



**LAW STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING**  
**JAN. 18, 2011**  
**8:00 IN THE EVENING**  
**ROOM 200**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Attendance
  - A. E-Board – All Present
  - B. Class of 2011 – All Present
  - C. Class of 2012 – All Present
  - D. Class of 2013 – All Present
- III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting - Approved
- IV. Executive Board Reports
  - A. President (Mr. Goodstadt) – Before we begin my report I have asked Professor Germain to join us to discuss the issue of SUCOLITS.

Professor Germain- If you have questions with what I am doing I am happy to answer them here or answer them in my office. If you have opinions and want to discuss this, we can do it privately and I can address your questions. Currently I am in settlement negotiations with a student and we are trying to come up with a way to resolve the situation and if we can resolve it, which I am hopeful of, I hope that we can all put this mess behind us. If we can't resolve it then we will have to have a hearing over it. Whether the hearing will be public or private then that will be up to the student.

Senator Mullaney – Professor, I appreciate you being here tonight, I have more of a statement. By no means was I in support of everything the blog said. There is no doubt it did not reflect well on this school. With that said, the prosecution and the press coverage it generated has magnified the problem and given it a national spotlight. When it comes to embarrassing information—no news is good news. This was a public relations nightmare. This prosecution has been far more detrimental to the school's reputation and has gone on for far too long. It has amounted to a high tech witch hunt that has wasted resources and damaged the school's reputation. It has wasted our resources and tarnished our reputation. We need to come together as a community and put both the blog and the prosecution behind us

Professor Germain – May I ask what is a high-tech. witch hunt?

Senator Mullaney - This is my view. I don't think I it has been handled well.

Professor Germain – We have gotten a lot of criticism in the press and I have gotten a lot of criticism in the press. We don't care what they say; they can write whatever they want. They have misrepresented what the blog says, they have misrepresented what I am doing, and they have misrepresented the law and all we can do is respond to it. We have not responded well but there is nothing I can do about that. There was an op-ed, there is an outside organization called FIRE which has been very critical of any investigation involving anything dealing with speech and is misrepresenting what is in the site. They said it was like the Onion which comments about public figures and public life not about private people. If

anybody reads them then you will see that the articles were written about private people and were inappropriate. If it was up to me and people took responsibility for this, then it would have been over long ago.

Senator Mullaney – There has definitely been misrepresentation. But there needs to be a public relations strategy. You said that you were on your own. Why were you on your own?

Professor Germain – Well we are in a big bureaucratic organ and we have made sure that I will not be there on my own and the school understands what I am doing. The comments were inappropriate and the school is going to take a public position on this thing. If we are going forward and there is a media battle we will respond to that.

Senator Mullaney – I have found part of the site to be egregious but instead of having a formal prosecution what about not just take the site down and not publicizing it?

Professor Germain – Well it is not really down. It has just been made password protected. We are not censors here, we don't have the right to force people to take websites down but we have rules and if somebody wants to post a website they do it and we can't call up the site and force them to take it down so the only recourse we have is our rules and there was some conduct that constituted harassment. If you have anything else you can come talk to me in my office. Now that the site is private there is less attention. The person who is negotiating here has a chance to resolve this without a great deal of harm, but if they don't want to then it can be a much bigger deal.

Senator Jensen – I have to disagree. I think the comments were offensive. I know there was a statement that the SBA was trying to do distribute that went to the wayside. At this point, what is the way forward and how can we solve this?

Professor Germain – If the student took responsibility and apologized and agreed not to do this again that would take us a very long way to resolving this.

3L President Schectman – I thank you for taking this on, you have shouldered a great responsibility and you have done what you have needed to do. Hopefully we don't need to continue this much longer. If we want to go on record then I need to and I need to thank you for what you have done. This isn't a witch hunt and somebody was offended. You have been left with this task and I think that there would be some people who would want to help you. I encourage other students to also assist you in resolving this.

Professor Germain - We have to understand that we must protect free speech but it is when somebody goes beyond expressing opinions and views and attacks other people than our rules come into play. I am a very strong believer in academic freedom and if people want to express political views that you don't agree with then tough, but when people start making sexual and racial comments than that is different.

