want to do is talk briefly about other options for a five o’clock meeting. Can anybody here NOT make Tuesday at 5pm? How about Wednesday at 5pm?

(some yeses)

MT: I’m sorry, I cannot make those.

EA: I don’t have my schedule memorized yet, because we have started classes.

Someone: What about Doodle?
YM: We could do that.

GV: Just one last thing: Thursday?

YM: The E-Board does.

GV: Given that again, we are going to put something online, Yam will put it together, it’s a really cool little calendar application where everyone can put in their availability. We will expect it, hopefully we can find a time that is not 9:30 at night.

MY: And just a request, because I know that I get tempted to do this, please just if it’s really a class conflict, because I know I have Mondays off, and I really wanna put that I can’t do Monday times, we are really struggling, pretty much if people can’t do those times, then it’s going to end up being a late night.

GV: So you are going to see the email come out, take like two minutes and put it down, so we can get this doing.

YM: I’m going to try to actually put it together and group it with the minutes, the Treasurer’s Report, but I will put everything together... and the new meeting time. The next meeting as well. I’ll put that all in a lump email.

GV: So, just to briefly mention this, because this is something likely that will come up in future meetings. The Constitution ties the timing of the election cycle to the number of meetings we do in the spring semester.

YM: No dates, all by number of meetings.

GV: I shall leave it to you to pass judgment on the complications that this creates for any SBA, say, an active SBA. We could potentially, by holding 4 meetings, accelerate the end of our terms by two and a half months. It’s really a questionable arrangement but it is what it is, so with mind to that, we are trying to very concretely plan out the number of he remaining meetings with an attempt to maintain as much of the schedule as we have in the past. And we are going to consider a movement to do a constitutional amendment. There are a number of other areas that needed to be changed. It’s a tedious process and it requires a vote from the entire school, so if we ultimately decide to do this, which is looking like that is the case, I think we should fix this and peg it to a fixed time period and not the number of meetings. We are going to need people’s help drumming up support, send emails, do that stuff.

JT: Definitely rock the vote situation. Because you not only need the student body vote, you need 2/3 of all students of the SBA.

GV: We accomplished an amendment by first year, and it was a process and a huge aggravation to get just enough votes.
GV: The SBA office. Some of the student leader lists will see, but we will educate the reps because you all should know about this, but we are going to go live with the SBA office as discussed last semester, set up a use policy, make those facilities available for student group work. That will be forthcoming shortly. Lastly, in case there are questions about it, on the agenda there was an item mentioned, PATH sponsorship, you probably saw the email. There was an email for a writing competition tied to a scholarship regarding issues pertaining to homeless living circumstances, something along those lines. We want to inquire about what sponsorship entails for taking action. But it will likely come up next time. So that is tabled.

SBA office hours. With the opening of the office, we would like to reach out to our constituents, so what we are going to do shortly is inquire about availability of reps and hopefully get people to be staffing the SBA office for a very short period of time each week where we are regularly available to constituents. The way we plan it is not to have sight hours of office hours a day, by any means, but that we will probably all take a turn and be in there at one point during the semester. So keep an eye out, we are going to inquire about hours and then go. It will be based on your availability. I mean, in all likelihood, you will be sitting in what is now a comfortable, clean office, doing work for an hour, but it’s an important thing, I think it sends an important message to the student body. I think it really increases. Any other matters?

YM: . . . and gives us an additional presence.

DS: Can we put a sign on that?

GV: There is now a sign on the office. If any of you would like to see it at any point, please shoot us an email.

ZR: Where is it?

GV: It is in Starr Hall. We have three spaces on this campus for the SBA, that we have ownership over. We have a storage room downstairs, we have a second office downstairs, which is kind of de facto storage for all of the financial files, and then we have now an office over in Starr, which is the one that we are planning to use for student group leaders. We are going to highlight the use of those various facilities. Any other questions? Anything the reps want to bring up? Last minute? You have ideas for the semester that have not already been discussed, please feel free to email us.

**Motion to Adjourn: MA.**  
**Second: DS.**  
**Vote: Yes.**  
**Yes: All**  
**Nea: 0**  
**Abstention: 0**  
**Meeting ends at 10:34 pm.**
SBA Officers in Attendance
President – Gabriel Vidoni – GV
VP/SC Chair – Mike Yedinak - MY
Secretary – Yam Menon - YM
Treasurer – Justin Theriault – JT
1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - David Shufrin – DS
1L Day – Walter Menjivar - WM
1L Evening – Jeff Kanca - JK
1L Evening – Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Angie Lachhman – AL
2L Day – Zohaib Rasheed – ZR
2L Day – Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day – Jeff Chase - JC
3L Day – Alex Tingey – AT
3L Day – Mike Molloy – MM
3L Day – Robert Day - RD
LLM Rep - Katja Giese – KG

Motion to Begin Meeting: DS.
Second: AL.
Vote: All.
Meeting Begins at 9:33 pm.

GV: We have a lot from the agenda to cover tonight. I apologize ahead of time that we may have to push some conversations to conclusion, and if we need table some items, hopefully we can proceed in a manner to get it all done. As an initial matter, we will motion to approve the minutes.

YM: Everyone received the minutes, right? Can I have someone motion for it?

Motion to Approve Minutes: ZR.
Second: BH.
Yes: 16.
No: 0
Abstention: 1 (DC)

GV: Moving on, as we discussed last semester, there is a vacancy in the SBA. We have a candidate her tonight who I would like to introduce. Robert Day, he is a 3L Day student, and he
is interested in presenting himself before you for a rep position. Robert, do you want to speak and introduce yourself?

RD: Yeah, I’m Robert Day, I know some of you, not others, but I look forward to getting to know all of you assuming this all works out. I was the SGA Treasurer back in undergraduate, and I always found it productive and interesting, so I hope I get to join your ranks. Thank you.

YM: We do have an official nomination sheet here, if there are any questions.

GV: Do any of the representatives have questions for Robert?

DS: Have you ever run for SBA before?

RD: I have not.

GV: Other questions?

BH: Do you plan on joining any committees?

RD: Yes, I’d be happy to.

GV: Other questions? Robert is a vocal member of the community and has made positive contributions. I think he will be a good addition, but that is all for you to decide. Would someone motion to vote?

Rd: Should I step out?

GV: Yes, that would probably be good. Vacancies are filled as per the Constitution. Requirements are that we post a nomination sheet at least one week before the election, which we did last semester. Other questions?

DS: Was it announced that the nomination sheets would be up?

GV/YM: Yes. It was announced specific to that class, which is probably you did not see it, for example. There was lots of time for the nomination sheets.

GV: If there are no other questions, can we motion to vote?

Motion to Vote for Robert Day nomination for 3L Day Rep:

Yes: MA
No: AL
Yes: all
No: 0
Abstention: 0
GV: The big ticket for tonight is the spring 2010 budget proposal produced by the Budget Committee. This is the Budget Committee’s recommendation to the SBA. The SBA Board, which consists of officers and reps, has the power to approve or not approve of this budget. I invite you all to look at it if you have questions, this is very important.

JT: To give a sense of what the Budget Committee looked at when it looked at all of the budget requests, we felt it was important to stay within our operating budget for the semester, we had to tally the total amount of money requested by students groups and then try to bring it down to that number. The total request by the groups was about 35k over our operating budget, so we had to make significant cuts to a lots of the requests. This is also not including supplemental requests, as some budgets did not have enough information at the time they were submitted. There are some additional items that will come down the pike. The proposed budget is roughly 55k this semester.

GV: Does everyone understand what operating budget means? This is revenue generated by student activities fees as opposed to carry-over from the previous year.

JT: There is always some wiggle room regarding how the allocations are spent. Some unspent funds will come back. We typically get between 10 and 20 percent of the allocations back, as some groups do not spend as much as they expected, or some things falls through? Questions?

ZR: PILG fellowship funding? Do we know how many people are going for that?

JT/YM: They are still taking application, so we don’t know yet. We will keep you apprised of that, as that is not currently in the budget.

JC: For everything where there is a 0 next to it, was that because they did not have request money, or was it something else?

JT: I didn’t include everything that did not get funded, specifically, but there were a couple where I felt it was appropriate to give an explanation as to why. I included an explanation basically for any time it was not because of a budget cut.

JC: Some of these groups have not been around for a while. I don’t remember getting emails for some, including soccer. Do we know if they have been advertising?

JT: They did advertise in the fall, and the advertising will kick up as the weather gets better.

MA: There was the fall one, and there will be one in the spring again.

GV: It’s a great question, and this did come up in the Budget Committee meetings. This is something that we ask all student groups to do. If you as a rep, see something that was funded by us and you did not receive advertising for us, please let us know.
YM: We have made leaders aware of this.

JT: Student leaders have been made aware of that, and we have held student groups responsible for that.

AL: What’s CAIL?

JT: International student organization.

GV: That stands for Connecticut Alliance of International Lawyers.

YM: Every group listed here should be on the website. Every board should be there.

GV: Yam is referring to the executive board of every group.

YM: I was really pushing for that this year to promote visibility and transparency. If a student wants to contact a group, they should be able to contact someone associated with that group.

MY: If anyone wants to bring the College Democrats group back to life, we have been receiving some questions about that.

GV: Or College Republicans. Other questions?

[Budget Committee draws numbers on the board]

YM: You need to vocalize this.

GV: The way that the allocations are done is that they are itemized, and every group receives the discretionary funding, but Dave (DS) pointed out that the discretionary for 4 groups is not listed on here. This is not a substantive change, this is a change of the printout.

MY: The posted version is accurate. But we are not changing the actual budget, right?

GV: Right, but since this is before everyone, as a matter of procedure, we will go ahead and vote to change the numbers for the printout.

**Motion to amend budget to add the discretionary funding of the student groups to the budget only on the printout, not on the actual budget:** DS.

**Second:** MA.

**Vote:**

**Yes:** all

**No:** 0

**Abstention:** 0
GV: I know that this is important, but we do need to address other matters, so if we can move on... I ask someone to motion to approve the spring 2010 budget.

Motion to approve the budget: BH.  
Second: JK.  
Yes: all  
No: 0  
Abstention: 0

GV: All in favor. Thanks Justin and the Budget Committee.

JT: Thanks a lot to the Budget Committee.

GV: This is the investment of a lot of time by the members of the Budget Committee. For those of you not graduating this year, I urge you to keep this process in mind, the importance of it and the duty of scrutinizing this. It is a responsibility for future SBAs as well. We work very hard to increase transparency. A lot more information is on the website now about this than before, like the management of the student activities fee, the bylaws. We hope to amend the bylaws in the near future.

YM: There is also a lot of attachments on the website and on various parts of the website. For example, for the Budget Committee site, all of the attachments are on the bottom, there is just no way to get it up there unless I link words, and I think it’s just easier for everyone to get used to looking down at the bottom of the page. So there is a lot more information that was not previously there. If you don’t see it, just scroll down.

GV: You go to the Budget Committee page and see past proposals. Thanks everyone. We are going to try to bang through some informational stuff here. Yam, do you want to break out here quick and get started on these task items?

YM: Thanks to everyone who filled out Doodle.com, that was awesome that you did that for me, it makes life easier for me. I would recommend that you use it, it’s free. As for the meeting, as you can see, we are here at 9:30, again, I’m happy to open it up for discussion, but with tight schedules, it’s looking pretty slim for the spring semester. I want to let you know that we tried really hard to make it work and none of us want to be here at this time, but we did the best we could and I pushed as much as possible. There have been a lot of conflicts, and I would hate to see reps not be able to come, and we can’t do proxy voting. I’ll table that for now, but can keep it open if you want to chat about it. As per our Constitution, we need 2 meetings a month, and we only have this one, so we have to have a meeting next week. I will send out notification, but I want you to be on alert, otherwise we will not fulfill our constitutional provisions. That being
said, we are also going to provide a timeline. [asks an E-Board member to write on the board, MY writes]

**Elections Timeline**

Feb. 22-25 - 3rd SBA meeting  
Mar. 17 - board elections  
Mar. 22nd - 4th SBA meeting  
Mar 22-25 - rep elections  
Mar 29th - Treasurer elected and 5th SBA meeting  
April 12th - last SBA meeting for current board  
April 17th - new board takes office

YM: So, because we are tied to the Constitution as per meetings and elections, we have to think to the future as far as when meetings should be held, the E-Board, Rep, and Treasurer elections. This is tentatively what we have. Next week, we would have the 3rd overall SBA meeting and the 2nd of February. I’m thinking Monday 9:30 unless someone really objects to the Monday slot. We are tentatively scheduling the e-board elections for March 17th. Last year it was held two weeks prior, basically before spring break, but we can’t do that because of hurdles with the technology portion of it. As you know, you go to vote.uconn.edu, but that is going to be a problem setting that up, so had to push it to after spring break. On the 18th or the 22nd, we will have our 4th SBA meeting....

MY: That will conflict with Loiselle . . .

YM: Then we may need to stick with March 22nd.

JT: And St. Patrick’s Day.

MY: Yeah.

YM: Okay, so that decides March 22. That would be the fourth meeting of the semester and the first in March. Between March 22 and 25, will be rep elections, excluding 1L Day and 1L Evening. I think we decided that we have to have the Treasurer elected by March 29th, I think that’s right. We scheduled that for our SBA meeting too.

GV: We vote for the Treasurer at that meeting, so that is correct.

JT: The Treasurer gets elected by the SBA and not student body.

YM: So the last meeting is tentatively scheduled for this current term is April 12th, tentatively scheduled. This is with the idea that by April 17th, we have a new E-Board and new SBA.
GV: The reps will transition out by the 29th and the Treasurer is elected. The timeline of the elections is keyed not to a specific fixed point in time, but to the number of meetings per semester, which is needless to say, abysmal.

YM: Additionally, our board elections are tied to a Wednesday. The Constitution says we have to do it on a Wednesday.

GV: We would love to have the Constitution amended, but it is a somewhat Herculean process, but requires 60 percent of the campus to vote. It’s a really get out the vote effort. There are resource limitations. If some reps want to engage in the process, please let us know.

YM: Ok, office hours. So I sent out the sheet for Feb. and March, if that poses a problem, treat it like you would like you can’t make a meeting, let me know by email. There is some flexibility because we are doing this as a pilot program now with the idea that going forward, hopefully for the new SBA, should they choose to continue this program, they can keep more consistent hours, which was a good point brought up, and the reps can cycle through. So right now, all of you have one shift, it’s an hour, it’s not going to be that big a deal. We (E-Board) will each do two, and the idea is that you go, and the only thing that I ask all of you is to keep the office clean. I really don’t have any other requirements.

GV: Prop the door open.

YM: Yeah, we have a door stopper, prop the door open so that people know that you are in there. If the door is closed, there is no way to know. So take a look at those office hours, if you can’t make it, it’s not a big deal, just let me know. There is flexibility with this, and I’m happy to work with you on it. Again, pilot program, we are happy to announce it, and I hope that maybe we will see some students pop in.

GV: We will be posting the schedule. We understand that conflicts come up, but it is important to take this responsibility seriously. If someone sees the schedule and decides that they want to come in three days from now. Please observe the notice requirements that Yam spelled out.

YM: And the two places we plan to place it are, I will place a hard copy on the door, and I plan to put it on the SBA website as well, obviously electronically is easier for me to fix if you want to change times and days. If you give me adequate notice, I really have no problem printing it out again and putting it on the door. I’m happy to work with you on this, but don’t tell me 4 hours before your shift that you can’t go, I’d rather you not do that.

MY: Yam, is it 48 hours notice that you want?

YM: It would be great if you could, keep it consistent with as if you could not make an SBA meeting. 48 hours would be great.

MY: If something comes up, does everyone have our cell phone numbers?
YM: I'm happy to give it.

GV: Why don't we put it in the next email?

YM: Yeah, I'll put that in there.

GV: This is a matter of efficient administration, but please continue to let Yam know.

BH: So we are meeting a week from now, and then two weeks from then?

YM: It seems off because of spring break. That is the week after the 3rd.

JT: It was also because of the budget process and posting requirements.

YM: And elections. It is a little crazy the way it is now. But take this down, and, I don't know if there will be a reason to change, but if there is, we can discuss that. But this gives you a sense of what the schedule is like. So I'm very happy to announce that we are celebrating our 50th anniversary of the SBA. We are part of history. We were formed in 1959, and so I figured that e should talk as an E-Board, and we said that we should do something about it, and I thought we should discuss it, because it's an excellent excuse to celebrate and be happy about the fact that we have been in existence all this time. So, we are thinking that we are going to put this up on the website, I'll throw it out to Michelle Helmin to put up, in March. Maybe when the weather turns better, we will have something in mind. We threw around a bunch of ideas, but it's really up in the air, so we are happy to hear from you, if you have thoughts on that. We would like it to be more focused and sort of coming from the SBA, the idea being that this is about a culture of student government on the UConn Law campus, and we can certainly promote that. And we have been promoting visibility and transparency here, and I think it would be great if we could promote that. I just wanted to promote that very cheesy piece of fact, I'm very pleased that we will be celebrating that, and I just think it's really cool.

GV: You will be hearing more from us.

YM: And we have to capitalize on it now because the 51st anniversary next year might not mean a lot.

AL: Could we try to do it before the rep elections? We might get more people interested in running if they can, learn more about what the SBA is about.

Bunch: a great idea.

YM: That's awesome. Again, because there is so much flexibility right now, and that's a great point, so I'm happy you brought that up. Next thing, so there is going to be a Diversity Symposium in the spring, the idea is similar to the way that symposiums have been traditionally
organized. Tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 23rd. It is coming from a variety of student groups, Diversity Committee, support from the Dean’s Office, Military Law Society is involved, Lambda Law Society is involved, so there are a lot of groups involved, the sort of overarching theme is discrimination in the military, talking about issues around DADT, racial integration, women in the military, these are sort of the pieces of that puzzle. We hope to have a variety of panelists, and we just confirmed a keynote speaker. So I just wanted to let you all know about it. I think it would be great if you do have the time to come out to it. You will definitely get more emails and information about it. It is going to be a big event in the spring, so I wanted you to be alerted to that. Its in the early planning stages right now, so I don’t have much more than that right now. As I get more, I’ll let you know. I just want to mention one quick thing, I know you have heard for the 5 millionth time that we have a new office. We also want to report that to the student leaders so I will be sending an email to the student leaders of basically all the groups to say that we have an office available, you can use it, but there are some guidelines for using it. I would be happy to cc you on that. Some of you will end up getting it because you are a student group leader anyway.

