

MINUTES FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

GENERAL SESSION – 12:15-1:15 SEPTEMBER 1, 2009

Members Present:

2Ls: Kathleen Bruggeman, Suha Dabbouseh, Patrick Foster, Amy Hager, Becca Olson, Jillian Sebastian, & Paula Segal.

3Ls: Stephan Edel, Elette Fortune, Alissa Hull, Bright Limm, Latoya Matthew, & Michael Rivadeneyra.

1. Agenda presented.
2. Introductions by officers and members
3. Functions of Officers
 - a. Elette lists role of the President.
 - b. Stephan lists duties of Secretary.
 - c. Katie discussed her role as VP and Chair of Communications Committee and where she sees the newsletter going.
 - d. Bright lists responsibilities of the Whip under the Constitution, particularly as to attendance and facilitation.
4. Robert's Rules of Order
 - a. Passed out ABA SBA quick reference sheet.
 - b. Elette explains the basic points of procedure.
 - c. Elette read the Agenda and briefly explained each item.
 - d. Elette moved to approve or amend the agenda; Amy Hager seconded.
 - e. Agenda called to a vote; passed unanimously 12-00 with 1 abstention (Suha, who had just arrived).
5. Committees
 - a. External committees: Elette gave a brief introduction to the duties of the committee representatives; List on board calling particular attention to two committees.
 - i. Faculty Committee
 1. Katie B. and Elette discussed their past role on the committee and gave examples of matters under its jurisdiction, including faculty promotion and appointments.
 2. Suha nominated herself (2L); Alyssa Hull nominated herself (3L).
 3. Bright clarified that the CUNY Law Governance Plan provides for student membership on the Faculty Committee and read the language: "The student government is authorized to elect three students, one from each class, who must be in good standing, to serve as ex-officio members of the faculty for the purpose of faculty meetings. The student government is also authorized to elect students in good standing to be the student

members of faculty committees, except where otherwise specified by this governance Plan or the Bylaw or resolutions of the Board of Trustees.”

CUNY Law Governance Plan, Art. 3, sec. A, par. 5. Bright stated that it is reasonable to interpret this passage as providing that students can vote and act as ex-officio members of the faculty for the purpose of these meetings.

4. Katie B. recommended that there be an email sent asking for clarification, Suha said she would go in and demand to vote. [Note: Bright later confirmed with University Dean and Special Counsel to the Chancellor, Dave Fields, that student members of the Faculty Committee are entitled to vote but do not count as members for the purpose of determining whether there is quorum at faculty meetings.]
5. Elette asked for final nominations. Motion to accept those nominees; Stephan seconded. Motion was carried 13-0.

ii. Curriculum Committee

1. Elette asked for nominations.
2. Charles Johnson clarified that a schedule for Curriculum Committee meetings has not yet been set.
3. Elette again asked for nominations.
4. Becca Olson, Paula Segal, and Jillian Sebastian were nominated.
5. Bright clarified that the language governing the committee provides that no “fewer than three” students shall be seated.
6. Elette called the question of appointing all three nominees; unanimously approved.

iii. Admissions and Admissions policy committee

1. Elette read the description, calling for 2 representatives from the 3L or 2L class.
2. Amy Hager was nominated, and Latoya Matthews was nominated.
3. Elette called the question of appointing those two nominees; unanimously approved.

iv. Student Scholarship committee

1. Elette asked Charles to clarify the committee’s role. Charles said it meets about every 2 months to meet to look at application packets for various scholarships. There is only one student representative.
2. Katie Bruggeman was nominated; seconded and unanimously approved.

v. Other Student Committee Assignments are tabled until after 1L elections.

b. Vacant Member Seats

- i. Charles Mentioned that there two SG Member seats were recently vacated: one 2L seat and one 3L seat. Vacant seats will be offered to runner-up, according to each class, in the General Election last spring.

c. Internal committees

- i. Ebette explains the basics of the internal standing committees (aka the SG Standing Committees), officer chairs, and selection process for becoming a member of each SG standing Committee.
 - ii. Ebette requested that the people who are interested in a particular internal standing committee approach the chair of that committee (note that you can serve on more than one committee if you want to, and that they're also open to general student body).
 - iii. Bright wanted to clarify that that *membership* in internal committees is not limited to SG Members, but that *chairpersonship* of an internal committee is limited to the SG Members.
 - d. Katie requested that Financial aid disbursements be added to the agenda for next time.
6. SBA governance
 - a. Ebette reported back about the ABA meeting briefly. At most law schools they have an ABA Student Bar Association that acts as both ABA the representative structure and the student government.
 - b. Ebette posed the question: Should the ABA SBA be distinct from Student Government or integrated into it?
 - c. Ebette will have Brian Turner (ABA rep) and Francesca (Second Lieutenant Governor of the Second Circuit for the SBA) come next time if we wish to discuss it further.
 - d. Paula posed the question: what are the SBA responsibilities? Ebette tried to answer what major issues were addressed by the three representatives at the past year's ABA SBA conference discussed. The SBA Board places issues before the ABA Board of Governors. One issue addressed was a ABA SBA vote to get rid of the 20 hours limit on work. Other issues were: to get rid of the restriction on both getting academic credit; and allow pay for law school work experience.
 - e. Ebette suggested that whatever happens, it would be good to create a procedure that allows SBA reps to [be involved in some manner in SG matters?].
7. Newsletter -- Tabled until next week
8. Email
 - a. Ebette commented that the email listserv is intended to be used for matters of concern to the SG Members as a whole rather than sending emails to specific people. She asked that especially if people have questions about governance structure or process (which was the catalyst for her comments), please look in the handbook and if the answer is not there then to direct questions to an individual officer before considering submitting the question to the listserv.
 - b. Becca pointed out that the system is set to send reply all even if you click reply.
 - c. Ebette said she received Patrick's concern about the computers in the lobby.
9. Charles asks for help notifying groups about upcoming club officer's training and fair, and announces the online calendar.

10. Elette proposed we adjourn, it was seconded and approved unanimously.

11. Elette asked that the topic of Deans' Forum be added to the agenda for next time.