- Where do we draw the line?

Professor Germain – I investigate every student complaint. The level of investigation is based on the level of the complaint. If there was an argument then I might just mediate but if there are other comments that hurt one's reputation then I will have to do more. I think we have to distinguish private comments from posting things on a public website with people's names on its.

Senator Orcutt – I want to echo what Noah said and I think a lot of the members of the student body support you.

Professor Germain – Thank you

Senator Taylor – You said most of this would go away with an apology, is there a particular reason why that hasn't happened? Is this student adamant about not apologizing?

Professor Germain – It isn't that simple. I think there are a lot of people who have a sense of entitlement to free speech. We have rules that are not designed with the internet in mind and we have very general rules which prohibit bad conduct...very much like the BAR rules, they are very general and not very specific. People can say that they are not specific enough then that is where a hearing is involved and that can happen if the student takes that path. But I think we are trying to work this out in a way to avoid confrontation. It is better for the school, the person and all of us to get this resolved. I can't tell you how it is going to go but in the next few weeks we will either have the case resolved or it will not be resolved.

President Goodstadt – With that I will go back to my report. I wanted to apologize. The last time we had a meeting I did censor the minutes from the meeting. It was a concern that some students had. While the full language need not be in the minutes, most of it could have been. I will be meeting with the Dean to discuss this issue. I will not censor things in the future. I thought it would have been more appropriate to talk with her directly than have her read a complaint in the SBA minutes distributed on the listserv. But I apologize.

Second, the awards banquet is coming up on April 30 we are have a meeting on Thursday, Jan. 20, at 12pm in Room 202 to start planning and get student suggestions and feedback. I hope that all of you who have expressed interest will attend. It will be a lot of fun.

Finally, we will try to pass the budget today. Eddie will be talking about this during his report.

B. Vice-President (Mr. Lehmann) –

VP Lehmann – The first ICC meeting will be Monday at 12 in the Heritage Lounge. It should not be too long; I just want to see where clubs and societies are at and the direction forward this semester.

C. Secretary (Mr. Sigmund) –

We have two students who cannot be here until 8:30, if everybody is okay, we will move the meetings until 8:30. Good, meetings will now be at 8:30pm.

D. Treasurer Silvera –

We have a budget. Steve and I worked diligently on this. I have a number. We waited for a while to get some of these numbers and we were keeping accounting on spreadsheets on a number we thought was pretty close. Last semester we had some robust spending. We had big government and small business. We need to tighten that up. I have been voting "no" on everything so just follow my lead. We got rid of Dennis' committee because we don't have food anymore. But these are the numbers we would like to approve.

2L VP Choe - How did you calculate this so that University Affairs would have no money?

President Goodstadt – It will be easier to have the money come from the Executive Fund. From the Executive Fund you can take anything under \$500 from us so it is a lot easier process to go through.

Treasurer Silvera – it will be less hurdles in your way and you have the opportunity to get more money than on average.

Senator Dwyer - One reason why we didn't spend money on food is so that it could go to organizations. We have had money to accommodate organizations that come to us for money. This money traditionally goes to the two largest events [softball, basketball].

President Goodstadt – We are not saying that they, softball and basketball, wouldn't get money. They will. It will just come from the main source of funds.

Senator Tsudama – I guess my problem with your reasoning Steve is that you are operating under the assumption that the general Senate will approve of these things. And these groups have historically counted on this committee to get money if the Senate doesn't give them funding.

President Goodstadt – You can always come back to the Executive Fund and they should still be able to get the money they have historically had. I know it isn't the answer you want but there is recourse in the event that the Senate votes down a proposal.

Senator Tsudama – You will have both University and Senate Affairs coming to you for money but they haven't in the past?

President Goodstadt – Correct. We are flexible on the budget but we want to propose a number. We were waiting to have numbers and now we have numbers. The Executive Fund is not married so we can always move this money to the Contingency Fund if need be.

3L President Schectman – Why is the Social Committee fund so big?

President Goodstadt– It was even bigger in the past

3L President Schectman – I know this is tough but in terms of the dispersal, I know it is semantics but shifting all the auxiliary money into the Executive Fund means the larger group can vote on something and say they don't want to give that amount of money to group, then that group can come back and get the money anyway and nullify the Senates vote.