GV: It’s probably not a bad idea to send it to all the reps.

YM: I would be happy to do so. I think it’s a great idea for you to use, especially because there is a chance that one of you will be in there when someone wants to use it. So the idea is that student group leaders can use the SBA office, and our storage facilities, so they will have all of these available to them. They can copy, they can print, they can use the computer for electronic storage. I’ll be sending that out in the next couple of days. I’ll cc you on it, and if you have questions or comments, I’m happy to chat with you about it. I hope you all saw the sign on the door, very exciting.

GV: Questions?

MY: Briefly, a lot of this is recap, Social Committee met and laid out some dates. If any of you have any questions, feel free to chime in. So what we have coming up, we have on the 23rd the Lunar New Year Celebration with the Dean’s office, this will involve drink tickets and Chinese food, should be fun. St. Patrick’s Day, we are working out the details right now, there may be a conflict with the Loiselle finals, which is the day after St. Patrick’s Day. St. Patrick’s Day itself being a Wednesday, a lot of people have classes on Thursday. Quick show of hands: if the two options end up being Arch Street or Wood n’ Tap, which would you choose? Okay, first, Arch Street: [hands go up]. Okay, and Wood n’ Tap? [hands go up] Ok, good to know. Thanks. There is also going to be a March Madness party, co-sponsored with the Sports Law Society. I don’t know the exact date of that. Allison Cantor has volunteered and will work on that as well. That will be mid-March. As I believe I mentioned in the last meeting, the faculty are interested in putting together a movie night in which they will actually be paying for drink tickets out of their own pickets, which is pretty generous. There will be more on that, discussion of what movies, and food will be served at the event too. There has certainly been less interaction in a social context between students and faculty, so I think this is a nice gesture on their part, and I hope that as we get forward, we can all try and encourage people to go to that, because as we try to
encourage faculty to come to some of these events, like having the Holiday Gathering like we did last year, this is a nice showing on their part. It will be nice, even as it is a couple of hours out of the night. Spring Fling, April 17th, Justin and I will cut a check to deposit. We are on a boat, it’s official, the Lady Katherine Cruise. Very excited about that. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. I have had a lot of people give positive feedback on this. I think we are going to do pretty well. There may or may not be some kind of barbeque in late April with the Med School. We did it last year, and about 150 people came out. We are still looking at the details of that. We will be doing another midnight breakfast. Having learned from the overwhelming success of the last one, the demand surpassed supply. We are looking forward to doing that, and the Dean’s Office has expressed an interest in working together on that to help sponsor it. Free coffee during exams again, yoga, and attendance for that has tripled. That has been really nice to see. We have a new instructor, who people really seem to like, and the time seems better as well. Graduation dinner, Mike Molly will help set that up. We really appreciate that, it is something that we do every year.

Male : Have we picked a day yet?

MY: No, we are currently speaking with the Hartford Club on that. Does anyone have any questions? If you do, please send me an email. I will send a “mark the dates” email with the dates. We are still figuring out the details for some of these, like St. Patty’s Day. Thank you, particularly to the Social Committee members who have helped with this thusfar.

GV: For the elections, we will be coordinating with those of you who volunteered who be on the Committee, so you will receive an email as well. Thanks Mike. A great list of events going forward. I want to now open discussion on the Facilities Committee update, both the lounge space and lockers. Briefly an update on the library lounge proposal. E submitted one to the administration with ideas for revamping the library 3rd floor lounge. We have discussed, it is taking some time. We had a meeting last week with Darcy Kirk and Susan Severo, and they are receptive to the building some additional lounge space on campus, so hopefully we will have some concrete news in the future. Dave, do you want to go ahead and present the locker proposal? As you saw, we did a survey last semester, and based on that data, we constructed a proposal.

DS: As you guys can see, we got permission from the school to install lockers. We, as the Facilities Committee, and the Budget Committee, talked about the numbers. Just to preface this, the money that will be used for the lockers is separate from the operating budget in that the money from the budget is operational, used every year, and we have extra money which has flowed over from last year, that would be going towards capital improvements such as the library lounge proposal and the lockers.

GV: Any proposal goes through the SBA.
DS: We are looking at the Knight basement for a test run of the lockers, with the intention that one day they can be in the library. This is to get the sense that it works well, people are really using the space. We are right now looking at 48 lockers at a price of $2,725. Questions?

AL: My concern is mostly the 2Ls, and a few 1Ls. I understand that some of the respondents said yes. My concern is that I don’t think people will really use them. I think it’s going to be something fun for about a month, a month and half, and then I don’t think people are going to use them. If you have two classes, you bring your books onto campus, that’s the hardest part if you are walking. Once you are on campus, you are on campus. And day and night access, I don’t think it’s feasible, I think it’s going to be great for a month and a half, and I would rather see this money used for to improve this room, or improve Starr, which could affect a larger percentage of the law school community, as opposed to 48 people.

DS: The idea would be to spend for more than just 48, but there is a serious concern that people will not use them. I believe that, you bring your books to campus, and some people like to leave them there. There are people who take the bus to school, there are people who walk to school, and would like them. I have heard a lot from the 1L class, the people that really want them, complaining earlier in the year that we did not have them.

AL: I do know a 1L who, she pointed out that, she mentioned having lockers at American University, this would be just kind of a perk, I honestly don’t think people will use them. Mostly because if you are going to be on campus, studying, which is why I can see why they would use or keep their books in their lockers, you are staying here and studying until 9 or 10pm, chances are that you have a car to drive home with. Just store them there.

JT: We did have concerns that there have been so many break-ins that people don’t want to store their stuff in their cars.

AL: I understand that. And I agree with that. This is strictly mostly from 2Ls, they are kind of reaction has been, “You have a bookbag, use your bookbag.” They drive. Put it in your car. You bring one book a day. I know this is different for the 1Ls, like you may Property or Con Law in the same day or something like that. I really feel like the bigger issue is getting your books to campus and not walking around with your books on campus.

GV: It is an important point for us to bear in mind. One of the things that I noticed in looking over the survey results is, there were 149 responses. As others have pointed out, as we discussed, in the Facilities Committee, it is easy to say “yes.” Clocking a button is really easy. Part of that concern was, how does that number translate into actual demand. If we are going to spend the money, how it is going to be used? Something that I noticed, and a couple of members of the Committee noticed, in the comment section, that was along the side, when they submit their survey results, far more than the library lounge, this is a polarized issue. It seems for some people to be an absolute waste of money. There are some people that have exclamation points across the Excel space, saying, “Please, this would be so convenient to me.” It seemed like some of those people also did not have cars, walked, like LLMs, and they did not
want to carry stuff around. I look at this, and I know personally, if I had access to a locker, I
would not use it. But my use patterns are very different. I have a car with a trunk that is not
exposed, so I just throw stuff in there if I need. I live two blocks away from campus, so when I
walk, it’s not a big deal to go back and forth. I know a lot of other people in that situation. But it
does seem that there is this demand of some contingent on campus has expressed this, and it’s
not just this year, but in other years too. The idea of putting around my first year as a rep. It
ultimately never made it to the SBA formal vote, but there has been this persistent call for
something. I can’t speak for the whole Committee, but how do you service that group? Is it
worth servicing that group? If not, are there any alternatives for doing so?

AL: I understand that. I just feel that for 48 people, I people would be more appreciative if you
asked them for the lockers, or for fixing this room. I think they would say, “Fixing this room.”

GV: I agree with you that if that were to be the question, but that is not the issue at hand. The
first issue is whether we need lockers. The second issue is, after people have been thinking
about it for a moment, if you said, “Upgrade Knight 215 or install lockers,” they would say, why
is the SBA spending on this? This is something that the school should be spending on. It is a
little weird in the sense of, where it is appropriate for us to spend student dollars. When you
compare them to major facilities like these upgrades, such as that, seemed diminished in
significance. And that is accurate, because that is not our responsibility. That is not what the
money is there for. So, to some extent, framing the conversation like that, I think might not give
proper credence to some other issues about the use of these funds. I agree on that point, but
that is not the question in this case.

MY: This is the first time that I am hearing that particular. In terms of what Angie is saying, that
the same argument could be made for why we are updating the library lounge. Which it seems
that everyone here is in support of. I’m wondering if, it terms of where we are at with
procedure, particularly with regards to questions around access to the lockers on weekends, ad
I do remember last year there being some issue with people needing to be responsible for the
upkeep. I’m wondering where we are at on that. It strikes me that particularly with regard to
the first question, access, might drive votes one way or another, and if you don’t have a
definitive answer to that, then I’m wondering if this is something that we should continue
discussing. Or at least, have the option.

GV: I invite Dave to chime in on this. First, in terms of use of the student activity fee for
something like the upgrade of the library, certainly. Do I think that it falls closer to the realm of
what the administration should be paying for? Absolutely. But they have spending freezes and
budget restrictions, and we don’t. The secondary thing is that the room was built in 1990-
something, and is intended to be a student lounge, and it is not, and that is frustrating.

My: But the same thing can be said of the lockers.

GV: But I’m saying that there is a catalyst involved. I think the funds used in that application are
closer to the realm of the university, or we can do it. But that if for the Committee to consider.
Second thing, as far as responsibility for upkeep and access, access is restricted for the same time as Knight is open. Although access could be limited as compared to the library, not as much access as journal, it’s still pretty good. Probably about 75 percent access to the library, and the library is closed until 1pm on Sunday. The first choice was not Knight but the library. But when we discussed it in light of the student lounge, we realized that one was going to kill the other. The lockers not being the priority, could jeopardize. Last thing, responsibility/upkeep. Would be on the SBA. The lockers have combos that would be set per semester, so it is a minimal investment that would likely fall on a rep. The University would not take responsibility. As a backup, there are no keys issued to students, but there is a master key, two of them. One with the SBA in a locked box, one with the administration.

MA: I’m going to address the pros and cons. I have expressed my concerns several times, especially when the first proposal came for 100 lockers. I just could not get on board with that. I do see the pros of doing a pilot program for 48 lockers and see what happens, that being said, there really is a risk that the pilot program could burn and fail epically. But there is no way of knowing. Mike brought up a lot of good points. The arguments made in favor of lockers almost get contradicted by the hours. You may not be able to get into Knight. I may leave a book in there that I might need…

GV: Just to clarify, any time there are classes on campus, you would have access to the lockers.

MA: But the library closes after Knight.

GV: You could not get out of class, go to the library, study there, and then go to Knight.

MA: There are a lot of issues with this, we are thinking about a lot of good that we can do for the community, but what about what else comes in. What about the 1L who has their book in the locker and can’t get in, on Sunday, until 1pm, and it’s the SBA’s fault.

DS: The library has their book on reserve.

MA: I get that, but that is not really a counter-argument. That is somebody’s property, and I don’t want to hear that there is a jacket on reserve, a laptop on reserve.

JT: Well, the counter-argument to that, is that we are all adults on this campus.

MA: I agree, but then we are all adults, we don’t need lockers.

GV: I don’t think that is quite fair in putting it in those terms. There are adults that certainly could use the space. Whether it is a good investment is the issue.

MA: I wanted to voice my second concern. I know that they would belong to the SBA, but what happens if there is a problem in Knight? For example, bugs? Is the SBA going to get charged for the costs to repair?
GV: It’s certainly a legitimate concern. We would plan to draft a terms of use, which is pretty strict. For your disposal for academic purposes. If there is a situation, the lockers all get opened up. There is no expectation of privacy, they are simply there for convenience’s sake. Yes, liability issues. If we do this, it is a responsibility of the SBA. There are risks to doing a pilot program, if we do this, it is subject to criticism. But that is why, instead of going with the amount of lockers equal to the amount of responses (149), we have gone with 48, which is subject to adjustment by the SBA, if they want to go forward at all. The question I raise is, this has floated for a while, and we did ask for student input, and we go it. The input suggests that some people want lockers. Do we want to knowing that we have the money and have the order ready, want to meet that demand? Or do we see it as not worthwhile. This is again, coming from someone who would not use a locker if I had access to it. I do look at this and think about the people who were pretty serious about it. It’s not a small amount of money. This is more than some student group’s entire allocations for the semester. But again, it is an investment that is a fixed investment, and if it is used, it stands to be used for a long duration of time. It’s not a depletable resource, barring wear and tear.

DM: I think it is something that we need. I think 48 is too many. I think only about 10-15 students will use it. I have spoken with students who want this. But I answered “yes” on that poll, and I don’t want one. Maybe a better pilot program would be to start smaller.

MM: I agree, especially because it is a pilot program and not an end result. We are just testing it out, there is no need to spent $2800 on 48 lockers.

GV: The shipping stays fixed regardless of what you buy. It is about $700. If we spend less, and they are all used, and we hit the right sweet spot on the number, it may be worthwhile. If people feel that fewer is better, then take this additional consideration.

AL: When are you looking to start this program?

DS: Takes about 4 weeks to get them in. We can have them installed immediately for an installation or have Facilities do it, and that could take a week longer.

GV: Getting it in now could have it ready for the fall.

MY: Mike and Danielle, what number do you have in mind?

DM: 10.

MM: Depends on the price.

DS: At 10, we would pay more to ship them than for the actual lockers themselves.
DM: And that is definitely a consideration. Maybe look at how many exclamation points you got. I mean, really, if you have people who are really passionate about it, write something. It’s just people like me who are going to click yes.

MM: If it’s your hope that, if 48 is the end result, and you don’t want to up it to 150, then fine, 48. But if this is a pilot program, then maybe a smaller number.

MY: Or perhaps about 30?

DS: That would be about $2200. We will lose the deal with the local company if we go lower. It’s done in stacks of 6.

JT: We are less sure about the CA company, but the local company has installed for Storrs.

GV: They have also been very receptive.

JP: I think also, if we decrease the number of lockers, it is kind of a win-win situation for the SBA. If we have fewer, we can add more next year. But we won’t want people seeing that we just wasted money if 8 of 10 lockers were used. There is the possibility that the SBA might lose face by getting more lockers.

GV: I doubt that people will be upset that we did not go far enough. The countervailing things is the loss of efficiency of our money. That may be worth it.

BH: Only 236 responded. That’s only 1/3 of the student body. So if 150 of 230 said that they would take one, that’s only a 1/3 of the student body, and I think we should take that into account.

GV: You are right. A dilution of 3 to 1. A lot of this is guess work. We don’t know how the numbers will pan out.

AL: Is this per semester? For year? This may play on my vote.

DS: There is no charge. Most likely first-come, first-serve basis, or a randomized basis. Likely the latter. Signups for a week or two followed by random pick.

GV: We want to do the signup to provide further provide empirical data of who wants the lockers.

AT: Have we considered putting down a security deposit or charging a smaller $2 maintenance fee that would eventually pay off the lockers at a slow rate?

DS: When we discussed it with administration, we discussed a $15 dollar fee. They have a problem with fees. Basically the administration does not want us to charge.
MA: At the same time, if a student won’t pay $5 for a locker, how much do they really want it? If you are worried about the fee, maybe that is an indication of where the program stands.

WM: Interest is at issue. Can we have people pre-sign up to see who really wants it? How many people actually sign up? Maybe we can gauge interest and narrow it a bit.

GV: We can try something like that. Just factoring that this is just asking the question.

MA: It’s not a bad idea, but it is the same problem with the survey.

WM: Maybe it can be a further step this time.

GV: One problem could be that we promised a resource before we actually have it.

AL: Instead of buying lockers, have you looked into buying them?

DS: Yes, it is far more expensive. It is about $80 per semester. At that point, you could have just bought them. For maintenance, it is low key. Combination lock is about $13 to replace.

AL: Can we buy them from used lockers? At my karate school, we had used lockers.

RD: But then you need someone to go get a truck and get the lockers, and install them.

DS: The other benefit of the lockers is that they can be painted and put into the library. They are nice lockers, versus middle school lockers, sitting there deteriorating.

GV: We really cannot change the design at this point.

MA: Is the administration not willing at all to help out?

GV: It is very hard to...they have different priorities. This is so far down on the list of priorities.

MY: There is also a history to this. Demand has fluctuated from year to year. There is institutional memory that makes it more difficult.

GV: They previously had key lockers. We can either table this. I want us to remind us that this may become another thing that slides perpetually. I also don’t want to force a vote.

MM: Can we just push it off until next week and see if we can get some numbers on quantity?

DS: I can tell you now.

AL: Maybe the reps can talk to people in the mean time to see how people really feel.
GV: I agree, but all we get may be anecdotal evidence, which is important, but I don’t know that that will tell us more than the survey already tells us.

MY: We have about 5 to 6 people not here today. This strikes me as an important enough vote if we are likely to have more sizable quantity, than given that there are concerns, it might be good.

GV: Can I see a show of hands of people who have serious concerns about this? [hands go up]

JT: I gave the Treasurer Report, this is well within our means to do.

DM: Can we have options for next week? Numbers and prices?

GV: That would be great. I heard varying numbers, from 10, to 30, to 48.

RD: Let’s do multiples of 6.

JT: 12, 30, 48?

[general consensus]

GV: Thank you everybody for voicing your concerns.

MY: If people could really actively talk to people. We all have different groups we interact with, we could ask.

GV: I want to introduce Caroline Park, she came out to discuss committees.

Caroline Park: I am on the Teaching Effectiveness Committee, and we have no specific agenda, but what we have taken on is an overhaul of the evaluations forms. Substantive and administration (going online). We want to know: are there questions that students would like to be asked that they are not being asked or that you want to see on the form?

MM: Was the final fair?

Caroline: Yeah, and that is what I think would be great about online administration, is that you could have these administered after the exam. That is something that the faculty are not interested in. they think we are not sophisticated enough to know the difference between hard and fair, which is insulting.

GV: What is the status of the online form?

