

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION



University of Denver Sturm College of Law STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION: Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 12, 2020,
4:30 PM @ <https://udenver.zoom.us/j/2939303815>

- I. **CALL TO ORDER @ 4:34pm**
- II. **Move to approve minutes**
 1. **Motion made by Leo; Seconded by Edward**
 2. Attendance
 - i. Exec: Tempest Cantrell, Leonela Urrutia, Tatum Perez, Edward Bowden, Meralee Hoffelt
 - ii. Part-Time: Abby Schwarz, Jessie Chilson, Zoë Williams
 - iii. LLM: Abby Talboy (absent)
 - iv. ABA: Dani Churchill
 - v. 3L: Connor Shantz (absent), Serena Ahmad
 - vi. 2L: Marisa DeForest, Cerridwyn Nordstrom (absent)
 - vii. 1L: Gabby Gile, Jaime Greenwood
 3. 11/4 Minutes
- III. **GUEST SPEAKERS**
 1. Dean Boynton
 - i. Amber Dannis introduction as Assistance Director of Student Affairs.
 1. Will replace Dean Boynton second semester as liason.
 - ii. LAS (Bar Prep Program) has a second section added so everyone can get in.
 1. Zoe-how do students find out about extra section? What is the process?
 2. Dean Boynton said probably registrar will communicate this information and the schedule should reflect by Monday. Dean Boynton said she would find more concrete information and communicate it to Zoe.
 - iii. Waitlists in general are moving-more professors are taking on classes and class caps are being raised.
 1. Some issues with hiflex and class size considerations.
 - iv. Finals survival kits (80) handed out. 2-days drive-up next week for those who were not on campus this week or last weekend.
 - v. Virtual graduation for December.
 1. Acknowledgment reception for May 2020/December 2020.
 2. December 17th.

3. Requests to nominate student speaker.
4. Care packages for all grads.
5. Serena question about caps and gowns: regalia provided when in-person ceremony occurs, but not ordered as of yet.
- vi. Wellness Days-Dean Weirsema and Dean Smith making decisions about these days.
 1. Survey request of SBA for the 3 extra days-do we add them to reading week? Can't bunch the days together due to risk of exposure.
 2. On agenda for middle of next week.
- vii. Marisa question about status of campus:
 1. Email coming early next week (Monday).
 2. Study rooms or library will be requested via Qualtrics.
 3. If not on Qualtrics, then access will be cut off and campus safety and DU greater Covid team will know who we are.
 4. Those people who have not attended campus all semester will have another plan/protocol in place after Thanksgiving to get them in the building by December 5th.
 5. Those people who have been on campus will just continue symptom monitoring daily.
- viii. Edward question about note to nominal gift cards.
 1. Dean Boynton says not a hard-fast rule. \$5 seems nominal.
- ix. Thanks to SBA for advocating for mask wearing and being safe. We made it pretty far in-person.

IV. **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

1. Honor Code (TC): no update sent yet, so no new business here.
 - i. Voting to say, "Yes" or "No."
 - ii. Bylaws indicate we have no editing power.
 - iii. Thoughts about whether or not we need to meet about this.
 1. Leo suggested we open the Executive Meeting for discussion about this.
 2. 4:30pm allocated to this.
 3. Vote required by 5:30 on Thursday.
 4. Absentee measures in place: email Meralee with absentee votes.

V. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Elections: Marisa DeForest: no update.
2. ABA: Dani Churchill
 - i. Youth Congress
 1. No Labels: Political non-partisan group trying to get all sides in on conversations. Emails about trying to get

- students to join. Vote on whether we want to send email out.
 - 2. Zoe says they need to know more about it before endorsing something.
 - 3. Dani agrees.
 - 4. Leo says this feels more like a Student Affairs promotion/endorsement.
3. Social: Tatum Perez
- i. Communications Task Force: meeting to follow SBA meeting.
 - 1. Reason-different ideas about what to promote and how to promote different events and different events about what that should look like.
 - 2. Zoom link placed in chat.
 - 3. Looking for 5 people to be active in the communications space of SBA.
4. Health & Wellness: Zoë Williams
- i. Dean Wiersema Update-Monday meeting with Leo, Tempest, Zoe attended.
 - 1. Leo “tremendously disrespected” by Dean of Academic Affairs when trying to advocate on behalf of student body for better and more professional communication. Zoe and Tempest were not treated this way.
 - 2. Announcement of spring break about SBA’s endorsement misleading.
 - a. Advocated for “restoration days” before or after reading weeks.
 - b. Leads to less “professor creep.”
 - 3. Leo tried to offer ideas for communication with Dean Weirsema including a forum.
 - ii. Faculty Senate Update-Professor Moffat, Kraft, Bartholomew.
 - 1. Asked for Bar Passage program modified so ILA is required but not required to take required classes during Covid.
 - a. Classes hard to get into.
 - b. Large.
 - c. Engagement is minimal.
 - d. Students not really struggling.
 - 2. Suspension of mandatory dismissals.
 - a. Parents and care-givers need TLC because schools in the metro area are closing through January 18th.
 - 3. Alternative grading recommendation.
 - a. Opt-in pass/fail.