Treasurer Silvera – We will adjust this. Let's give Dennis and Linda money. It is kind of silly that the Social Committee has as much money anyways. But we thought we would have more money to fund clubs by pooling the resources.

3L President Schectman - On the social fund, \$10000 is a lot of money and now that \$8367 is still a lot of money to give one person appropriation power over.

VP Lehmann – We spent just south of \$2000 in the fall thanks to Kaplan and Barbri and I certainly will not spend all that money and will share it with University Affairs and Senate Service. I am in line to spend less than half the allotment anyways.

2L VP Choe – \$500 would suffice but what about the group next year. Would they get \$500 each year or semester or what?

Treasurer Silvera – That is up to the next Treasurer. I would recommend they cut the social fund.

Senator Waksman – I think we should give more money to the Social Committee for a big end of the year bash.

Senator Tsudama – I am in favor of putting the money for Social Committee at \$5000. I ran it last year and we had plenty of money and we had a kick ass awards banquet.

VP Lehmann – I am fine with the social budget being lower but if those committees need more money I am fine allocating it to another group. Whatever money we have at the end of the year will go to the awards banquet but \$5000 is fine. The money is really just going to starters for events like the tailgate or bowling or golf and whatever is left will go to the end of the year event.

Senator Krueger – I need that whole \$1500 so I am opposed to cutting back. The Bite of Culture alone cost \$1500 but I am fine the way it is now.

Senator Jensen – The money that goes to the classes, is there a rollover?

President Goodstadt – They get that money each year, \$1000 the first year, \$2000 the second year and \$8,000 the third year.

Treasurer Silvera – My feeling is we have way too many committees and I don't think anybody knows what is going on inside of those committees. We should just eliminate them.

\* After some discussion about the exact numbers of the budget the follow budget was proposed and accepted by 2/3 of the Senate.

Contingency Fund – \$19593.47 + \$3500  
Executive Fund - \$ 8500  
Social Committee - \$500  
University Affairs - \$500  
Diversity Affairs - \$ 1500  
Community Service - \$1000  
Senate Service - \$1000

D. Parliamentarian's Report (Ms. Krueger) – Nothing new

#### IV. Student Life Report

Dean Gonzalez - President Schectman is going to talk a little about the BAR support program that Amanda and Kim Wolfe Price have been working on. For the 3L class we have a series of BAR review classes. It is important to tell to tell your constituents that they are highly encouraged to attend. There are sections that 2Ls and 1Ls can attend as well. The classes start on Jan. 26<sup>th</sup>.

Second, class ranks will be coming out momentarily. Particularly with the 1L and 2L classes, I will be having discussions with students in academic distress because there is a clear correlation between difficulty in the first year and difficulty in BAR passage. If the person doesn't take their responsibility to arrange to meet with us, then we must help them. It is a huge investment for a 10% chance of passage. It is important to discuss the financial responsibilities students are taking on.

Michelle Wilcox - Another policy that has changed is that if you need the use of the Heritage Alumni Lounge, student requests can come right through me. If you need it just come and see me and we can figure out the logistics of the reservation. Other than that I wanted to highlight a couple of things that Student Life has coming soon. If you have notice we are trying to package things now into bundles. All

information is packaged together so that it is easier to get it to everyone. There are also two workshops coming up at the end of January and beginning of February. I trust you have all seen the Martin Luther King posters - they look great. We have a diversity event coming up too associated with the Bite of Culture so it should be great.

#### V. Class Reports

- A. Class of 2011 (Mr. Schechtman) – Myself, Amanda, Dean Gonzalez, Kim Wolfe Price and Michelle Wilcox have been working on support programs for people taking the Multistate bar and there will also be New York specific classes. Traditionally, the 3L class has given a lot of money for cap and gowns and we have automatically done this. But this year, part of your incentive to go to the classes is that your cap and gowns will be paid for. We are renting cap and gowns this year. It will save us a lot of money and people tend to throw these away anyway. They are not the gowns that Professors wear on stage. There will be more information in an email coming from Dean Gonzalez and Michelle. This is very important. The BAR passage rate hasn't been as good as in years past. If you have any additional questions then please come and see me. You will have to go to a certain portion of these events to actually get your cap and gowns paid for.