Caroline: It’s not great. I spoke with Anne Crawford about it, because I don’t think this belongs in the Committee, but I would like the Committee to file a proposal and then drop the issue,
because I don’t think it is anything that the Committee can accomplish. If we can’t then I would rather spend the time on the form itself?

RD: Questioning the accessibility of the professor.

MA: Professionalism generally. There is a lot of expectation on the students, but maybe on the form. Not like a personal slight.

DS: Are we keeping the written one? Maybe keeping the written one before the exam and the online after the exam?

Caroline: We can look into that.

MY: Caroline, can you follow up with emails?

Caroline: Yeah. We have another meeting a week from this Friday.

GV: Quick show of hands – how many would like to put the evaluations online after exams?

[many hands] (may be unanimous, but did not count exactly)

GV: Any further comments, please get in touch with Caroline. Before we go, Yam will follow up with the Elections Committee, and will email for that stuff. Next week, Campus Safety update.

Thanks!

**Motion to Adjourn:** BH.
**Second:** AL.
**Vote:**
**Yes:** All.
**Nea:** 0
**Abstention:** 0
**Meeting ends at 10:49 pm.**
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association Meeting
2.22.10

SBA Officers in Attendance
President - Gabriel Vidoni – GV
VP/SC Chair - Mike Yedinak - MY
Secretary - Yam Menon - YM
Treasurer - Justin Theriault – JT
1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
1L Day - David Shufrin – DS
1L Day - Walter Menjivar – WM
1L Evening - Jeff Kanca - JK
1L Evening - Marco Allocca - MA
2L Day - Angie Lachhman – AL
2L Day - Jackie Preville - JP
2L Day - Jeff Chase – JC
3L Day - Alex Tingey – AT
3L Day - Robert Day – RD
Upperclass Evening – Mike Tehan - MT
Upperclass Evening - Danielle Most – DM
Upperclass Evening – Chris Lent
LLM Rep - Katja Giese – KG

Motion to Begin Meeting: BH.
Second: MA.
Vote: All.
Meeting Begins at 9:33 pm.

GV: Just to start out with a couple of information points, minutes, office hours, and meeting times.

YM: Okay, so we are not going to do the minutes this week, because between the last meeting and this one, I just could not get to it, so I will have these minutes and last week minutes, I just needed spring break to get to them, but I will have them ready for the next meeting. Okay, office hours. I am very pleased to announce that we started our office hours today and we had our first people show up, which was awesome. I’m very excited. So, regarding getting in there: there is a list at the circulation desk in the library that has your name on it, so you need to go there, ask for the key, it’s going to be checked out to you, go do your office hours, and then go back and put the key back. I cannot emphasize how important that is. Please don’t lose those keys, they are very expensive to replace, and this key is the key for the entire student community. So treat it as you are checking out an item from the library. I sent an email to the student leaders and cced the SBA on that about the office, and I also sent an email to the student body as well, so you may actually have someone stop in. Please welcome them, keep
the door open. There is a binder in there, just initial it to indicate that you showed up to your office hours. Office hours are posted online, and on the door. I don’t have names printed, I just have hours printed, so if you don’t know your office hours, you are going to need to have to refer to the email that I sent you that has the names. That is the only place where we have the names posted. I put a sign in the window in the office. Please don’t touch it, because it’s already cracked, and we don’t know how long it will take to fix it. So, don’t touch the window. Leave the door open for circulation. There is a phone in there, but it is not connected, so you don’t have to worry about it. The line is connected to the multifunction for the fax line, so that is the only way we intend to use that line. My only request for all of you is to keep the office clean. I bought cleaning supplies over the weekend, in case the desk gets really nasty, you can just use some disinfecting wipes on that. Questions, comments, concerns? Okay, elections timelines, that’s just up there for the reps who did not see it before. Nothing should be changed, so this should be everything from last time. Right now, there is a slight situation. So we encountered this in the fall with UConn Storrs, where we are trying to put this online. We communicated with them and we are having problems getting the elections done in this fashion. Right now, they are saying that we need to do the elections separately. That is to say, E-Board, 2L Day the next week, upperclass evening the next week. Unfortunately that does not work with our Constitution, it doesn’t work with our timeline. So just keep this for now, but there is a possibility that this may change. I’ll keep you posted. We are doing everything we can to work with the technology department and it has not been pleasant. Questions on this?

GV: We are working on alternatives to maintain this timeline, regardless of whether we utilize Storrs.

YM: Last thing, the Elections Committee plans to meet this week, given this situation, I’m not sure how much we can do, but there are things to talk about. We will meet to get the process moving.

GV: Other questions? I do want to thank the members of PILG who are here tonight. As we pushed throughout the year, we love it when the SBA and students from the community are here. We really do appreciate you taking the time to be here. Two things on the agenda, two separate issues. One is the conditions that were passed last semester, and are proposed again for this semester, with an amendment that the Budget Committee has ratified in a 4-3 decision for the cap. Then there is the issue of the quantity of the funding for this semester. As a reminder, this does not effect the amount of funding for the last semester, the $8000 that the SBA already approved. That is said and done. The discussion with the conditions, may, depending on what the SBA chooses to do this evening, retroactively effect that money. Because the nature of the conditions could effect both funding for this semester and last semester, retroactively, we should discuss that first. We will then have the members of the Budget Committee come up and explain some of our perspectives as far as the specific funding. In conversation with PILG, if you all look at your conditions. What you have before you, what is on the top is the proposed conditions by the Budget Committee. It is a cap on the amount of income that a fellow recipient can receive before being expected to make a contribution back into the PILG fund for distribution to other fellows.
JT: Specifically, the amount of money tied to that job. If there is outside income from some other source, that does not effect us.

GV: When income regarding the job could cover such things as wages, salary, it comes into play. My understanding is that these positions are unpaid, but also a grant or another fellowship, if someone were to receive this under the existing conditions, the expectation would be that the student pay PILG back whatever above $4000 they have, so that PILG can then redistribute the money. The amendment raises it to $4500 dollars. You would have $500 to take in pocket in addition to 4000 before the expectation is triggered to give money back to PILG. PILG approached us this semester and they will have an opportunity to explain in detail, requesting that the cap be amended from $4000 to $6000. I don’t want to speak for PILG, and I do want them to speak, but this would allow an individual recipient to have up to $6000 proceeds or income, directly relating to the fellowship position, before there would be any requirement to pay back into PILG. There have been a couple of advantages that have been pointed out in that it incentives other students to seek other fellowships. There Budget Committee has various concerns that I will let members of the Budget Committee chime in on, in our recommendation to raise to $4500 rather than $6000. This is something that I have discussed with Dani and DeVaughn, and have discussed as an E-Board. The feeling is that, in prior years, there has been a judgment made by both the SBA and PILG decided that $4000 was a nice, round number for students to get a fellowship. SBA reviewed this, and particularly from our concerns, looking at the quantity of SBA student activities fees that are going to one person, that we thought that the best way, in essence, in fulfilling our purpose in funding the fellowships, was to maximize the fellowships and to make sure that this resource is available to as many students as possible. There was the feeling that, particularly on an individual basis, receiving $4000 of SBA funds, that it was, in our opinion in the Budget Committee and in past years, essentially a reasonable expectation that if you get more than that, you pay it back. You give it for someone else, because whatever is calculates out to, 11 dollars an hour, in a 40 hour week or two, that’s not a lot of money, but in prior estimations that was enough money. Secondly, the objective of making that available in allowing more people to have fellowships. There was disagreement within the Budget Committee, the vote split on a 4 to 3 basis, and 4 votes were in favor of raising it to $4500, 3 votes were against that, in keeping it at $4000. I know that at least among one member of the Budget Committee, the expectation was that they would like to see no cap in the sense that it maximizes those chances. This is not something that we came out clearly on, but we do in this instance, but we have put forth a formal recommendation for $4500. So, before I open with PILG to comment in, I’m going to ask if there are questions. One thing in looking at how other schools do it, some other institutions have a cap that is upwards of $4000. In looking at the $4000 myself, looking at this, and again, I would ask that PILG comment freely on this, UConn is a state school, and many of the other schools are private schools. UConn SBA, as I understand, it is in somewhat of a unique position of paying student activity fees to pay fellows. So, in prior years, and again this year, there has been a different shade to the conversation regarding, the level of responsibility people feel to be placing it on students to receive, what are in essence, public dollars, being funded by their classmates, that this adds an extra flavor of responsibility to give back and help your fellow classmates. I and others thought
it was a very important thing to look at that data and take it into consideration, we did see a
differentiation, between what other programs did and we didn’t see it as compelling that
because school x did it that was in a certain disposition often times had a much greater
availability of funding, that that wasn’t necessarily something that we found compelling. Any
questions on my end about the Budget Committee? Justin, do you have anything?

DeVaughn Ward: I have a question. In terms of the $4500, how did you all arrive at that
number? Why $4500?

JT: I can answer that. Some of the information that we received from members of the Budget
Committee that were more familiar with the process of applying for fellowships, we realized
that is an abundance of $1000 fellowships out there, that you can get, and we did not want to
disincentivize students that were getting the $4000 who were applying for those. And if they
get it, it would allow for 500 dollars to get kicked back to PILG. We wanted to offer some
incentive for them to try and get one of the smaller fellowships, and in doing so, kick some
money back into PILG.

DeVaughn: One more question. When you say kick back to PILG, for those who don’t know, the
funding that makes up the fellowship is comprised of two different funds. When you say kick
back, do you mean PILG foundation or to SBA operating funds?

GV: It’s stipulated in the conditions that it would go back to PILG. As it reads, it is controlled at
the discretion of PILG to be re-allocated, so that is not back to the SBA. There are also
alternative opportunities to incentivize finding funds. PILG has in the past managed to mandate
participation in the Auction, and we think that is a very sensible expectation. One thing that
occurred to me is that there are other ways for an incentive rather than to cap the funding,
because if that is known ahead of time, perhaps considering whether a candidate is actively
pursuing outside funding and that could be a point basis for favoring the opportunity to get a
fellowship in the first place. So it is in a way rewarding fundraising, because raising outside
funds for PILG would expand the pot. We did not think that necessarily saying that a student
needs to have $6000 or needs to be able to have more money in the bucket was the only way
to incentivize it. And we talked losing that $2000 for UConn Law students was not the best way
to go. Other questions?

DeVaughn: I want to run through our line of thinking in terms of our proposal. We felt that the
$6000 cap was fair, equitable. Gabe referenced data that we gave in terms of what other
schools were doing in the public interest fellowships. And to be honest, there is no other law
institution in New England to exactly compare to. We gave them in the public interest fellowships from BC and BU, we tried to make it as comparable as we could, but there is
nothing as similar or comparable to UConn, because we are a public institution with limited
funds. In terms of, this is my opinion, I’m not speaking on behalf of PILG in this regard, the
student activity and the whole idea of that going to individuals in terms of reasons why we are
proposing these limits, I don’t think that necessarily is a good way of looking at it. The SBA
funds numerous activities that go to individual students, whether it be BLSA or SALSA, or the
Capital Punishment Hockey Team. It is a class of individuals that are receiving from one student and going to another, so I don’t look at it, like, the fellowships are like any other line item budget that you all have to decide on it terms of that. In terms of our proposal, we thought that the $6000 would allow students to apply for other fellowships, like the Equal Justice Works Fellowship, which is 600 $1000 fellowships, that potentially could be given out, which would be in addition to the $4000. And then there are numerous other outside sources of funding for fellowships that students could look into. We felt that $6000 would provide an adequate cap for students for were working not just in Hartford, but in public interested in LA, of DC, or NY, to be allowed a decent living wage. Not anything excessive, but something that would allow them to enjoy or have a certain quality of life even if they have a public interest internship. Under our proposal, we were going to require disclosure, so on the application, if you were planning on applying for outside funding, you would disclose that on your application, and once you receive the fellowship, you would contact those sources and see if you also received a fellowship from them in terms of how much, and then you would reduce the amount accordingly. In past years, there has been no enforcement mechanism for the cap, this year me and Dani are requiring all recipients to sign a contract saying that if they receive any outside funding outside the cap, they have to give that money back and are required to participate in the Auction, except for if you are abroad or have other circumstances. We are more than willing, and appreciate the Budget Committee and the E-board candor and their cooperation in communicating back and forth on this, and hope that we find some common ground.

Dani Mickenberg: I think DeVaughn covered everything.

DM: how did you come to $6000?

DeVaughn: In our initial meeting with our E-Board, it was a lot of divergence in terms of what people wanted to do. Some people did not want to raise it at all, some people wanted a $7000 cap, some people wanted a $5000 cap, so we basically just voted on down to where everybody, the general consensus was $6000. The vote was that they felt that that amount would not be excessive in terms of, so that a person could not rack up 5-10 fellowships, but it was still enough to provide someone with a decent quality of life. I think the proposal gets confused with, I think we can all agree on maximizing the fellowships, but under the current system, there is going to be 12 fellowships given out. That is finite. Under a raised cap, the potential for more fellowships is unlimited. There is potential to work it a number of different ways, depending on what the outside sources are. But the cap, as is, only gives out 12 fellowships. We are also not asking for any more money than we have asked for in past years. We are not asking for an additional amount or increase. In terms of the individual amount for fellowships.

JC: So you are saying that you guys only give out 12 fellowships, so if someone came up with a $1000 of their own, and that $1000 came back, what happened to that $1000 before?

Dani: It depends on when it comes back. If it comes back at the beginning of the summer, if reasonable, we re-allocate it to the next person on the list.
JC: So there might be a 13th fellowship? Without raising the cap?

Dani: Right. Without raising the cap. With raising the cap, the same thing would happen, but it would just be if somebody made more than $4500.

JC: But I feel like DeVaughn is saying that under the current system, you do not give a 13 fellowships, that money comes back, it is capped at $4000, right? So, someone gives $1000 dollars, then it should come back to PILG.

Dani: That does happen, what I think DeVaughn is saying is that under the current system, there is not as much of an incentive to go out and get other fellowships.

JC: So you are saying that practically, it does not.

DeVaughn: Right. In practice, if we are telling people that $4000 is the exact amount that you can get, no one will find another fellowship to go through the administrative hassle of getting that $1000 back.

JC: This year was the first year that you had the cap, right?

Dani: Yes.

YM: I don’t think that’s true.

DeVaughn: It’s been in place for two years.

YM: It was definitely in place last year.

Dani: Right. Last year was the first year.

JC: Has anyone returned money?

AL: This is the second year now.

Dani: Two people returned money, but that was because they did not complete the internship. So they gave back the money.

JC: What about the year before that?

Dani: They did if they did not work the full 300 hours. I have not done the research on that.

JC: So cap basically did nothing to provide more funding for more students.

Dani: Right. Last year.
JT: When it came to, I want to understand this from those who are doing public interest, are you talking about 35 hours per week for 10 weeks?

DeVaughn: 37.

Dani: It’s 300 hours, however you do it. So about 13 bucks an hour.

MY: The thing that, in terms of the incentivization, that I’m getting a little hung up on, my understanding is that you have to apply for a PILG grant or that you do not know that you have a PILG grant at the time that you apply for almost all of these other scholarships. And so unless you are pretty darn sure that you are getting a PILG, grant, which particularly in a year like this, who knows how many people are applying are only 12 going out, have trouble seeing myself being disincentivized and covering my bases if I don’t get the PILG grant. And so the incentive part is something that I don’t understand because I think that if someone really needs to get funding, probably, would go after these as well because they would not know if they have a PILG fellowship.

DeVaughn: Hypothetically, it could work out that way. One of the requirement for the fellowship is that you have a letter of intent, and in a lot of situations, a lot of students have already committed to working at these unpaid internships. I hear your point, and that is valid too. The PILG funding is not guaranteed to anyone.

Dani: That’s a really good point, and I think theoretically that is how it should work. Anecdotally, when our PILG board was having this discussion, and there will be a few members of the board applying for grants, some of them said, “Now, I’m going to do research for other stuff, since maybe the cap is going to be moved.” Granted, they are on the board, but dedication to PILG on the point system is around 10 points, so I don’t think it is huge, out of 100. You can get those 10 points just by being involved in PILG.

MA: I have a question. I know the funding board, we were thinking of other public schools, UMass, University of Maine, others in the region, Rutgers, similar areas?

DeVaughn: UMass doesn’t have a law school.

MA: There’s a ton in NJ, NY.

DeVaughn: Yeah, like NYU, Fordham.

AL: There’s also the CUNY law school.

MA: Can I point out that there is distinct difference between UConn Law and NYU, with all due respect. That’s like Yale Med and UConn Med.

DeVaughn: Absolutely. We tried to look from the top 20 down.
MA: Out of all of the public universities in the country, did you look at any of them?

DeVaughn: I could not find that information. I tried. I checked Georgia, UNC.

male: What about UVA?

DeVaughn: They don’t have that.

JP: They are private.

DeVaughn: I tried to look at other law schools that function similarly to the way we function. Other schools just have the fellowships and give them to anyone doing public interest. I was trying to find schools that have PILG-type of groups.

MA: Did you research other schools that get funding directly from SBA?

DeVaughn: I did not get the information as to where the funding came from.

Dani: I think that is pretty rare for funding to come from an SBA, if not totally unique.

AL: Is the question here raise it to $4500 or raise it to $6000?

GV or JT: Our proposal is to raise it to $4500.

AL: Is that what we are voting on? $4500?

GV: what we would like to do is put that proposal to the floor and let the SBA vote for or against it, and it can open up for other proposals.

WM: Do you know how many people do these internship in the cities, like LA? Is that a factor? Because $4000 is not that much for living.

DeVaughn: One person did LA.

Dani: I think a number of people do NY.

WM: For the schools that you did look at, what were their numbers?

DeVaughn: If you want to circulate this, this is not the entire document I gave to SBA, but it is part of the document of the other schools. GWU varies from 12k to 4k, Fordham varies from 5k, NYU does 4500 for 1Ls, and 6500 upperclassman, BU does 6000 cap, Hofstra’s goes from $7000 to $7500. I think DC was a location as well. NY was one of the locations. At least 3 of the 15 were in major cities.
DM: Under your proposal, does any money go back into the fund, or anything above the $6000? The $500 goes back into the fund?