- b. Desire to hear student perspective.
 - iii. Student survey to be created this summer.
 - 1. Grades-Spring Break
 - 2. Mental health needs
 - iv. Abby-Hearing communications that the administration cares about the student reality is important and we don't get it.
 - v. Marisa-Feels professors are paying lip-service to having concern. Meralee agrees. Brings up fact that adjunct professors do not receive same amount of communication about what is going on in the law school. Zoe-get directly to Dani-get professors to read stories aloud.
- 5. Community Outreach: Meralee Hoffelt
 - i. Cans for Cold Calls update-cancelled-poor professor feedback and lack of ability to run the program effectively with campus being shut down this week.
 - ii. Custodial gifts-working to get Thanksgiving meals ordered and delivered before Thanksgiving.
- 6. Finance: Edward Bowden
 - i. Don't pay sales tax when you buy things. DU will not
 - ii. \$7.5K-scholarship can be created managed by Financial Management. Edward working on this.
 - 1. 100 scholarships of \$75.
 - 2. People who have been affected by Covid-especially parents.
 - 3. Zoe-money directly to students.
 - 4. Leo-is there an issue with affecting overall financial aid?
 - a. Edward says this is unclear. Still has to figure out.
 - 5. Leo moves to create 100-\$75 scholarships; Serena seconds the motion.
 - a. Vote: passes unanimously.
- 7. Diversity: Leonela Urrutia
 - i. Staff position for DEI has been posted and hopefully will be filled with a permanent faculty member in Spring 2021.

VI. **Admin:**

- 1. Reminder that meetings take place on Wednesdays at 4:30 in Spring 2021. No alibis. The impeachment process will begin as established in the Constitution and ByLaws.
- 2. Tempest mentioned that people will have the option to reduce their committee membership if time and schedule don't allow. Stepping back from a committee to focus your efforts in a more concerted way rather than spreading yourself too thin.

VII. **New Liaison:**

1. DB introduced Amber to the group as the person who will take over in the role that CEN used to have. She will attend the Monday P/VP meetings on Mondays as well as the one remaining SBA Exec meeting and come to all the meetings moving forward.

VIII. **Spring Break:**

1. Spring Break canceled. Should we sign on to the open letter to the dean?
 - i. Serena, and Dani both advocated for signing on.
 - ii. Leo argued that we need to support the decision that spring break should be canceled in an effort to reduce Covid and to collaborate with the faculty.
 - iii. Dani argued that even though it has weak points, it's overall message is one that is important and maybe we should overlook its flaws and support it.
 - iv. Gabby is hesitant to advocate for her constituents when she doesn't know how her class feels about it.
 - v. Edward agrees it was poorly timed, and wonders if there is a way to support what we like about it, but not the overall message or desired outcomes?
 - vi. Tatum feels the request for an apology is weak and whiny and sad and cannot support it based on those words alone.
 - vii. The group seems to be behind the idea of sending out a separate statement.

IX. **Faculty Awards:**

1. Faculty awards are not due until February 8th so we will table for future meetings.

X. **Sand Creek Event:**

1. RAHR event on the anniversary of the Sand Creek Event against Cheyenne tribes on November 29th.
2. Can we bring in a collaborative group to produce a zoom event with a speaker or other educational features.
3. Anyone interested should reach out to Leo for inclusion in the "task force." This would be in conjunction with the Affinity groups. More information will follow after some logistics have been established.
4. We need communication pieces around the scholarship application and the Sand Creek event so we can send a united message.
5. Leo moved to support and advertise the Sand Creek Massacre event once the logistics are finalized.
6. Motion was made and seconded. Motion passed with 11 votes.

XI. **Motion to adjourn was made at 6:06 (Leo) Edward seconded.**

XII. Meeting ended at 6:06

i.

XIII. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Honor Code (TC)
2. Sand Creek Event (ZW)
3. Assistant Director of Student Affairs (TC)
4. Faculty Awards (TC)

XIV. **STUDENT CONCERNS**

1. Spring Break

XV. **CALENDAR**

XVI. **REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

XVII. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**