Dean Gonzalez – They have done a great job on this and everybody should be going to all of these sessions. You are spending an incredible amount of money - not going to this would be shortsighted. You should see this as a benefit not a detriment

- B. Class of 2012 (Mr. Amendola) – Can I see the Senators quickly afterwards
- C. Class of 2013 (Mr. Mullen) – The Beard-off raised nearly \$500 and people are looking forward to that next year. Brandon Goto won for style and James Marvel won for burliness.

#### VI. Committee Reports

- A. University Affairs Committee (Ms. Choe) – Nothing new
- B. Senate Affairs Committee (Mr. Dwyer) – Nothing new
- C. Diversity Affairs Committee (Ms. Krueger) – As was stated, diversity week is coming. It is 7- 11<sup>th</sup> of Feb. and Bit of Culture will be that Thursday at 12pm.
- D. Senate Service Committee (Ms. Landwehr)- We printed a no smoking sign at the first entrance off the bridge - it is now a no smoking entrance. It is not university policy but we are hoping that people would abide by it. You can still smoke at the other entrance so if you wouldn't mind then please smoke there.

Senator Landwehr - I also want to thank people for dropping off recommendations in the drop box. I am working on getting a drop box for keys to be stored in the library. I am also still working on acquiring a fax machine. We are also still working on getting toilet seat covers in the restrooms.

- E. Senate Social Committee (Mr. Lehmann) – For anyone who needs to fax something for a job or something can go to Office of Career Development and Student Life.

VP Lehmann – The only things that are loosely planned in ways of Socials are a bowling event and a golf clinic at Drumlins. Those are the two things that are in the works and more will be forthcoming.

- F. Pro Bono & Community Service Committee (Mr. Schneeman, Mr. Steele) - We are starting to form a new name and date for the ambulance chase.

- Why we changing this?

Senator Schneeman - Two reasons. First the ambulance cost a lot of money. Second, there is also a negative connotation with us chasing an ambulance.

Senator Jensen – What about asking somebody around the community to donate an ambulance?

Senator Abdenour – Or at least a cheaper rate.

## VII. New Business

### A. Constitutional Amendment –

Senator Landwehr - We have at least two meetings every three weeks but we never take the chance to assess ourselves. We should be assessing our work and figure out what committees and individuals are doing. We should have separate sessions during which we can assess ourselves. This will make us more transparent and responsible.

Senator Jensen – How many of these meetings would we have and what exactly would go on in these meetings? What's the process?

Senator Landwehr – I am not setting a number but I would like to get the ball rolling forward.

Senator Gocke – How would you rate the individuals?

Senator Landwehr- We would be not be rating individuals, we would just be having a conversation like we are now. If I have an idea about pro bono then I don't want to talk about quickly, we should have a constructive conversation about it.

3L President Schectman - I think this is a great idea. Is article B too broad?

Senator Landwehr- This is just a proposal. I just wanted to get the idea out there. The student body and not even us should be the ones to vote on this. Committees shouldn't just come to meetings and say you have no new business because it is your job to have new business

Senator Mullaney – I like this idea because I think there are a lot of things we can discuss. What would the procedure of this meeting be...more informal? Would the traditional rules be suspended?

Senator Landwehr – The same rules would apply but hopefully we can discuss ideas fully instead of this squished process during one meeting. It will also make the meetings go faster.

Senator Tsudama – I think this is a great idea but I think the language is a little broad.

Senator Landwehr – 2 meetings a semester is my idea.

Senator Abdenour – Can we fuse the meetings together and say that we are not doing funding we are having a conversation and we are committing to it on the current schedule?

Senator Landwehr – Meetings vary because they were at the discretion of the President but I think we should have a separate meeting and add meetings not subtract them.

President Goodstadt – We are not looking to close off funding for groups - we need an alternate time.

Senator Harrison - It would be hard to get everybody together again. Could we try a different process?

Senator Landwehr – I just don't want to quiet anybody's voices.

Treasurer Silvera – What about a meeting with the Secretary or something?

Senator Jensen – What if we designate a specific meeting during our schedule already just to discuss committee stuff?