GV: You now have $500 to put back into pocket, under our proposal, before you have to give back to PILG. What they are asking, $6000, you can get $2000 worth of fellowships, before you give back.

DM: What about a different proposal where we combined the two, and we say that you get 4000 and anything you get up to beyond that, you have to give back $500 dollars.

GV: I only hold off on that because we get into some specific counterproposals, I just want to proceed with the $6000, the $4500, and then so move into that. I think that is an important thing to bring up.

DM: I just to bring it up as something that we can look at later.

GV: Yes.

John Rosato: I don’t understand how the $6000 potentially incentivizes anything other than, for recipients to put more money into their own pockets. It does not necessarily incentivize going above that cap of $6000. I don’t see how it improves flexibility on giving additional grants, because I am assuming that PILG is still capped at the $4000 for their individual grants, it’s just that you saying that you can receive $6000. You are still going to give 12 grants, and depending on the timing issue, you are probably not going to get back the money anyway until the end. So all you are really doing it putting money in the recipient’s pockets.

Dani: I guess the PILG reasoning was twofold: first, not just to incentivize, but to give people money that they can live off for a summer, like in NY or LA, which is where the $6000 comes from, but for example, if you work in Hartford, there is an Equal Justice America fellowship that is $4000, and you can’t apply for less than that. If you apply for PILG and for that, that would be $2000 coming back to PILG under the $6000 cap. So there are other fellowships than are more than $2000. You are right in that other fellowships are only $1000, like the Equal Justice Works fellowship. People probably, they might just do EJW and PILG fellowship. We wanted to raise it so that we can give the money for example, for people living in NY.

John R: So it’s like a different way of getting the cost of living adjustment in there.

Dani: It’s both for us.

JC: Is most of the money out there in $1000 denominations?

DeVaughn: It depends on what particular area of law you are going in. For example, there are a number of women’s rights fellowships out there. Or LGBT, it varies.
JC: Statistically?

Dani: There are a lot of $1000 scholarships to get. But there a number of others that are worth more, but EJW is something that more people go for, and that is $1000.

GV: As an initial matter, let’s vote on $4500. But because I think it is important for people to know what the alternatives are, very briefly, I’m going to take a straw from the floor for subsequent proposals of other amended proposals to raise the cap.

AT: As it is written right now, any amount in excess of $4000 has to get paid back. I don’t know if this comes to a hard vote, you may want to consider capping the payback provision at something like $1000 or $2000, the first 2000 comes back and anything else stays with recipient.

GV: Kind of like a compromise. [writes on board]

DM: Unlimited, but they have to give back $500.

GV: How is that different? Wait, I see.

DeVaughn: It’s basically a $500 kickback.

WM: Let’s put the $6000 up.

JC: I don’t mean to make this more complicated, but how about 4000 + cap of 50% of any additional funding thereafter? It directly incentivizes.

GV: We may be at max number of proposals.

DeVaughn: Dani raised a very good point that I wished I had considered. A lot of the things that we are talking about, some of the key people who need to be here are not here, in terms of administering this. Doing all these considerations, that may or may not be feasible.

GV: I think we have to proceed with that in mind, and if problems arise, like tax liabilities, we are going to need to deal with that as we approach it. Barring not dealing with it altogether and holding off on funding. Any other uniquely distinct proposals? So, as a procedure, we still start at the $4500. Does anybody have any last comments?

MM: What is the status quo?

GV: The $4000.

MM: I think we should have that then.
GV: That is a good point. The Budget Committee did split 4-3, with 3 people stating that they did not want to raise the cap.

John R: Why is that an option?

MA: Because it doesn’t have to change.

Proposals:
A) $4500 – does not limit kickback
B) $4000 → 6000 cap (plus exempted)
C) $4000 → 4500 cap
D) $6000
E) $4000 + cap of 50% of any additional funding thereafter
F) $4000 cap strictly

GV: Comments on A?

JT: I like it.

GV: I think there should be other incentives built in. when $4000 in student funds are going to one person, that is a lot of money going to one student. That’s my thought?

MY: I actually, I don’t see evidence that, because of the deadline structure, for me this is a purely logistical thing. Most people who want fellowships, if they don’t know that they have a PILG grant, then they are either going to apply for other things or not. But if they say that they are going to do more, but in the end, if you really think you need these grants and don’t know if you have one yet, then you should be applying for them. Just for purely logistical, because I’m not convinced that people who are proactive won’t do it on their own.

GV: Other comments? Motion to vote?

YM: Wait, motion to vote on A?

MA: Wait, you did not go through all of the options.

JT: This is generally uncontroversial. There is a minor language change to provision A, we removed some language that we felt was silly. This is so that we don’t have to figure out which dollars is coming from the SBA and which is not.

DM: Can we just run through all of them and just vote?

GV: We can do a kind of straw poll of all the options, and for anything with votes under 5, we eliminate and narrow it down and go from there. There are no procedures on this.
MY: When you vote, you can vote for all 5 if you consider all 5, but if there is one that only 1 or two would consider doing, or we could spent a lot of time on this.

MA: Can we do it like a real caucus? Everyone gets only vote, and the person left has to change their vote until we narrow it down to one.

MT: I would second what Marco is proposing.

GV: Any objections to proceeding in this way. This is NOT the official vote.

MA: If you want to set a minimum vote to meet, or just the lowest get tossed out, at your discretion.

JP: How many people are voting.

GV: Only the SBA.

JP: So with 6 choices, are votes going to be too spread out?

GV: If we have a tie, we will do a secondary vote.

[tries voting, but DM voted 3 times]

Unknown: You are only voting once.

DM: Oh wait, I voted for A, C, and E.

GV: Which one do you want out of those 3?

DM: E.

GV: Everyone raise their hand for E again, including Danielle, since you decided on that.

Motion for A: 9
Motion for B: 0
Motion for C: 0
Motion for D: 3
Motion for E: 8
Motion for F: 0

YM: Don’t renumber them, okay? They are going to stay. Don’t change anything.

JC: Do we cut D?
MA: I think we have to, they survived it.

AL: DeVaughn, how hard do you think it would be to make E happen?

DeVaughn: It would require the person to disclose that they are receiving the outside funding, and then the kickback. It would not be impossible.

WM: The money they kick back, goes to SBA?

People: No.

WM: So we don’t have to worry about stipulations regarding outside sources? Like, if you get a $4000 grant from someone, I’m sure they have some stipulations, I’m sure you can’t get 2k from here, 2k from there.

GV: It’s a conflict of law issue between which one you would accept.

WM: So it would come out of PILG funding?

MY: DeVaughn, do you see any other issues that we may have to deal with?

DeVaughn:

Dani: If somebody makes more than $8000, we can’t ask them to kick back more than $4000. If they get a 10k.

MY: Because of tax issues?

Dani: No, because we are only giving 4000.

JC: Up to $4000? You get $4000, everything after that is lost up to 50%.

MY: We only have about 20 minutes to also go through the entire budget allocation.

YM: They will show up in about 10 minutes.

GV: We have to go. Everybody vote just once.

DS: Do we cut out any people’s votes? Because otherwise people will just vote for the same thing.

MT: Just vote.
SECOND ROUND
Motion for A: 8
Motion for D: 0
Motion for E: 11

Motion to Vote on E to be the PILG Cap Condition:
Motion: BH.
Second: DS.
Yes: all

Actual Vote for E:
Yes: 11 (DC, JC, MM, AL, RD, KG, BH, WM, JK, DM, YM)
No: 7 (MY, MA, JP, AT, DS, JT, GV)
Abstention: 2 (MT, CL)

GV: Okay, this is passed. Okay, PILG funding. Budget Committee members. Can you come up here? We really need to do this fast. We are going to represent 3 positions on the Budget Committee. These are not formal positions. They are subject to floor amendment for any amount of funding, but it is very important for all of us to explain our rationale briefly. The Budget Committee divided into 3 sections. The proposals are as follows for this semester funding. Again, this does not effect last semester funding of $8000, this entire discussion is about $8000 and up for this year. So the positions that the Budget Committee broke down into in debates were $6000, $4000, and $0. The requested amount, as DeVaughn has explained, is $8000 for fellowships.

RD: Is this number in addition to the $8000 from the previous semester? It is sitting there unspent?

GV: Yes. It is sitting there unspent, but allocated to PILG. So $0 is not $0. $4000 is $12,000, $0 is $8000.

Positions of the Budget Committee for spring of 2010 only ($8000 already allocated in fall):
0 – GV, AT, MA
4000 – YM, DS
6000 – MT, JT

MT: Hey, I’m Mike Tehan, Budget Committee. This year was really tough. We had a lot of people requesting money. We had people requesting more money than in a long time, and significantly more than last year. So going through the budget, we had to cut back on everybody. Everybody got cut back. Justin and I really wanted to keep it at $8000, and I think that was our position overall, but because there were so many people requesting money, we thought that $6000 was a reasonable cut and would take the money from $16,000 to $14,000
and it would make PILG have to unfortunately feel some of the pain as did all of the other groups.

JT: Essentially that was what was in my calculation in deciding that I would support a $6000 number for funding, was essentially, people were getting cuts across the board, we had to cut over 35k in requested funding. We felt that it was wise and fair to do it as equitably as possible.

DS: David Shufrin, Budget Committee. $4000, and Yam voted on this with me. I think PILG is doing a great thing and it’s something that should be funded, but this is not the money for it. SBA is not the place to get the money from. That being said, and that will be discussed more by these 3, but we gave PILG $8000 last semester, and the same for this semester, PILG has almost relied on this coming from us. There are 50 days left before they give out the fellowships, and there is not enough time to go out and raise a full $8000 to match anything they thought they were getting. I think that the only fair thing to do at this point is to give them $4000 because they are relying on this.

YM: I’ll just add that, I think, part of the difference was, for me, I felt the same way as them, but I did not agree on getting to that point in the same way, so the road was different for me. I went with the $4000 because it was one less fellowship, and I was thinking of it sort of in those terms. I do have reservations about the use of the funds for an individual fellowship.

DS: Just to add one quick thing. At $16,000, the full amount they are requesting, $25 dollars per student is being donated. Basically every student in this room and on campus has donated 25 dollars if we vote for a full $8000. At $4000, being 12,000 total, is 18-19 dollars per student, and $8000, or $0 for this semester would be about 12 dollars per student.

GV: For the last proposal, which is no additional funding, I believe this position bears explanation. This position is based not on the perception or judgment of what PILG’s role is on campus, I really do applaud you, because every person on this Committee has been in conversation over and over again and thought that this was an extremely important thing. My take on it, is that there is no reason at the University of Connecticut School of Law that the students should have to be responsible to pay for public interest options. This is the student activity fund. To that effect, as Dave pointed out, $4000 is 25 student’s activity fee going to one fellowship. How this is distinguished, and this is a point that DeVaughn made before, there is money changing hands all over the place in terms of the activities that we fund. We have some money go towards league fees. BLSA members towards their events. We have previously held back on things that have never been available to the entire law school campus. How I differentiate those in terms of student activity fees from those is that this is student activity fee. PILG is in the business of promoting something, arguably, in many respects, more important, which is, our function at attorneys in this society regarding employment, regarding work. To me, this is the wrong place for students to be paying other students to try to carry this. I think A) the school should be putting in more money. DeVaughn, when I looked through the list of schools that you gave, it was abysmal how little funding goes to PILG. And that’s even with the outside funding that you mentioned, there’s no reason why this should not be paid for by the
school. I know there are limits, but that is my take on it. It is a misuse of the student activity fee. So this position is not about the importance of what you guys are doing, it is very important for me to make that clear. When I look at PILG’s overall funding, and I know that it has gone down, again this is something that reasonable people can disagree about, I absolutely respect the positions that you have held and anyone else here to the effect of timing and all those things. As a pragmatic issue, for me this is a matter of a conscious issue about the proper use of this fund. At this point, we have allocated $8000 in total, if we did the $0 allocation, you would still, correct me if I’m wrong, $42,000 remaining. So what’s at issue here are 2 students and $8000. Not the other fellowships. This would leave 10 other people to get fellowships on campus. As far as an economic matter, I see these things as incentivizing an extremely important thing but by the rules of documents in the process, students have already accepted the job when they are coming to PILG, there is no guarantee of receiving funds, so the difference for me between 10 versus 12 was not compelling to me. I think it is a bad things for PILG to be dependent on the SBA for funding going forward. This is now time to explore and push for other opportunities. Regarding the activity fee and use, it was originally designed to benefit the student body in activities like Mock Trial, social events. When I look dollar for dollar, people having a party, that is certainly not as noble a cause as encouraging people to do public interest, that’s what this fund has paid for. It’s not optional, it’s mandatory. When we take money from one student and give it to another, that does not seem proper to me. I would much prefer to see more private funding, the school carrying more weight, and there should be an option on the fee bill to donate it. If that was an option, I would donate it, but then it would not be the SBA determining for the students that they need to give money to another student for what I see is employment. As a tiered step, this is not a withdrawal of funding, as PILG still has 2 fellowships from us.

MA: What is really came down to for me was taking student fee bill money, the money you pay during the year, and essentially giving it to another student. A student you don’t know, you don’t get to decide who gets the PILG fellowship, this I why I have a hard time with it. If you say at the beginning of the year that you want to donate $20 bucks, by all means, let’s do it. But apparently it’s not, so I think our biggest issue is that we are using money from the student fee bill, by doing it this way, we are operating in a faulty way.

GV: To put in perspective of $16,000 per year of funding is, in 2008, we went from $5000 to $15,000, almost $16,000. The year before that, PILG funding from the SBA was $3100. I think the student activity fee was 3 dollars less then than it is now. So the proportion that we have gone to for this funding, the way that student are carrying that in my opinion, the school should be carrying and other ways of funding this, it’s become out of proportion, and this is based on our fiduciary duty to the fund. It is not a comment on the activity. I hope I have made myself abundantly clear.

MY: I know that we normally go 1, 2, 3, but we have only discussed cuts, so I would like to address a fourth option. I think there’s some good points raised, I don’t actually disagree with a lot of them. We have a lot of groups on campus that we specifically direct money to certain individuals. For example, we have the Moot Court Board, and we fund only people, or at least give preference to people who want to go to other schools. We have journals, you go through a
process, and then you receive funding that people can get, and so this is not without precedent. I don’t disagree that this is not the ideal source of the money, but in the end, this is not the time, there are other ways to address this. This is not the ideal source of the money, but we are talking about people’s jobs here and getting paid at a time in which it is exceedingly hard. I think for us to cut right now would be taking an academic view while sacrificing expectations that, I’m not disagreeing that phrasing it as expectations involves a certain sense of entitlement. I think the timing of this is very unfortunate in a year where we do have surplus from last year, and I recognize that it’s sometimes different from our operating budget. Bottom line, the money is there for us to do this. I think for us to investigate if there is a way for this to become part of the student activity fee, that would be great. If, at the least, we don’t have a future SBA that doesn’t want to fund it at all. That could happen the way it is written right now. I think we should be pursuing it, but at the same time, in terms of giving PILG an opportunity to fundraise, the number of hours that go into the Auction, no one here believes it is a lack of effort. Even alluding to the opportunity to fundraise more, the Auction Chairs kill themselves. I think this is the most important vote the SBA is going to take this year. I think we are looking at an economy where people are not going to get paid. I think we are looking at saying academically, we don’t like this, and so in order to make a point to the administration, or for any of these different reasons, which are things that can be addressed, we are going to take away funding that students really need. I understand that different students may have varying levels of comfort with it. Personally, I pay taxes to the government, that go to various programs, I don’t think everyone’s perfect, so some will go to people I will never meet.

Group: So what is your proposal?

MY: I propose that we match funding from both last year and the past semester for $8000 per semester, as requested by PILG.

AT: I think you hit the nail on the head when you said that not a lot of people are going to be paid. And people are getting wrapped up in the emotional side of this. Everybody in the Budget Committee meetings said that public interest is fantastic, and by no means, did they saying that reducing or eliminating funding for the semester, that that is not the case. The fact is that we are looking at an economy where a lot people won’t be paid. Outside of public interest as well as within public interest. They have $8000 from last semester in that if someone was going to work at a non public interest firm who was not getting paid, people would kick and scream if you turned around and said, we would give 25 student activity fees to this person for the summer, because it doesn’t come off as a noble cause.

GV: I want to open up to the floor.

John R: Two issues I want to raise. Mike, I think that you are mischaracterizing the big picture, which is you brought up Moot Court Board. Those are the student embodiment of fulfilling this school’s academic mission. And they directly contribute, no that is a moral mission. That is not part of this school’s academic mission, they are distinctly different. Nor do the PILG fellowships contribute in any way to campus life, which is the very purpose of the student activity fee, and
Moot Court Board and Journals do. I mean, they are social functions as much as they are contributing to the academic mission of the organization. And finally, you have to look at the student activity fee as each and every one of our loan money. I borrow money to pay for my tuition, so that is 25 dollars, that I am paying interest on, that is going to somebody else. Less paid are going to be paid. I would ay that a majority of the entire school is not going to get paid. And I’d rather keep my 25 dollars, and not pay interest on it. And it’s me, I’m sacrificing, we are all sacrificing, so the way that you characterized it in such a moral fashion, I disagree with.

MA: Our stance on this was not as a stark position as you. There is a moral implication to PILG, there is no doubt about it. There is also a benefit to people if there is a person working in public interest law. But the issue here is the use of the student activity fee and what is happening on campus. At the end of the day, it is hard for me to separate what you are doing over the summer, and essentially, I know that public interest is public interest, but it is an internship, which helps you get employment when you are gone. I don’t personally think that I would intern anywhere if I did not think that I did not need those internships to get me somewhere for when I graduate. That is our issue, and to that, a lot of people are having a hard time in any sector finding any job. It’s just the way it is. It’s hard for everybody. We are also not cutting the other PILG funding that we provide, the those programs is noteworthy and bring reputational value to the university. I don’t know that fellowships work the same way.

JC: I know everyone’s going to hate this, but I’m sure that plenty of people, I mean you (GV) talked, Mike talked, and John talked, and that’s it. I don’t think there’s really enough time to discuss this.

