

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION



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

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 4:30 – 5:30 PM @
<https://udenver.zoom.us/j/2939303815>

I. **CALL TO ORDER @ 4:34pm**

1. Attendance

- i. Exec: Tempest Cantrell, Leonela Urrutia, Tatum Perez, Edward Bowden, Meralee Hoffelt
- ii. Part-Time: Abby Schwarz, Jessie Chilson, Z Williams
- iii. LLM: Devon Peavy
- iv. ABA: Dani Churchill
- v. 3L: Connor Shantz, Danielle Loth (absent)
- vi. 2L: Marisa DeForest, Cerridwyn Nordstrom
- vii. 1L: Gabby Gile, Jaime Greenwood

2. 2/17 Minutes

- i. Leo moves to approve last week's minutes. Marisa seconded. Vote passes unanimously.

II. **GUEST SPEAKERS**

1. Dean Boynton

- i. Tempest: Townhall graduation speaker follow-up. Former feedback has been that students do not provide good suggestions. Can there be some 3L or SBA engagement? SBA has through of Amanda Gorman or the Colorado poet laureate, Bobby LeFevre. Dean Boynton suggested we reach out to Dean Smith with these totally not unattainable speakers. Dean Boynton would also reach out for us if SBA prefers that.
- ii. Z has a personal connection with Colorado poet laureate.
- iii. Dean Boynton wanted to thank Z for doing such a nice job with moderating the townhall. Thanks to everyone else too.
- iv. March 8th-open houses for admitted students. Usually 1 day, may have been asked to be on a student panel. Do we want to do this and would student orgs like to do this?
 1. Abby: Attended in-person and found it to be overwhelming.
 2. Tatum: Student orgs would love to come especially since so many members are graduating. But agrees that it might be too soon for students to know if they are interested in coming to DU for a student.
 3. Dani: Agrees it's too soon and not a good time. Civil rights summit at same time. Maybe give them a pamphlet.

4. Meralee: Is this the same request as the Admissions Office request? No different one.

III. PREVIOUS BUSINESS

1. Election Signature Requirements

i. Tempest:

1. # of signatures did adjust when enrollment dipped.
2. 35 is about ½ a section pre-Covid.

ii. Marisa:

1. Marisa moves to replace the signature requirement completely with specific individual questions and
2. Seconded by Gabby.
3. Discussion:
 - a. Marisa: Tailored questions and personal statement will demonstrate sufficient care and time to become a candidate.
 - b. Leo: This would eliminate it forever? Not temporarily? Marisa says the bylaws have to be revised completely and permanently.
 - c. Jaime: Would the election committee be reviewing this? Is it up the election committee to determine who is on the ballot? Marisa says no. This application supplants the signature requirement.
 - d. Jaime follow-up: Intention of possibly turning people away because of lack of effort. If the applications become overwhelming, does this become a screening method. Marisa said No. never a screening method.
 - e. Tatum: Does this now mean that these are due March 1 because campaign window was communicated to be March 1-30. Marisa: No, the packets are not due Sunday. New elections are March 15-16 and packets due on March 6th. Campaigning 7-14. Sharing with students if all goes forward. Everything announced tonight.
 - f. Gabby: Same question as Jaime. If people are looking at these questions, even though they are good, they might self-screen out. Marisa: Not using as a screening tool. Disclaimer might help.
4. Vote: 3 nays, 10 ayes, 1 absentee aye, 1 abstention.

IV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Elections: Marisa DeForest

- i. Runs elections, sends out packets, monitor elections in-box, monitor survey for voting, manage bios and election

materials for candidates, promote elections, interface with greater SBA.

2. ABA: Dani Churchill
 - i. Uneventful during Covid. Organize happy-hours, in charge of tabling at school for ABA and give Quimbee codes, competitions, networking benefits.
3. Social: Tatum Perez
 - i. VP Part-time: work with FT VP and President; Meet with administration, other PT reps, communication with faculty and administration, always chairs the social committee.
 - ii. Social: keeping up with social media account, Barrister's Ball, Derby Days, one major event for community building and small event if bandwidth, don't forget about PT cohort
4. Health & Wellness: Zoë Williams
 - i. Different committee this year than other years. Surveying students, synthesizing survey results, presenting to administration and making recommendations for changes, harm-reduction training, self-care challenge week.
5. Community Outreach: Meralee Hoffelt
 - i. Secretary: takes minutes, updates website, interfaces with others on the executive committee. Builds relationships with the administration.
 - ii. C-O Chair: ensures that the students, departments within the law school, administration, and alumni have connection to the SBA and to student needs. Has worked closely with the Health and Wellness Committee to ensure communications to students, faculty, and administration are effective.
6. Finance: Edward Bowden
 - i. Treasurer organizes the budget. Generally coordinates with all groups to ensure they get their funds and how they can use them, communication with Theresa Baker and groups. Managing requests for events, less than \$200 is dealt with in the committee, over requires SBA vote. Uses of excess funds. Anything related to finance records, scholarships, cross-training for next person.
7. Diversity: Leonela Urrutia
 - i. FT VP: Works with PT VP and President on SBA initiatives.
 - ii. New committee made permanent this year in response to 1L diverse student loss. Vision is to continue supporting affinity groups and their missions. Meets in tandem with affinity groups when they meet with Deans so SBA can help support the environment the students want. Townhall should be an annual event. Campus accessibility is what is focused on now.
- V. President: Member of every committee. Making agenda for the week. Assigning committees, committee heads, weekly meetings with Dean

Boynton, in-charge of executive board, speak at orientation, overseeing things get done. If didn't get done, you do it.

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Tatum: Bylaws need to be updated. May or may not be affected by these in their choice to run for office.

VII. **STUDENT CONCERNS**

1. Marisa: people upset that undergrads have spring break and we do not. Tempest says the undergrads winter quarter ends and professors grade, that is the reason.
2. Gabby: ILs reaching out with certain clubs, there are some that are saying they are not meeting. Concern that there are people feeling turned away. Mental health concerns this semester than last semester.
3. Jessie: PT students feeling like some students have been vaccinated and we still have bi-weekly Covid tests, why are we not able to meet in a classroom for socially-distanced studying, connection. Law school not viewed as a positive place.
 - i. Tempest will bring up study room openings with Dean Boynton in next week's meeting.
4. Abby: PT cohort can do the spit test any time we want as an exception.
5. Z: PT program has no sense of what class will be available. Meralee has already reached out to Dean Wiersema about this.
6. Leo: Mental health issue is a huge problem. Can we work through social media to help students access help?
7. Marisa: Resources on campus. The health subset still charges \$20 for counseling. COLAP does free services for law students.
8. Tatum: Can we mitigate the fact that we have no spring break? This is a crisis.
9. Jessie: Spring break, quarantining, bi-weekly testing, off-weekends cannot be used without a required quarantine afterwards.
10. Abby: Is it possible to use the budgets for someone to do meditation at lunch time or something? More services than stuff.
11. Z: What is a sustainable place for people? \$20 is one thing. \$100 would be better.

VIII. **CALENDAR**

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

1. Tempest: Z did a great job moderating the townhall. Diversity committee did a great job of organizing the event. 80 people came.

X. **MOTION TO ADJOURN**

1. Leo moves to adjourn. Dani seconds.
2. Meeting adjourns at 5:36.