Senator Landwehr - I am not looking for this to be a revision process, the point is just to increase transparency.

Senator Jensen – I think we should be clearer about this before we do this. I am still unclear about the process and what these individual reviews will say and show and consider.

Senator Landwehr - The wording of the prior article is already general and we deal fine with it – we can still figure out the process.

Motion to Table -2<sup>ND</sup>

MOTION PASSES – Amendment Tabled for 2 Weeks

B. Basketball Funding Request- Senators Tsudama and Krueger - We are requesting funding for the basketball tournament which comes up before Valentine’s Day. We are looking to send 3 teams, two men and one women. It is in Massachusetts and is hosted by the New England College of Law. My 1L year we won and last year the boys make the semi-finals. The three teams will provide their own transportation and so far we have registration taken care of and we have Barbri to sponsor our jerseys so the only thing we are requesting is the expense for hotel rooms. We need 8 rooms for two nights to house everybody. We got a deal at the Sheraton - rooms will be \$99 per night. We are asking for \$1789.21 for the hotel.

Motion to Vote – 2<sup>nd</sup>

Request Passes

C. BLSA Request – President of BLSA Erica Laster– I am the current President of BLSA for this year. This year as we have done in the past, since 2002, the National Black Law Student Association has hosted the Thurgood Marshal competition. It is a way for students in law school to come out and complete. This year we are trying to send 4 people. There is also a conference. The event is from Jan. 26-30 and we have allocated a projected cost for the competition: registration is \$715. Transportation is \$100, Lodging is \$1040, and Misc. is \$200. The lodging expenses are calculated based on the most days we will be competing. If we advance, the contestants would have to stay an extra day so the lodging is based on 4 nights. BLSA does have \$150 but we would like to have the total amount requested if we could.

3L President Schectman – What is the final number?

President of BLSA Erica Laster – \$2055 but we can cut transportation costs.

VP Lehmann – Are they going for the conference and the competition?

President of BLSA Erica Laster – Yes they will participate in the conference if they advance.

3L President Schectman – Can you explain the difference between the \$715 and the \$200

President of BLSA Erica Laster -The \$715 is member registration for the conference but you also must register for the conference. The \$200 is for the \$50 member registration for the northeast regional of BLSA. You be members of the regional organization in order to register for the conference.

Senator Taylor – The \$150 is not incorporated into the \$2055?

President of BLSA Erica Laster – No but we can cut out some costs.

### **Debate on \$1805**

3L President Schectman – This covers the traditional stuff we cover and member ship dues -I don't know if we usually cover them but we should in this case.

Treasurer Silvera – We should be encouraging clubs to collect dues and grow their own bottom line

Senator Tsudama – I think it is good to cover the membership fees because BLSA opens up the tryouts to everybody in the school and it would be great to cover their membership fees into the national organization

VP Lehmann – I agree with what Kylie just said they open their tryouts to everybody.

D. SBA meeting Time - Officially changed to 8.30

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. Student Concerns –

Question - I have heard some stuff about changes in the pass fail policy what where those?

President Goodstadt- This will not affect the current 3L class or 2L class because they have not factored their classes on the new change. In order to pass a class you must get a least a C+. A "C" on your transcript gives you only a 2.0 and is below the graduation requirements. You are also hurting the other students in the class there to learn by not preparing for those classes. The committee is not done looking into this process but things that change in the future will not affect the 3L or 2L classes.

X. Announcements and Goodwill

A. Estate Planning Society Announcement - We are having our social Jan 28<sup>th</sup>. We are doing something new – a bowling night. You get 2 free hours of bowling and free shoe! It will be \$10 for the first 50 people and \$16 for all others. This social is an alternative to the typical bar social. There will also be a full bar so this works well for both students who want to drink and those who want to have a alcohol free social. It is at the Strike and Spare lanes in Liverpool.

Senator Tsudama – I want to thank everybody for the cans that people brought for the food drive. We raised over 350 pounds.

VP Lehmann – We gave the Korean Law Student Association some money to send two people to a conference in Chicago and as a result, Joseph Juhn met a person at the conference who offered him a summer job Brazil. So congratulations to Joseph.

XI. Adjournment