GV: If we don’t vote on this, this pushes it back, possible by constitutional mandate, until March 22nd.

YM: Yeah.

MY: I think we should give at least Dani and DeVaughn the opportunity to speak if they want to. Most of the time of this discussion was taken up by one point of view and we really need to even that out.

GV: Can you guys talk?

DeVaughn: This is a surprise to both of us. We were unaware of the option to completely cut, we understand that this is a tough economic time for everyone, and as Justin mentioned, cuts need to be made across the board. I think plenty of points have been raised in terms of the idea of using the money to PILG. I did not know that was the purpose or the intent of tonight’s meeting. This seems a referendum on PILG fellowships, and I don’t think that this was set to be this meeting at the onset of the meeting. If it was, I would have notified a lot more people to be here to voice their opinion. Jeff, your point is well taken, in that we should allow more comments to be made. We are a public university. I want to keep that in mind, that we do have a responsibility as lawyers and graduates of this law school to help the public of Connecticut.
You can disagree with that if you want to. This is a shock. I want everyone to know that if you do this, this is a slippery slope that you are sliding on that could be the complete end of this program. There has been some talk by the administration about ending the Auction. So I agree with Mike’s point in that there are other ways to go about this.

Dani: I’m surprised as well. I need a little bit more time to process. As far as if you don’t decide on this until March 22nd, it really won’t effect the application process, because, won’t case scenario, from PILG’s perspective, we have 10 grants to give out, so if you pass it, it’s not going to effect, we will still be able to give out 12 after that. If you would like to postpone it, I would personally like to do that and maybe bring more people, like DeVaughn said. It would not adversely affect the PILG fellowship process.

GV: To that extent, does someone want to motion to vote or to table? Are there more comments?

JC: I think your point is well taken, I think this is not the place for it to come from, but at this time could send a signal to someone that this program should go on, but it should not be coming from here, but we cannot do this. At least not today. If we want to vote on option 4, I’m fine with that, I don’t think it is appropriate to vote to cut the funding like this. It’s just going to hurt people and send a signal.

GV: To remove 2 fellowships out of 2?

JC: Yes, and I think that is significant. We are fighting for every one.

AL: I agree with Jeff. I also agree that student fees should not be used for this, the university needs to step up. But I think at this late date, to take away two fellowships, when we have talked about how many people are applying, I don’t think is appropriate. I agree that next year we can put this on the table to make it very clear, but I think right now it just doesn’t feel right.

BH: If we vote to take it away, that would be two funds [fellowships], correct? So it would be half of a fund, one fund or two funds?

GV: Yes. Leaving the 8,000, totaling 42,000 for PILG.

Male: If the point is to have a debate about this, why are we tabling this now?

GV: We are not approaching that point yet. The question is whether, from some of the comments, if there is an urge to not vote on this, to table.

MY: May I suggest that my proposal is an old hypothesis, which is to say it is the only option for which it passes, no further debate is required. If there is a consensus that there is a substantial cut to be made, we would want more time. May I make a motion to vote on that?
John R: How can you do that? I’m sorry, I know I’m not a member, but how can you disregard other proposals on the table and only vote on one option?

MA: You can’t by Robert’s Rules.

GV: I sort of feel that if people feel don’t agree with the cut, and they think that more time should be given, you vote against it, also I think the sound procedure would be to vote against funding right now. In other words, you would not have a proposal to proceed. Or simply motion to table.

Other comments?

Motion to Table: AL.
Second: JC
Yes: 16
No: 2
Abstention: 0

GV: It has been tabled, and hopefully we can discuss more.

MA: May I suggest Robert’s Rules for the next meeting? I think it’s going to be crazy.

YM: Can we motion to adjourn?

Motion to Adjourn: BH.
Second: AL
Yes: all.
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Meeting ends at 10:57 pm.
SBA Officers in Attendance
1. President - Gabriel Vidoni – GV
2. VP/SC Chair - Mike Yedinak - MY
3. Secretary - Yam Menon - YM
4. Treasurer - Justin Theriault – JT
5. 1L Day - Blake Holler - BH
6. 1L Day - David Shufrin – DS
7. 1L Day - Walter Menjivar – WM
8. 1L Day – Eleni Alevizos - EA
9. 1L Evening - Jeff Kanca - JK
10. 1L Evening - Marco Allocca - MA
11. 2L Day - Angie Lachhman – AL
12. 2L Day - Jackie Preville - JP
13. 2L Day – Zohaib Rasheed - ZR
14. 3L Day - Alex Tingey – AT
15. 3L Day - Robert Day – RD
16. 3L Day - Mike Molloy – MM
17. 3L Day – Cara Tonucci - CT
18. Upperclass Evening – Mike Tehan - MT
19. Upperclass Evening - Danielle Most – DM
20. Upperclass Evening – Chris Lent
21. LLM Rep - Katja Giese – KG

Motion to Begin Meeting: MA
Second: DS
Vote: All.
Meeting Begins at 9:35 pm.

GV: A couple of items on the agenda, particularly the discussion regarding the PILG funding.

YM: Did everybody receive the minutes? Can we go ahead and motion to approve the minutes? I did feel that it was important to get down as much as possible. So let’s go ahead and motion to approve the minutes.

Motion to Approve 2.15.10 Minutes: AL
Second: JK
Vote: Yes: 20
No: 0
Abstention: 1 (CL)
Motion to Approve 2.22.10 Minutes: BH
Second: CL
Vote: Yes: 21
No: 0
Abstention: 0

GV: We have before us tonight an amended proposal for PILG funding. As you should see, we have copies going around, updated to reflect the last meeting as well as the newly added condition at the bottom. Most importantly, the amount of funding. The administration kindly provided an additional $4000 for this semester, so based on that provision, PILG submitted an amended request for $4000. This allows the same number of fellowships to be provided for the semester. Dani and DeVaughn are here. The proposal is unanimously endorsed by the Budget Committee. There was a strong consensus that this was a positive step moving forward, and it makes use of the additional funding offered. Justin, additional thoughts?

JT: No major changes. We discussed it, and the vote was completely unanimous.

GV: Shifting gears, I want to offer Dani and DeVaughn an opportunity to comment. This was derived at following a lot of discussion over the past three weeks. The discussion have been a benefit to the process overall, so, please . . . (motioning to Dani and DeVaughn)

DeVaughn: Thanks to the SBA, Justin and Gabe, in terms of keeping this conversation respectful. I think Gabe did a great job of outlining what happened. Administration chipped in $4000 for the semester, and this would maintain what the SBA wanted to do. We started an online petition to support for PILG, signed by 85 people, and this shows that this is supported by the law school community. I know it seems like a non-issue at this point, but I think it is still important to show on the record that there are such fellowships. While we have amended our request, we do maintain that the SBA should continue funding the PILG fellowships. To what extent is something we are looking to in the future. This may have been shouldered by the students a bit too much, and Gabe noted that there will also be a task force to pursue the funding as more formalized. Other schools do this. We are looking for faculty, students, and the SBA for the task force. We think that this is the best option for now.

Dani: Ditto everything. I would like to clarify that the administration is offering $4000, but if the SBA gave $8000 for the semester, the administration would not be giving us this funding. This is the idea that we get $8000 total. As the situation is, we support the proposal.

GV: I do want to thank you all because the input helps to indicate representatives views of these issues. The reps have been in touch with a lot of our classmates about this. For us to make decisions with this feedback means that we are doing our job much better. I thank you all for this, this has taken significant time. The petition is a good point. Open to reps:

JP: Does this mean that the administration is going to give in future years or is it because the SBA this was considering not giving as much, are they supplementing at the last minute?
GV: The funding was offered as a supplemental, but it would be nice if this was previously available. We would like to see this grow. It’s a unique provision in that if the SBA gives $8000, it goes away. As far as next year’s funding, we hope to use the task force to advance sources of funding. We can avoid the fluctuations in the SBA. I’m hopeful that the funding for next year in an upward trend. Perhaps 12 fellowships can be the floor, and we can go from there. Other questions? Public comment?

Hillary Gluck: What exactly does this mean going forward? What has been figured out long term?

GV: that is a great question. The short answer is that the conversations are independent of each other. We cannot bind future SBAs to funding. The conversation could never come up again or come up significantly. Depends on the year, but the hope is that we can try to avoid this be a recurring cycle and come to an arrangement. We have looked at other programs. It would be great to see something more formal in the future.

MA: My concern is that this is not a resolution in terms of the long term solutions going forward. I see this as an issue next year. I think the SBA needs to make a commitment to have this going forward, and work with PILG to put pressure on the administration, but try to work out that it is not as reliant on the SBA. Right now, as it stands, it is frustrating, because there has been all this discussion, and if nothing is resolved, we will just keep talking, but we have to find a way to make this more permanent. I don’t want to see this happen every year. The task force is great, DeVaughn will be here next year. I think we need to find a way to avoid this conversation next year.

DeVaughn: This has been part of the conversation, considering the timeliness of the issue. Also going to the future. It’s a good point. This could come up as an issue next year. I anticipate it being an issue next year. We should put more pressure on the administration to fund these fellowships. I was having a tough time seeing why people were opposing this, but in light of the administration coming up with $4000 out of thin air kind of changes the conversation and perspective a bit. That is not to say that they have an ill intentions or ulterior motives, but it makes you wonder if they have this ability, maybe we should be looking to them to help us.

GV: These are all important points. It’s important that the dialogue not die. There are still certain feelings for next year. We will do that. Thank you to Dani and DeVaughn for discussing this and being a part of this process.

JT: I have the printouts going around.

Motion to Vote on PILG funding: MA.
Second: EA.
Yes: 21
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Vote on PILG funding:
Vote: Yes: 21
No: 2 (JP, MM)
Abstention: 0

PILG funding of $4000 from the SBA for the spring semester passed.

GV: Thank you everyone. Social Committee?

MY: We had a great Thursday with lots of food. We had March Madness event throughout the day, with pizza and wings, which was great. Wood n’ Tap was packed all night, maybe over 100, it was packed all night. From here on out, there’s a meeting coming up, to be determined, and there is still the faculty movie night. Spring Fling is still on a boat, April 17th. There is some talk for Friday, April 2nd, for a capture the flag game on the campus, may be a fun idea. Some talk, depending on funding, on a later in April barbeque. That one is a little up in the air. After that, looking at an expanded midnight breakfast with plenty of food this semester. That’ about it for now. Also, if I can say, while I have the floor, congratulations to Yam, DeVaughn, and Bethany, we have some great representation for next year.

YM: Thanks a lot, Mike.

MY: Question, Rob?

RD: Yes, did they say when the boat was coming back?

MY: Should be 9pm to 12am. It’s the Lady Katherine, so if you look that up, you can find it. Other questions for Social Committee?

GV: Thanks, Mike. A great slew of events. Moving along, second thing, Facilities Committee update. I want to thank Dave for putting additional time into Facilities.

DS: As we previously discussed, we purchased a variety of athletic gear, Frisbees from Westlaw, bochee ball set, and play gear that will be available at the library circulation desk for student use. There will be an email going around.

GV: In the future, we will re-­visit with the library lounge. Election Committee update. Dave?

DS: So basically, rep elections started today and will go through Friday. Yam is laughing because we started it a little early.

GV: I must thank you all for interpreting a very difficult Constitution. The emails that you have seen come from a lot of work. We are looking to further document the process and clarify this
going forward, We are internally going to clarify the election procedures. Tracking issues and so forth. Constitutional issues, but I don’t see us getting to this this semester. By-laws has been a priority.

DS: The 1L class is voting for their reps. We will announce soon, but there were not enough nominations for the 3L Day and the Upperclass Evening, so we are trying to fill a couple of extra spots, but it will basically be an uncontested election.

GV: Part of this is having so many elections emails going around and so much going on through the process. We may want to spread this out over future amendments.

DM: You said there were not enough nominees?

DS: We are currently one short for Upperclass Evening and one short for 3L Day.

DM: Can you just extend it?

DS: If you send an email to any of us, we can vote to accept the nomination.

DM: I can make an announcement in class tomorrow and see if people want to do it.

DS: We are keeping it open until Friday night. After that it will have to be next semester. If we get it before Friday night, we will consider it.

YM: I just want us to be mindful of, we certainly want to encourage it, but I don’t want to push people too hard to the point where they do basically we are forcing them to do it.

GV: It is a worthy consideration.

AL: And also, my concern is that I don’t know what my schedule is going to look like next semester, and I know that we don’t have a lot of control over that, but that is a consideration. I don’t know if there is a way to do this after people have decided on their schedules, as we don’t even know what is being offered next semester.

DS: Treasurer nominations are going on now and will be up until Friday at 5pm. And then we are going to be voting at the next meeting with the new SBA.

GV: Does everyone understand that the Treasurer is elected by the SBA and not the student body?

MA: I’m pretty sure that the email is confusing us. that might be my fault.

YM: I think we corrected that.
MA: I thought we did to, but two people mentioned to me about the Treasurer, which they referenced the email to.

YM: Part of the confusion does come from the emails. We have tried to fix this with the Treasurer nomination, but that being said, it is really hard to keep everything straight with all of the emails flying around. We can send an additional one. It wouldn’t hurt.

AL: I think it said “Who can vote/run?” which may be causing the confusion.

YM/MA: Ah, ok, yeah, we can fix that.

DS: Just to clarify, it’s the SBA as a whole and not the E-Board.

GV: It’s a constitutional anomaly that the “Board” refers to the entire SBA, including board members and representatives.

YM: That is also due to the fact that the Constitution is internally inconsistent with this. A special thanks to the Elections Committee who has been awesome about meeting about 1,000,000 deadline for me, crazy Gchat conversations going back and forth and so forth. You have all been really awesome about it. It’s been really tough, because there have been a lot of decisions that we have had to make, like who votes? Evening division, is that the person who graduated in January? There are a lot of different scenarios that come up. I really want to thank Eleni, Dave, and Marco for being such troopers about it.

DS: Did we ever handle the LLM students?

YM: We have been handling graduation speaker elections as well, which is where the question arose. We had a lot of questions around who gets to vote, who gets to run, etc.

GV: Gradually we are adding this to the website. Other questions?

KG: The email regarding LLMs, do we discuss this here?

YM: Did we decide on this?

DS/MA: I don’t think so, I don’t remember voting on this.

YM: Okay, so let’s give some context to this. The question was for the graduation speaker elections for the day division, whether LLMs can vote? The issue was not whether they would have their own speaker, it’s a very small class, so that’s not at issue. The question was whether they vote, what division, etc? I sent an email to Claudia Norsworthy but have not heard back. If this becomes an issue, we may have to raise it to the administration, because we are sort of being pressed by the administration to have this done. If we can get an extension, we can consider it.
GV: Why don’t we follow up with her? I don’t see why LLMs wouldn’t vote.

YM: Definitely.

GV: Katja, it’s good that you raise this, and this could very well be the first time that it is raised, whether we can correct it in time for the evening speaker, but we can certainly fix for the future.

KG: Some people actually wanted a speaker, too.

GV: It’s a great issue that you raise. There was actually some talk about reducing to one speaker for all, so that may not be feasible. The issue is important, though.

MY: It may make sense to have it for the evening division speaker going forward.

GV: It’s a good point. Can you just add a note to adding this for the future? It’s a shame that this happened. Other questions? Thanks Katja. That pretty much ties us up.

ZR: Since break, I have started implementing getting tables out in the library. An extra step that we will do is data collection. Being a pilot program, timing is an issue, as it would only be implemented for a few weeks. I have been trying to get in touch with UConn Storrs about boilerplate language, but it has been hard getting that. Seems that there is some unwillingness on their end. I might just visit them to get this done. Administration has been quite receptive to our ideas, but they don’t seem feasible for this semester, but for next semester. My ambition was to get a pilot program for night ride this semester, I think it would be difficult, maybe unwise to start with that now.

GV: And the draft report with recommendations, it would be nice to move that forward and put it on the website for documentation purposes. Any last business?

DS: Locker discussion. We have updated proposal, with incremental numbers. It is on the Facilities website.

GV: On the committee website.

DS: Please take a look.

GV: The additional information that you will see are actual survey responses. It includes comments for and against, giving a broad picture.

YM: There are still questions about office hours. Office hours are this week and into the last week of March. If you have questions about who is doing what and when, just refer to that email I sent. To respond to how to get in there again, grab the key from the circulation desk.
Check it out to yourself and just go into the office. For now, we will just end office hours at the end of March.

Motion to Adjourn: EA
Second: DS
Yes: all.
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Meeting ends at 10:10 pm.
SBA Officers in Attendance
1. VP/SC Chair - Mike Yedinak - MY
2. Secretary - Yam Menon – YM (President-Elect)
3. Treasurer - Justin Theriault – JT
4. Bethany DiMarzio – BD – Secretary-Elect
5. 1L Day - Blake Holler – BH (2L Day Class Rep-Elect)
6. 1L Day - David Shufrin – DS (2L Day Class Rep-Elect)
7. Allison Pannozzo - 2L Day Class Rep-Elect
8. Sebastian Tornatore - 2L Day Class Rep-Elect
9. 1L Day – Eleni Alevizos - EA
10. 1L Evening - Jeff Kanca - JK
11. 1L Evening - Marco Allocca – MA (Upperclass Evening Class Rep-Elect)
12. 2L Day - Angie Lachhman – AL (3L Day Class Rep-Elect)
13. 2L Day - Jackie Preville - JP
14. 2L Day – Zohaib Rasheed – ZR (3L Day Class Rep-Elect)
15. 2L Day – Jeff Chase – JC (3L Day Class Rep-Elect)
16. 3L Day - Alex Tingey – AT
17. 3L Day - Robert Day – RD
18. 3L Day - Mike Molloy – MM
19. 3L Day – Cara Tonucci - CT
20. Upperclass Evening – Mike Tehan - MT
21. Upperclass Evening - Danielle Most – DM
22. Upperclass Evening – Dan Csuka - DC
23. LLM Rep - Katja Giese – KG

MY: Gabe is actually unable to be here. He has a personal conflict with this evening’s meeting. He apologizes for not being able to make it tonight, particularly on the night of the Treasurer elections. He has asked me to run things tonight.

YM: Why don’t we go ahead to motion to begin the meeting?

Motion to Begin Meeting: BH.
Second: MA.
Vote: All.
Meeting Begins at 9:34 pm.

YM: First thing, minutes from the last meeting. I’m very sorry that I could not get them out sooner than I did. The problem is that because we are transitioning out the reps today, we cannot approve the minutes at the next meeting because they would effectively vote on minutes that they did not participate in, so we have to vote on them tonight. Fortunately the
minutes were short, only 8 pages, which is quite short given the last round of 38 pages. It was a short meeting, thus the short minutes. But are there questions about the minutes?

**Vote on Minutes: BH.**
**Second: MA.**
**Yes: all**
**No: 0**
**Abstention: 0**

MY: Quick overview for the next few weeks. Today is the last day for the reps who are being replaced. That does not include 3L graduating students, so tonight is the last meeting for them. Next meeting will be the last meeting of the current E-Board, after which we will transition to the new E-Board. One of the issues we have to deal with tonight is the lock proposal. This is an issue that has been pushed a couple of times. It is something that we have discussed as an E-Board and treat it as sort of old business from the current SBA. So, if there are no objections, the way we would like to address this is to deal with the locker proposal before the swearing in of the new reps. The language of the Constitution, slightly ambiguous, says basically “until replaced,” the interpretation being is that will be until the reps are sworn in. Does anyone have an objection to 2009-2010 SBA being the SBA that votes on the locker proposals? Ok, so let’s then turn this over to Dave, who will bring the proposals forward. I believe last time, we asked for 12, 36, and 48 estimates.

DS: Does everyone have a copy of the proposal? The only addition is the last two pages. If you turn to the third page, you will see the different costs for the new estimates, and we also have comments from the fall survey. These comments were made mostly during a survey about the library lounge. Questions about this? There are 48, 30, or 12 lockers. I’m putting forward 48 lockers for $2725. Anyone object, prefer a different number?

MY: Can we discuss the three options?

DS: If we went with 12 lockers, it would be 1270, the bulk of that would be shipping. We would be paying over $100 lockers. With 30 lockers, it would be $2078, and only $70 per lockers. 48 lockers at $2725 brings it to $56 per locker.

MA: Are these lockers that could go in the library if we wanted them to go in the library?

DS: We have to discuss what color they would be, but this would be an option. The same color as the library may be an option. To back up, these would be going into the basement of Knight, immediately when you walk down, and there is room there for 102 lockers. We

MA: So is the intention to have them moveable into the library?

DS: the primary intention is to get these into the library as well. If we can buy a color that matches both the basement of Knight and the library, we will use that color so that we can have
them there. But since this is a pilot program, we are looking at Knight right now. Other questions?

AL: Just to clarify, if we do the color matching, and it allows us to move the lockers from Knight to the library, or no?

DS: It would be, it would Facilities to move them. They would be able to be moved. The big issue is finding a color that works. There are a lot of options within the same price range. We have talked to Jim Missel in Facilities, but he never got back to me on what color he wants, so Dean Crawford pretty much left it to us, with her final stamp. Other questions? Motion to vote on the options?

JT: If anyone is wondering, this fits within our budget. This is coming out of last year’s additional funds. It is essentially capital improvements, and not our operating budget. Our operating budget now is pretty much balanced. This is coming from money set aside.

DS: From a Facilities point of view, we have gotten favorable feedback on the library lounge proposal. We are discussing specifics at this time, but we will bring updates to you in a future meeting. They are open to improvements.

MY: If there are no questions, one thing to possibly look at is, are there people that people would like to see in particular? We have 48, are there other numbers?

MM: I think 30 is better.

DM: I think 12 is the best number because it is a pilot program, and if it is a failure, it is better to lose less money.

MA: I was thinking 24 or 30. 12 is not worth it, but 48 is a lot.

MT: I really like the idea of the 48, it’s already really down from a lot more than that.

DS: We originally looked at 102.

MT: 48? I mean, how many students do we have on campus?

DS: 60% percent of the students who responded wanted the lockers.

MM: If you want this to be an end result, then we should do 48.

RD: I’ll take issue with that. If you go and put 12 lockers in there, we might be dooming a pilot program to fail. If there are not enough lockers in the beginning . . .

MA: 12 is kinda low.
BH: We asked our classmates, and it seems that once you get older and your classes change, you are not here all the time, we found that it in our section, almost 50 people said they would definitely use one. I think it is a 1L heavy thing, but as they get older, they don’t need it as much. I think 48 is a good number for that.

MA: From the 1L evening division, I got absolutely no interest.

JK: I did hear about some interest. Some comments from the upperclass evening, too.

MY: We have previously done a straw poll as well, and then a formal

AL: What if you don’t want lockers at all?

MY: Then this is an option that we can propose.

AL: I propose no lockers.

MT: I agree that we take the top two and vote. I would like to propose that we do an initial straw poll, and then vote again with the top two choices after that.

MY: People okay with that?

MA: I second that.

MY: Only vote for one each. Top two will be voted on again.

**Straw Poll for Number of Lockers to be Placed in Knight Hall Basement.**

Option A: 0 - 3
Option B: 12 - 1
Option C: 30 - 6
Option D: 48 – 9

YM: Top two choices leaves us as 48 and 30.

Top Two, Final Vote:
48 – 10
30 – 7

Final – 48 lockers approved.

Everyone: Thanks a lot for your work, Dave.
MY: We are going to switch to the Budget Committee update so that the current reps will be the ones voting on it.

JT: Okay, so I received a joint supplemental funding request from Lambda and Continuum, a celebration of Diversity, at Tisane. They originally filed a request but did not have enough information, so they now have an invoice. I have the cost breakdown. The total cost is $2150. [shows breakdown on the board] In terms of the budget, this puts us still under what e have budgeted for. If this passes, we will be in good shape.

MY: Is insurance is covered?

JT: Yes.

YM: Can you just explain the breakdown of the vote for the Budget Committee? I just want to explain my vote really quick.

JT: Yes. We fell 6 yeas, 0 neas, and one abstention.

YM: I abstained because as Co-President for Lambda, I am part of the organizing for this event.

JT: Questions for the event?

YM: It overflows at Tisane. It spills over to the patio.

**Motion to Vote on Continuum: MA.**
Second: JK
Yes: all
No: 0
Abstention: 0

MY: We will now do the swearing in of the reps. If I may just say, Gabe was particularly sorry that he could not be here because he wanted to convey these thoughts. Dealing with the administration, you get a sense ever year of how the SBA has a certain character and personality. We have experienced a truly remarkable group this year, and it has made it a real pleasure to work with you the whole year. We wanted to thank everyone for their work this year. There were a lot of people that put in a lot of work this year, and I think it changes the atmosphere and the character of the organization. Thank you to everyone in the current and new SBA.

YM: Gabe felt really bad that he could not be here tonight, he felt very strongly about the sentiment and wanted us to convey it. So, do we have the new reps? Everyone who is a new rep, please stand up.

[New reps rise and repeat the following oath].
I do solemnly swear that I will support the constitution of the United States, and the constitution of the State of Connecticut, and the constitution of the SBA and that I will faithfully discharge, according to law, the duties of the office of SBA representative to the best of my abilities.

YM: Alright, all set. Thanks! [clapping all around]

MY: Okay, so on to the vote for Treasurer.

YM: This vote is for everyone who is returning to the SBA or is new, so if you did not stand up, please don’t take a sheet to vote. The Treasurer election is being done by secret ballot. So, as per the Treasurer nomination sheet, we have two individuals who have printed and signed their names, David Shufrin and Mike Barrese. If we can ask each of you to come up and make a brief statement, this will give an opportunity for the SBA to ask any questions or address any concerns they might have.

MB: I’m Michael Baresse, I have been involved in finance for the past 5 years. I studied finance and economics. I spent 2 years in a country club analyzing their profitability of their pool and tennis facilities. I worked for UBS, with stock option plans, auditing those plans. I also worked at a private equity software firm. I read financial reports a lot. I’ve been involved in finance a long time. I was not in the SBA now, but I’m trying. I appreciate your vote.

DS: I’m pretty sure you all know. I planned this speech and planned to discuss the locker proposal, but you all just heard that. I was on the Budget Committee, a 1L rep, I have a bachelor’s of science in business administration, and a minor in finance. I was a treasurer in my fraternity for a year, and did all of their statements. Almost every budget vote we took, I participated in. I would appreciate your vote.

YM: This is an opportunity for you to ask questions of Mike, and also, since we have our current Treasurer here, Justin, to clarify anything about the position.

MY: You can also ask questions of both candidates.

JT: How available are you during the day?

DS: I think Yam can attest that through all the crises that we have dealt with in the Budget Committee, for the last several weeks, I have been responding within 15 minutes, usually. Sometimes even during class, unfortunately.

MB: I sit in front of my computer all day, probably in class too. If something needs to get done, I’ll get on top of it. I don’t do anything when I’m out of class except for soccer.

AP: Justin, can you go through what you do as Treasurer?
JT: Essentially, the day to day concerns involve, you have to constantly field questions from student leaders and have to respond appropriately. The biggest role is being the role of the Budget Committee. You have to choose and work with the President for spots for the Committee. It does require a very significant investment of time. I spent several hours a week getting checks disbursed on time. Also, keeping an eye on how the by-laws work in practice. Ideas for improving will be important. We get angry emails from time to time, and you have to be able to handle these things with a delicate touch and not offend anyone. You have to make sure that there is an appearance of being fair to everyone, and not make an exception unless there is a damn good reason for it. I’ll be the first to say, it doesn’t require extensive financial experience, but you must be detail orientation.

AL: How would you deal with a group of students who end up being angry about the allocation?

DS: I would explain the entire budget process and explain why it was cut. We would try to talk them through and explain where we are coming it.

MB: Explain the thought process behind the decision. This is what you asked for, this is what we decided and why we thought it was necessary. I think you start with, this is what we thought, this is what went into the decision. We want to make sure that they know they are not being held back for personal or weird reasons.

JT: The Treasurer is in a unique position, I stay in office until June to allow for time to train the new Treasurer.

YM: Other questions?

AT: Do you think that student activities fees are being properly utilized with PILG? This is an issue that came up this year and will come up next year. There was a lot of debates that went on.

MB: I disagree with the use of the student activity fee for the PILG funding.

JC: But do you think that they should have received funding or no funding?

MB: No.

DS: I’m not about to change my position for votes. I came forward two weeks ago, I don’t believe that it is the proper use of the student activities fee, but I don’t want to see funding to be cut because we wake u one day and realize that what we are doing is not right. I would like to work with the heads of PILG and all of PILG next year to go about different ways to fund them. Maybe fundraisers, or talking to administration to give more.

MA: Do you know how you would vote? I get what you are saying, but how would you vote?
DS: As it stands, if PILG had absolutely no other sources for funding, I would vote to continue the funding to some extent, but not after I have seen that PILG has made every effort to raise outside funding.

MB: I think that a lot of my issue is that you have to solicit to qualify. As an incoming 1L, I have no idea what I want to do, and whether I want to participate in the Auction. By the time I’m locked out of the internship, I cannot get the position at that time. If you open it up to any 1L, so any 1L can apply, and then the rest of them can fundraise for the Auction. My biggest issue was that it locked out a large group of people. You should take the people who don’t really know what they are doing that may change their mind throughout the year to open, and I’d be more open to continue the funding.

JC: I’m not happy that the both of you feel this way. I wish there was a third candidate, because then I would not vote for either of you. No offense, it’s just that this is really important to me. I think Mike has been a big supporter of this, but he won’t be here next year. I think that Yam will hopefully carry this on for next year. It’s obviously not just your opinion and you don’t rule this here. So, you [MB] feel that, if you put it to a vote, it would be $0 funding for PILG, because you [DS] said that if they came for funding and tried to support you until you reach your goals. Would you be opposed to that?

MB: My biggest gripe is that it knocks out a large portion of the student body.

JC: But you do realize that excluding people, they realize that they have a funding problem, and so they get students to participate in the Auction to help with this.

MY: I agree with you, but we could continue for a while, and I think we know his position.

JT: In many cases, these decisions, it’s just not my call. The Treasurer only has certain amounts of discretionary authority.

MY: the Budget Committee makes a recommendation, and it still has to be voted on.

YM: Yeah, it’s not something that the Treasurer can do unilaterally. It is a proposal put forth by the Budget Committee. The SBA can vote it down or up, or do what it needs to do.

MY: Other questions?

YM: Can we ask you to leave? Again, this is the new SBA.

JK: Can I vote?

JC: Can we discuss?

RD: Should old reps leave?
YM: It was proposed that we discuss this first.

Motion to Open Discussion: MA.
Second: BH.

(closed discussion of candidates for Treasurer, and set up for secret ballot vote)

Motion to Vote: BH.
Second: AP.
Secret Ballot Vote.

[YM counts, MY confirms, then candidates enter the room]

MY: Congrats to Dave Shufrin for SBA Treasurer for next year. [clapping]

Okay, next up, Social Committee, we need help with finding someone for a DJ for Spring Fling. Pretty much everything else is in progress. I have some names, but if you have some, that would be great.

AP volunteers.

BH: Is most of what is going on going to be inside?

MY: Yes, a lot of things are going on inside. The major event is Spring Fling, there is final meeting for the faculty movie night. There is a new event. Dave, do you want to describe?

DS: We want to do a capture the flag game on Friday, this Friday, either 12:30 or 1 there will an email going out for a capture the flag game and Frisbee game as well.

MY: Beyond that, things that have been previously announced.

YM: Quick update on Conduct Codes Committee since we have been meeting regularly. They are currently working on an non-academic misconduct policy, and we now have a copy of the UConn conduct codes policy. We are trying to find a way to handle these issue on the law school campus, and they were previously going through Storrs. Things are looking hopeful, so I’ll keep you posted. Very quick on Elections, as a result of this evening’s election, we now have 1 2L Day spot open, 3 Upperclass Evening spots open, and 1 3L Day spot open. As per the SBA Constitution, we are allowed to have a special election, meaning that we will open a new nominations process, and then the SBA would vote on these reps. We hope to do that at the next meeting for 4/12. This is to let you know, for reps who didn’t put their names up, and the vacancy for Treasurer, the Elections Committee will be working on that shortly.
JT: Sent out the check for Spring Fling.

YM: Anything else before we wrap up?

Motion to Adjourn: BH.
Second: MA:
Vote: Yes: all
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Meeting ends at 10:24 pm.
Members in Attendance: (absences in strikeouts)
Gabriel Vidoni – President – GV
Mike Yedinak - VP/Social Chair – MY
Yamuna (Yam) Menon – Secretary – YM
Justin Theriault – Treasurer – JT
Blake Holler – 2L Day Rep – BH
Allison Pannozzo – 2L Day Rep – AP
Sebastian Tornatore – 2L Day Rep – ST
Jeff Chase – 3L Day Rep – JC
Angie Lachhman – 3L Day Rep – AL
ZRasheed – 3L Day Rep – ZR
Mike Tehan – Upperclass Evening - MT
Marco Allocca – Upperclass Evening – MA
Robert Day – 3L Day – RD
Cara Tonucci – 3L Day – CT
Alex Tingey – 3L Day – AT
Mike Molloy – 3L Day – MM
Katja Giese – LLM - KG
Dr. Jane Brown – Faculty Advisor – JB

Class Rep Nominees in Attendance:
Mike Baresse – 2L Day Rep Nominee
Gauri Phadnis – 2L Day Rep Nominee
Matt Zagaja – 2L Day Rep Nominee
Matt Dolan – 2L Day Rep Nominee
Aaron Roy – 2L Day Rep Nominee
Billy Goodbody – 2L Day Rep Nominee
Dan Drobnick – 2L Day Rep Nominee
Jon Schaefer – 3L Day Nominee
Dan Csuka – Upperclass Evening Rep Nominee
Jeff Kanca – Upperclass Evening Rep Nominee
BJ Pivonka – Upperclass Evening Rep Nominee

Also in Attendance:
DeVaughn Ward – VP/Social Chair-Elect
Bethany DiMarzio – Secretary-Elect
David Shufrin – Treasurer-Elect

GV: Does everybody have the library lounge proposals? Good evening everyone.
Motion to Begin Meeting: MA.
Second: DS.
Yes: all
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Meeting begins at 9:33 pm.

GV: Welcome to my last meeting, passing of the torch, we have quite a bit to do this evening. First, approve the minutes. Did everybody get a copy?

YM: I sent it out two weeks ago, so it’s been a while. Questions on the minutes?

Approve the Minutes: MA
Second: BH
Yes: all
No: 0
Passed: 0

GV: We will hold the special elections . . .

YM: Can I say this really quick? Very quick, I just wanted to congratulate the newest members of the Moot Court Board, who competed in Loiselle last Thursday. We have excellent representation in the SBA this year. The following, who are past, current, and incoming members, include, and I apologize if I butchered your last names: Bethany DiMarzio, Blake Holler, Angie Lachman, Walter Menjivar, Allison Pannozzo, Jaclyn Preville, David Shufrin, and Sebastian Tornatore. A former rep, Jackie won, and her partner, Caroline Park, also has an SBA connection as a member of the Teaching Effectiveness Committee.

GV: Moving on to Special Elections, we have 2L Day, 3L Day, and Upperclass Evening position. The latter two are unopposed, but you should all be aware that we are not bound to accept a nomination, so there is a process here. The 2L Day position, there is one spot open and seven nominees.

YM: I want to confirm that all of the nominees are here. Everybody else is here but I need to confirm the 2L Day nominees. [names them], Okay, so we have 3 of the 7 nominees present.

GV: Let’s start with the 2L Day nominees who are present, who can stand and talk. Just a minute to say why you are here, what you can bring to the organization.

DS: Can we move to eliminate the non-present nominees?
YM: There is no official procedure to automatically remove them.

GV: Let’s motion to vote to remove them. Does anyone have a problem with this?

JC: No one knows about someone who just could not make it, right?

YM: We gave notice as soon as the nomination email went out, it was on those emails that you had to be at those meetings. It should not have been a surprise. No one reached out to me.

GV: Does anyone want to speak on their behalf? If no one is compelled to vote for them, let’s just do this and if there are procedural problems with this, we can work on it later.

Mt: Do graduating students vote?

GV: Yes.

**Motion to Strip Non-Present 2L Day Rep Nominees: MA.**
**Second: JT.**
**Yes: all but MT.**
**No: 1**
**Abstention: 0**

GV: Would you like to come up to briefly speak?

Matt Zagaja: My name is Matt Zagaja, I’m running for rep because I have seen and respected everything that the SBA has done in the past year. I think that what Blake and Dave have done with Facilities and getting lockers and working hard on social events, I appreciate what you do for the community. I wanted to contribute as well. In undergrad, I started a group from scratch and dealt with budgets, brought major speakers to campus, bring people to big events. I feel I really can bring the organizing experience and invest it towards anywhere you want to put me. If you have any questions, I’m happy to answer them.

GV: Questions?

YM/JC: Let’s do it at the end.

GV: Sure.

Gauri Phadnis: Hi, I’m Gauri, I’m also interested in running for 2L Day rep. I’m also interested in becoming a member of the SBA because of my involvement in Social Committee. I was talking to current reps and saw what was going on with the PILG funding and with the lockers and library proposals, and I was motivated to become
more involved. I feel I am qualified. In high school, I was the student body secretary, which is relevant. I also dealt with Facilities, I have experience and would greatly appreciate your vote.

Mike Barresse: I’m Mike Barrese. You all heard me speak for the Treasurer election not too long ago, so I won’t waste your time. I’d like to get involved and be part of the committees, and a lot of decisions have been made in the past year. I have read your emails and would like to be a part of the process.

GV: Questions for the candidates?

MT: Can they come back to the front?

AL: For all of you, is there a particular committee that you are interested in?

Mike: Budget Committee

Gauri: Social again, Facilities, and Budget.

Matt: Most of my experience was in organizing, so Social, and Public Interest Committee.

DS: What previous SBA positions did you run for?

Mike: Ran for Treasurer.

Gauri: I did not run for anything.

DS: Really?

Gauri: Yeah, really.

Matt: Same.

MT: Do you think there is anything that we need to do to improve the way we deal with the faculty/administration here?

Matt: Could you elaborate?

MT: Are there things you want to see the SBA do and try to change with respect to this?

Mike: I’m not sure how much pull you have with the faculty.
Gauri: It seems like the SBA has pretty good pull with the faculty. Career Services, we could use a boost in that area.

Matt: I’m not really familiar specifically, but we could have them get more involved in Social events.

AL: What are your positions on PILG funding and that situation?

Gauri: Admittedly, originally, when I first heard about it, I was leaning against it. But the more I learned about it, the more that I think it is a good thing. I do have to learn more about the SBA, but my personal opinion would be that rather than spending money on pizza (like we do in APALSA), we could use it on the fellowships.

Mike: I’m not a big fan, but if you can give me a good reason why it should stay, then maybe you can change my mind. But I have yet to hear a compelling argument for why it should stay.

Matt: My general feeling is that, I think the money that goes into the student activity fee is really our money as a community, and it is important that as reps, we maintain a pulse and sense of what the students think. If we get the sense that it is something worthwhile and want to encourage, to do public interest, then we should put some money towards. I don’t think they should rely on us, I think they do a great job with the Auction and raising private funds. As long as people feel that it is good for us to do, it is something that we contribute.

JT: Also, come to my band’s show on the 30th.

GV: Good question and thoughtful responses.

DS: What groups are you involved in outside of the SBA?

Mike: Phi Alpha Delta and Mock Trial Society, and sort of soccer, but I’m on the DL.

Gauri: I don’t want to give the laundry list, but APALSA, SALSA, WLSA, PILG, BLSA, Corporate and Securities, and IPTLS.

Matt: PILG and IPTLS.

GV: With that, you all can leave.

MY: I’m sorry, I don’t remember your credentials, Mike, can you refresh my memory?

Mike: I have a corporate finance background, and worked for UBS and a small private equity software firm.
GV: Why don’t you step outside for a moment? I want to open the floor briefly for comments.

YM: I want to mention something real quick. I didn’t say this with the Treasurer nominations because I didn’t realize in time that we did this last year, but this part of the minutes can be closed, so I am not going to record this, and I did not record it for the Treasurer election.

[closed to discussion to discuss the personal qualities/attributes of the candidates]

[secret ballot, GV counts, YM confirms]

[results in a tie, the SBA briefly discusses how to proceed]

AL: Can we motion to table this vote so that the unopposed reps can also vote and break the tie? That was actually his [someone else’s] vote.

Motion to Table This Vote: AL.
Second: BH.
Yes: All.
No: 0
Abstention: 0.

GV: Can the people running for the unopposed positions please come up?

YM: So Jon, BJ, Jeff, and Dan, can you come up? BJ, Jeff, and Dan are running for upperclass evening, and Jon is running for the remaining 3L Day position.

GV: All of these positions are unopposed. The SBA is not required to accept the nominations and must vote them in. Do you all feel compelled to say anything?

JK: How about just BJ speak since people know me and Dan?

BJ: I think that with Yam’s pro-integration platform it would be a good fit.

YM: Evening division.

John S: I did not run originally because I did not know what position I would have on a journal, but I know now. I have been involved in ELS and thought being in SBA being involved in Facilities.

GV: Questions for the candidates?
DS: What committees are you interested in?

BJ: Budget and Bylaws.

DC: I don’t really know, but probably Social

JK: Campus Safety, Social, and any others needed.

GV: Other questions for the candidates? Please exit the room.

[closed discussion to discuss personal qualities/attributes]

**Group Hand Vote to vote in Jon Schafer, Dan Csuka, Jeff Kanca, and BJ Pivonka: all**

No: 0
Abstention: 0

[Re-Vote for 2L Day Rep by secret ballot vote, MY counts and YM confirms]

GV: Congrats Mike Barrese, winner of the 2L Day Rep position. First off, it was very close, and I think everyone here is really appreciative of your enthusiasm in the organization. I can’t say how it pains me to turn you away. Please talk to the incoming E-Board about committees to remain involved. Thanks for coming out. Okay, so SBA Recognition Award. We are asking the SBA to narrow the nominees with the ballot being passed out, since we had over 20 nominations and run-off elections would go into July. This is not a constitutionally prescribed election. The Elections Committee thought this would be the best plan. It’s also not in the bylaws, so we have the authority to do this. Please hold on to these sheets and we will collect them at the end of the meeting.

JC: Is this a new award? Who won it?

YM: It started last year, and Lisa Rodino won it last year. It’s on the website. There are currently no rules against having her win again, and she is a current nominee.

GV: I want to move on to Library proposal. Background for new reps, these two proposals are the culmination of a years worth of work. We proposed this earlier last semester to the library administration. We wanted to request, based on the survey we ran, revamping the student lounge. We are asking the SBA to narrow the nominees with the ballot being passed out, since we had over 20 nominations and run-off elections would go into July. This is not a constitutionally prescribed election. The Elections Committee thought this would be the best plan. It’s also not in the bylaws, so we have the authority to do this. Please hold on to these sheets and we will collect them at the end of the meeting.

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may be easier to go there. We are also adding carpeting, and the library does not have the funding for this. These are the few differences. Additional comment and background. The carpeting and microwave had to go in because the library cannot spend on these items, including tvs and microwaves. We did this for Knight Lounge some years back. I think it is a nice compliment in a way of the library moving forward with this. Please consider this as a package proposal. The fact that we could help with this was very important to the library administration.

RD: Are they going to change the rules with respect to eating in the library?

GV: Yes, but it is subject to proper use and they will see how it goes. What they plan to do is allow food, I think it will be somewhat experimental. It is important not to be irresponsible.

MA: Is there not already a microwave?

GV: Downstairs, yes, but this is for the upstairs.

ST: Best Buy service, you have to make a service call, you can’t just go there.

BH: Sometimes you can have it serviced.

GV: I believe what we have priced is the better warranty with the higher level of service, on site.

BH: Pretty sure it is.

Gv: We did choose economically. For example, the tvs are good, but not the most expensive.

DS: Newegg.com has excellent, but they typically make you pay for shipping.

JT: They will reimburse you under this specific warranty service.

AP: How long is the Best Buy warranty?

GV: I believe it is 4 years.

YM: I’m almost certain it is.

AP: To ship it back could be a problem. Someone in SBA would have to package and ship it back.

GV: Both warranty services will do on site. In eyes, that makes these very similar.
JC: I feel like I’m nitpicking, but is a 210 microwave necessary?

GV: We could make a line item reduction in that, and honestly, but the library did ask that we have somewhat of a consistent look with the library, it be stainless, it doesn’t break, it is a heavy duty use microwave. If we are going to pay for a 100 microwave and it breaks in two years, it’s not really worth it.

My: If I can add, having worked in the food service industry, we would have purchased this level of microwave.

DS: If they change the food policy, does the microwave still belong to the SBA and can it go elsewhere?

GV: This is all property of the SBA and we maintain. We are not giving these. If the library converts those to offices, we can take those appliances and put it somewhere on campus.

MA: Is UConn installing these?

GV: These come with installation.

MA: Will the library allow us to do this?

GV: Yes, implicitly, we talked about wall mount brackets. We would have to coordinate. It doesn’t end by allocating. The next SBA has to move forward with putting it in.

ST: Are the warranties covered Best Buy or Newegg third parties that we have to get ourselves or are they from those companies?

GV: I believe that it is a third party they contract out to.

DeVaughn: Is it possible to mix and match the wall mounts? I’m just trying to be economically efficient. It’s about a 150 dollar difference between the two.

GV: I think it is specific to each TV. Any funding that passes, it is a possibility that the prices, and we would go with the cheaper model. If we find a cheaper mount, we will do that. A point of clarification – this would be funded NOT out of this year’s student activity fees, but from rollover from prior years. We believe that as a funding principle that student groups should have the right to the student activity fees of that year. This is not coming at a cost to student organizations.

ST: It says that the tvs are going in the 4th floor, are both going in?
GV: No, that was a typo. The 46 goes in the fourth floor.

AP: What about furniture?

GV: They will take care of that, except for the carpets.

MA: Are these being purchased brand and not going to the depot campus and refurnishing?

GV: My understanding is that these will be brand new.

AL: I can attest to it that they are because I have had to go and measure this.

GV: I think that they are excited, and this will be great for the library and for the students. Other questions? I want to move the discussion along. Does anyone have a sense of which proposal to vote on?

Someone: This is a good and reputable site?

GV/JT: Yes. Last questions, comments?

**Motion to Vote on NewEgg.com Proposal with amendment that the second tv goes on the third floor: AL.**

Second: MA.

Yes: all.

No: 0.

Abstention: 0.

MY: Dave and Gabe put huge amounts of time into this, so a big round of applause.

DS: Particular Gabe, if we can cap again for him.

GV: I want to say that, for the record, John Rosato was integral to this. Thanks everyone. This is exciting and great from a relationship standpoint. Now, Budget Guidelines. The bylaws require that a copy of the guidelines be put forth for ratification. I’m going to let Justin speak to this.

JT: There are not a lot of major changes, mostly for clarification sake, making sure that groups realize that discretionary must still be spent appropriate. Any questions on this? I don’t want to runt through this?

DS: the 150 mile restriction for transportation and lodging. As I think about it, it seems a little upsetting that we have people, like professors coming from Boston and New York, and we won’t give them a penny for gas.
GV: The way that we have done this in the past has been, the SBA has, where we cannot pay for direct travel reimbursements, the SBA has routinely done this, we give it through a honorarium to cover the expense. It is a roundabout way, but it a way to say that there is no entitlement to this.

DS: We have also looked very poorly on honorariums and prefer not to do it this way.

GV: Absolutely, this is seldom.

DS: Even just a 10 dollar cap would be great.

GV: This has been on the books for a long time. This has precedential value. I would suggest that we can add this later if it is a sticking point. We are compelled to vote on and embrace or reject this version. These are not binding. If we ratify these, it puts them on the record for operational purposes, and if Dave, you could draft proposal language for this and you could discuss it moving forward.

DS: Does anyone else have an opinion on this?

JT: One of the things we changed was that lodging was made available for students. I don’t see a reason why we should not extend an exception to the transportation for visiting professors. We did not want to reimburse students, but if it is a professor, it may warrant an exception.

GV: Legitimate point.

JC: Transportation fees?

GV: Yes. Other questions?

JC: About transportation or everything?

GV: Transportation.

JT: Other changes include conference registration fees and costs. We never had a process to approving money for conferences. We needed to get someone to help distribute money. We think it is worthwhile but a student should be expected to kick in for it. We made a structure to it to allow students some funding, but at cost. We codified per diem.

GV: We put in a restriction for no funding for events in private residences. No longer.

JC: Does this effect competition groups like the MCB? That is under registration fees?
JT: Yes, and we provide this exception for competitions.

JS: Was that aimed at stopping students specifically?

GV: It is simply controlling the funding of events in private residences.

JT: The reality is that people don’t feel comfortable just showing up to someone’s house

JS: I just wasn’t sure if a professor was going to hold an event at their house, it cannot be funded by the SBA.

GV: By vote, the guidelines can be overruled for this kind of purpose. But there funds for professors to do things like that.

JT: You can still bring an amendment next week even if you vote this in now.

**Motion to Approve Budget Guidelines: MA.**
**Second: ST.**
**Yes: all.**
**No: 0.**
**Abstention: 0.**

YM: I’m going to pass out the Committee sheets now. So I’m printing out, these are the committees for next year. These are the committees, these are straight from the website, this may give you a sense of what you want to sign up for, but you can also reach out to the current members of these committees to ask questions. We would like to get names at the next meeting for these committees. Just hold on to this, I’m going to try to get names the next time. Questions, let me know.

DS: Just so you know, next meeting, we will take names specific for the Budget Committee, so please let me know next meeting.

MY: We had 217 people on a boat, so it went great. We came in under budget. Turned out really well. It’s been a really well, DeVaughn is taking over. Thanks to everyone for their work

DeVaughn: Big shoes to fill.

GV: Mike, thanks to you and all of your hard work on the Social Committee, and to everyone on this committee. [huge round of applause] It was awesome. For the entire year, this has been tremendous. As a last thing, I want to address the bylaws. This is culmination of a lot of work by this E-Board and some reps, and 10 rounds of edits. This is a major overhaul, it doesn’t drastically change the spirit of the document, but clarifies a lot of ambiguities. It brings the bylaws much more line with current practices with
respect to Budget Committee. There are numerous disclosure requirements about how we fund things. There are mandates. We cannot vote on this tonight, so these will go up, and we will notify campus, and then will be put forth at the next meeting, subject to the approval of the incoming E-Board.

JT: We spent a long time working on these. The most important thing is we created a bylaws structure that it is possible for people who have no idea how things are supposed to be done around here to get a significant amount of guidance. It is a great change in a positive direction.

GV: Enormous improvement. A major problem was loss of institutional memory.

JT: Other questions? We need a 2/3 vote of the SBA’s voting members. It is important that people show up to vote on this.

GV: Please look at them. I want to say thank you to everybody who served as reps throughout this term, and most of all, to my fellow Board members. This has really been an exceptional experience, both on the personal and professional level. Working with this crew has been tremendous in terms of the level of dedication and commitment, time, energy, creativity, it is remarkable. And a lot of it happens behind the scenes. I cannot tell you how many discussions we have had, emails going back and forth, E-Board discussions, to try to steer this organization in the right direction. I do think we have made tangible. The major goals I had was to restore credibility and respect for this campus. It has been inconsistent in previous years. We have been routinely asked for policy input. People are beginning to see this organization as competent, which has not always been the case. To review some of the stuff we did, we had an SBA office that we could not even access. That is now furnished and nicely so. We actually built the furniture. We have a computer in there. And this is for student groups as well, and there is a nicely refined use policy for the office. We did a significant overhaul of the website. That website is a large explanation of this organization, with history, bylaws, procedures. It defines what our purpose was. UMass recently sought to model their SBA after us, which was great. Social has been phenomenal, they have been run well and been well attended. The Welcome Back Barbeque was a long standing that had faltered for a while, and people loved it. Same for the holiday Party. On the Budget front, it has been smooth. There was a lot of discussion about PILG, and there were a lot of discussions about it. This organization weathered that in an excellent manner, and the reps actually inquired and spoke with their constituents, and that is showing the process at work, where we can make informed decisions. Likewise, Yam, in terms of operational effectiveness, helping to facilitate the way meeting have been run, the minutes are, I mean 22 pages of transcribed minutes. It’s been a huge improvement. I guess otherwise the meetings have been productive. The reps have been great. Attendance has been really good. People made very significant contributions. We have produced a lot. I thank you all, it’s been a pleasure, and I’m glad this organization is in good hands and has a lot
of talent and I hope the trend continues, and the organization succeeds to the best it can. Thank you.

*huge round of applause*

YM: Just give me those SBA Recognition Award sheets. Anything else?

Motion to Adjourn: ST.
Second: AP.
Yes: all
No: 0
Abstention: 0

Meeting ends at 10:50 pm.
University of Connecticut School of Law
Student Bar Association (SBA) Meeting
04 26 2010, Knight 215

Attendance (absences in strikeouts):

Executive Board:
  Yamuna Menon, YM, President
  DeVaughn Ward, DW, Vice President
  Bethany DiMarzio, BD, Secretary
  Justin Theriault, JT, Outgoing Treasurer
  David Shufrin, DS, Incoming Treasurer

Class Representatives:
  2L Day – Blake Holler, BH
  2L Day - Sebastian Tornatore, ST
  2L Day – Allison Pannozzo, AP
  2L Day - Mike Barrese, MB
  3L Day - Zohaib "Z" Rasheed, ZR
  3L Day - Angie Lachman, AL
  3L Day - Jeff Chase, JC
  3L Day - Jon Schaefer, JS
  Upperclass Evening - Marco Allocca, MA
  Upperclass Evening - Dan Csuka, DC
  Upperclass Evening - Jeff Kanca, JK
  Upperclass Evening - BJ Pivonka, BP
  Outgoing Graduate – Mike Molloy, MM
  Outgoing Graduate – Cara Tonucci, CT
  Outgoing Graduate – Alex Tingey, AT
  Outgoing Graduate – Mike Tehan, MT
  Outgoing Graduate – Chris Lent, CL
  Outgoing Graduate – Katja Giese, KG
  Outgoing Graduate – Robert Day, RD

Diversity Committee
  Lisa Rodriguez
  Heidi Cha
  Amanda Johnson
  Ingrid Festin
  Rebecca Arnold

Gabe Vidoni, GV – Outgoing President
Jane Thierfield Brown, JB – Advisor
YM – call to order 9:32 PM.

Motion to begin meeting – MA
Second – ST
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion Passes

YM – last week we passed out committee descriptions, this week we are passing around committee sign-up sheets. Please see Yam if you have any questions about committees, including faculty committees. People who are currently on committees can also answer questions. Dave will be talking about budget committee and DeVaughn about social later on. Feel free to sign up for committees during this meeting.

What do people think about moving out of Knight? We’re thinking about moving SBA meetings to Library 202 for the upcoming year, so we can have meetings whenever the library is open. That room is more spacious, open, and well-lit. See Yam with questions or concerns.

(No suggestions for other rooms.)

Motion to approve last meeting’s minutes – RD
Second – AL
Yes – all but CT, MM
No – 0
Abstentions – 2
Motion Passes

YM – we were recording minutes this year. Because these are public meetings, we can do this, but want to ask your permission to record. The recordings are to capture as much info as we can in the minutes. Any thoughts, concerns?

DS – are we able to go off record if we need to?

YM – yes, absolutely. For example, when we talk about candidates, we can turn off the recording. If there are no objections we will continue to record. (No objections).

We will now introduce ourselves as an executive board, and would love to hear what the reps want to happen this year. We’ve had a lot of ambitious goals that we want to build upon. My goals:
• Continue asking reps for agenda items.
• Interested in promoting the goals of the diversity committee and taking a more active role in their initiatives.
• Want to see facilities committee continue doing great work, maybe we can look into renovating our office in Knight Lounge.
• Add more of an SBA presence to Knight Hall Lounge – maybe a glass case with information about SBA events and reps.
• Continue with office hours and see students actually start using them.
• Update the website on a regular basis.
• Substantive revision of the constitution; it’s old and really needs revision, so please sign up for the committee if you are interested in helping.
• Increased level of attention on non-day students; we represent all students on campus and there are sometimes concerns about non-day division students.
• Facebook account for the SBA hasn’t been released yet, but we would like to open this up to the student body.
• Campus safety committee – Z will be gone in DC for the fall, and he has been doing a lot of work for campus safety.

ZR – will be gone in the fall, wants some help from a co-chair. Would hate for the committee not to have presence for a semester.

YM – any interest in helping lead campus safety while Z is gone? It’s a really important committee. JK, MA are interested, Z will get in contact with them to work out a transition.

YM – the last e-board did great community and social events, and we want to continue this, as well as maintain good relationships with the faculty. If anyone has ideas for building community we would love to hear them. PILG fellowship funding: there is a need to create a group that works specifically to promote funding and think of alternatives. A PILG/SBA task force has been formed to see how we can help PILG increase funding and look for alternative sources. There will be 6-8 members, and a draft of the formation is currently circulating. Note that this is not just to promote PILG, this is specifically for the fellowships. If you’re interested in it, see DW and YM.

DW – the task force is not just supporting PILG fellowships; we would like to get a diverse point of view and see how to work out the fellowship issues. Whether you think the fellowships should be SBA funded or not, there is a place for your input on this task force.

YM – the idea is to engage in conversations, and we can only do this if we have diverse opinions. We asked Dean DeMeola and Nicole Ayalla to supervise the task force. They will provide input, help form ideas. I look forward to working with you all next year! If we can do anything better, please let us know.
DW – will be social chair and VP. Planning to stick to main staple programs, more community-sponsored events, holiday party was a big hit and plan on doing this again this year, as well as the movie night with faculty. Will try to do a ski trip second semester, more outdoor events (last administration bought sporting supplies we can use), more events earlier on. Sometimes a lot of events get jammed together, so we want to move some up; for example, move Fall Ball to homecoming weekend, and maybe see if Med and Dental Schools are interested in the homecoming game. If you have ideas, DW is more than open to hearing them.

DS – was a 1L rep last semester, currently treasurer. Wants to help student groups with funding and make sure groups start thinking about funding now. There will be meetings this week to go over budgeting and planning, everyone is invited.

BD – secretary, so expect e-mails from me. Haven’t been on SBA before, so I don’t know a lot of reps, but am open to suggestions and new ideas. Goal is to be available and to attend at least one of each committee’s meetings. Handing around a sheet for contact information and please send a 100-word bio by Friday.

YM – please get your bios in by Friday. Would like the reps to introduce yourselves as well.

ZR – 3LD, not here in fall semester, helped form Campus Safety committee last year. Will be participating in other committees, but wants to see campus safety improve.

ST – 2LD, first year as a rep, hopes to take part in social committee and work with administration to improve law school rankings.

MB – 2LD, first year as a rep, wants to help alternate PILG funding and involve more people involved in SBA.

MA – 2LE rep but 2LD student, goal is to work on budget committee, bylaws, wants to see SBA operate efficiently.

DC – 3LE, has some social ideas to run by DeVaughn and include the community more. Wants to disperse evening classes better throughout the week, as there are currently few options for night students.

JK – 2LE, wants to incorporate more students into SBA discussions, especially evening students and LLMS, as well as continue existing projects.

JB – Director of Student Services, SBA advisor, goal is to get to more meetings and help student groups.

YM – Jane is an amazing resource, so make sure you contact her if you need help.
AL – 3LD, last year focused on social and campus safety and still wants to help with these, also wants to work on PILG task force and pro bono committee.

JS – 3LD, interested in facilities, working from an environmental standpoint, and encouraging outdoor activities.

BP – 3LE, wants to improve relations with evening students and career services access.

JC – 3LD, second year as a rep, interested in improving facilities, especially from an environmental standpoint, as well as faculty interaction with students.

YM – bylaws and diversity committee appointments are up next. Everyone should have seen the bylaws, as they went out last week.

DS – clarification; it’s not the form we just passed out.

YM – as per our constitution, we need 2/3 vote of the SBA to pass our bylaws. Gabe is here to help with the bylaws vote, because he is the person to ask with questions, as he did the most work on them.

GV – explanation of bylaws. We sent the bylaws to the entire campus in anticipation of voting on them tonight. Happy to answer questions but will give a brief overview first. Wanted to simplify the bylaws; added more text, but they read more clearly now. Wanted to bring bylaws into line with current practice, as they were previously so ambiguous that they didn’t capture significant improvements in the budget process. Wanted to balance decision-making on the budget committee and increase SBA disclosure as to the budget; this is student money and we want students to be able to see what happens to it. Any questions?

YM – questions on bylaws?

GV – in the past, budget committee appointments were made by president; this year, we decided we need more balance. We put a lot of time into these but there is room for improvement.

JB – went over the entire thing; they look really good compared to what we had!

GV – if you have a question about how things should operate, LOOK AT BYLAWS!

YM – last chance for questions. If we’re ready, we can go ahead and vote.

Motion to vote on changes to bylaws – MA
Second – JK
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

**Motion to approve proposed changes to bylaws** – MA
Second – JK
Yes – all but JS
No – none
Abstention – 1
Motion passes

YM – calls up diversity committee nominees. The diversity committee is funded by the SBA but has its own structure and autonomy. No SBA member can be on diversity committee. They operate to promote diversity initiatives on campus. The members will be introduced today. Diversity committee has its own bylaws, and the SBA president appoints one person as president of diversity committee while the committee appoints the second, and SBA confirms members. Co-chairs: Lisa Rodriguez and Heidi Cha.

Lisa Rodriguez – 3LD co-chair. Has been on committee last year. Wants to continue clarifying bylaws and mission on campus, and continue on goals from this year.

Heidi Cha – 3LD co-chair. Was on diversity committee last year. Wants to improve presence on campus, reach out to student groups and faculty. Had a few firsts this semester and wants to elaborate on that for next year.

YM – there were nominees from Lisa about nominees for the diversity committee; how we get nominees for diversity committee is one of the items up for change in the bylaws. We traditionally take up a lot of time in the fall to nominate members, but that takes up a lot of time. If we vote now, we give the committee more time to work on their goals in the fall. Our new nominee, Rebecca, has submitted a statement.

Rebecca Arnold – 2L, excited to be a new member of the diversity committee, wants to collaborate with other groups on events.

Amanda Johnson – 3L, wants to have a better campus presence and open up dialogue with students.

Ingrid Festin – 2L, wants to be more involved early in the year, including at orientation, so that students know who to turn to with their concerns.

LR – we have another member, Drew Schaeffer, who lives in RI and can’t be here tonight. He’s been involved in a lot of activities on campus and diversity committee.
YM – there are 7 members, one of whom is a 1LE student. Tonight if we appoint, we are appointing 6 members and the last member will be filled in the fall. Questions?

AL – Lisa wants to graduate early, how does this impact the committee?

LR – Lisa will spearhead fall events and Heidi in the spring. LR will be in state and accessible after graduation.

HC – spearheading doesn’t mean leaving each other in the dust. We have discussed subcommittees within the committee to make it easier to engage in more events.

AL – will Lisa still be considered part of committee once she graduates, or will we need to reappoint?

YM – bylaws don’t say, so we will either vote, or pass their bylaws which would tell us how to proceed.

LR – co-chairs want involvement from all committee members, not just chairs.

ZR – are nonmembers allowed to attend meetings?

LR – bylaws don’t say. Usually just the seven members attend meetings. There’s currently no set time or date for meetings; want to change this for next year. This is something we can discuss in the future.

ZR – nonmembers can attend?

LR – thinks nonmember attendance is a good idea; we want new ideas and nonmembers can provide fresh input.

JS – second Z’s comment; encourages outside opinions.

DS – were there more nominees?

IF – there were 7 or 8 who applied and Rebecca was chosen.

HC – there was a scoring system, the committee ranked the applicants, and the person with most points won.

LR – we gave all members option to stay on, plus we had 2 graduates, so there is one for a 1LE and one spot for Rebecca.

YM – there are requirements; are they filled?
LR – yes (Drew is intellectual minority).

YM – more questions? If no, we will excuse committee and vote.

Diversity committee exits.
Minutes closed for discussion of candidates at 10:19 PM
Minutes opened 10:25 PM

Motion to hand vote on Diversity Committee membership – AL
Second – JS
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none

Diversity committee enters.

YM – congrats new diversity committee!

We have a number of items to finish up so Dave will talk about amended budget guidelines.

DS – there are only two big changes. We added a paragraph requiring that groups have to hold elections for officers. The reason for the proposal is because a student group approached Dave with a concern about their president refusing to relinquish their position, and student groups with this type of attitude shouldn’t be getting funding.

CT – concern in that National Lawyers’ Guild didn’t hold elections because they had volunteer positions instead. If group does this type of group leadership structure, is this affected by proposal?

DS – SBA treasurer is able to waive requirements, as would probably happen here, since it seems like all group members are agreeing to that type of setup.

MA – concern where proposed guidelines say elections have to be open to the entire student body, but some groups require membership to be an officer, like Moot Court Board and Phi Alpha Delta; does this fall under the treasurer’s waiver power?

DS – yes; for example, MCB has closed elections, this requirement would be waived for groups like MCB.

JC – why does treasurer have power to waive this requirement? Is there campus-wide rule requiring elections?
JB – there is a constitutional rule to have officers for all groups, an organization can’t be approved without officers. If SBA wants to change this we can, but organizations currently have to have officers to be approved. There are many groups that have the same e-board for many years.

DW – can we change waiver right so that the budget committee has waiver right rather than the treasurer?

MA – can we make it a committee rather than one person?

DS – the reason why it’s the treasurer is so that it can be done on the fly, but DS is open to budget committee or SBA being person to waive; just wants it to be easy.

DW – budget committee would suffice for waiver power. The group would have to come before the budget committee at some point anyway to get their budget approved.

JT – concern; if treasurer doesn’t want to waive and committee does. Treasurer is fiduciary of student funds and is ultimately responsible for them. Violations are the responsibility of the treasurer. Even if the SBA wants to do something that violates the law, the treasurer has to say no.

DW – would this ever happen? Would the entire budget committee ever want to break the law, or want to waive a requirement for a group and the treasurer not want to?

JT – can’t imagine that this would happen.

JS – depends on the membership.

AL – how would the waiver decision be based? Would a group seeking a waiver have to submit a written statement?

DS – any kind of explanation would be acceptable. This should only be enforced when a group blatantly violates the provision.

AL – would be more comfortable with requiring written statement as to why the officer requirement should be waived. This seems better long-term.

JC – could require a note from members of the group stating the situation.

DW – you need officers to sign off on a budget request anyway.

DS – so a signed statement from at least three members of the group?
MA – agrees with JT; the treasurer has a unique duty, but someone down the line could throw this off; budget committee waiver power is better.

DS – what if we use either treasurer or majority SBA vote?

JS – do we think we’re voting on this tonight?

YM – proposes that we need to work on this more for the fall.

**Motion to table issue** – ST
Second – JS
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DS – second part of the proposal is the transportation guidelines. We talked about this a little last week. Old guidelines say we don’t pay transportation for anything less than 150 miles away. New proposed guideline says for non-students coming to speak on campus, if you’re coming from more than 30 miles and up to 150 miles away, we give them up to $20 travel costs. It shows a little courtesy to guests who are coming. Doesn’t apply to student groups.

JC – sounds great.

**Motion to vote on transportation guidelines** – JC
Second – AL
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

YM – in the past, we’ve worked with the administration on the Welcome Back BBQ. We were thinking about combining Welcome Back BBQ and 50th SBA anniversary. Want to get input on this but also turn it over to DS and DW who will give you more info. If we can approve funding tonight, we can use it for the fall, rather than funding it retroactively.

GV – clarification, last year’s funding wasn’t technically retroactive.

DW – this year we want to incorporate SBA anniversary into BBQ; want to invite past SBA and students. Hasn’t spoken to Claudia Norsworthy about it, but last year we spent $1000, and the administration either matches or exceeds that amount to cover the rest of the cost. The event is catered. Will also be requesting funding for football tickets;
last year we got 11 season tickets at $7/game. We buy from Storrs and sell them here to make money back. We didn’t sell out last year, and we’re not sure whether it was a notice issue or lack of interest, but wants to stick with 11 season tickets again.

DS – SBA also wants to get a banner for events, so when we do the BBQ we have something to put out and show our presence. It would be about $400.

DW – this isn’t just for the BBQ, we can bring it to all kinds of SBA-sponsored events.

JS – how big will it be?

DW – not yet designed.

JS – $400 is expensive; you can get it for $40.

YM – quote is from a state vendor, the idea being that it’s a long-term investment not just for this event. We can use it at community events, for example.

JB – if the seal is on it, it has to be from UConn vendor.

ST – tickets question; we don’t have an allocation of football tickets as a graduate school?

DW – right, we have no priority for tickets.

MA – you are also eligible to buy tickets at Storrs as a student.

DW – this purchase is so you don’t have to go to Storrs.

MB – how many tickets were sold last year?

DW – we bought 11 season tickets and didn’t sell out.

AL – not selling as season passes, right?

DW – no, 11 tickets for each game, and selling them individually.

AL – maybe there was a notice issue because this wasn’t clear.

DW – we buy 11 tickets for each game and sell them individually.

JT – monetary view is that we only stand to lose from it, but it’s a nice service for students.
DW – open to hearing interest in other sports events if there’s a market for it, but football is probably the go-to event.

YM – more questions? We can motion to vote on each allocation. Let’s start with the Welcome Back BBQ event.

DS – $1000 for event (same as last year).

BP – time frame? Is this going to be during the day?

DW – it’s typically the Friday after orientation, in the evening.

ST – it’s catered by Truffles?

DW – knows its catered, not sure by who.

JB – it’s not usually Truffles.

YM – any other questions?

Motion to allocate $1000 to fund BBQ – AL
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

DS – we need a motion to allocate funds for $400 SBA banner through a state vendor.

YM – remember, we purchase it now as a long-term investment.

Motion to allocate $400 for banner – MA
Second – ST
Yes – all but 4
No – 2
Abstentions – 2
Motion passes

DS – we need a motion to allocate funds for football tickets, $500.

Motion to allocate $500 for football tickets – MA
Second – MT
Yes – all but 1
No – 1
Abstentions – none
Motion passes

YM – graduate trustee election is in progress. SBA will send out an e-mail via the Community list to encourage voting for the trustee. It would be purely informational encouraging students to vote at vote.uconn.edu. Two students from the law school are running, Matt Zagaja and Brian Hughes. Any objections to the e-mail? Seeing none, we’ll send it out.

DW – social committee update. Two more events for the semester: midnight breakfast, working with Heidi Cha on this, as well as exam coffee free in co-op. PILG benefit concert tomorrow, Undercover will be playing, there will be specials. Yoga for next semester: a lot of students have expressed interest. SBA retreat at the beginning of next semester has been a popular idea, so if you have ideas (maybe laser tag? Paint ball?) see DW.

DS – budget committee sign-up sheet is going around. The committee is very front-loaded time-wise. During the week of September 20-24, we will be meeting with student leaders, and there is an all-day meeting that Friday. Other than that, we will be e-mailing back and forth. If you have interest, please do sign up.

MT – highly recommends budget committee; it’s not that hard and you get good work done.

YM – most budget work can be done via e-mail after initial meetings.

AL – how does the issue we tabled for treasurer veto power impact fall budgeting?

DS – we currently have no way of restricting groups without officers right now.

AL – so this would be for the spring?

DS – we still have two more meetings before budgeting process is complete, so we still have a chance to work on it.

AL – it’s a great idea, just want to make sure it passes.

YM – options 1 is to propose it again first thing in the fall, effective immediately, or in the fall for the spring.

DS – the group that had the problem had an election today, so there is no immediate problem.

YM – any last items?
Motion to adjourn meeting – RD
Second – MA
Yes – all
No – none
Abstentions – none
Motion passes