

# STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION



## University of Denver Sturm College of Law STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION: WEEKLY AGENDA

Date: Wednesday, March 3, 2021, 4:30 – 5:30 PM @  
<https://udenver.zoom.us/j/2939303815>

### I. **CALL TO ORDER**

1. Meralee resigned from Secretary position. Dani is filling that in, and Jamie is taking over as community outreach chair.
2. Former SBA 3L Senator, Serena Ahmad, facing criminal charges.
  - i. Z talks about ways to support her.
    1. If you decide to reach out to her, be very intentional with what you say. Every communication to/from jail is surveilled.
    2. Send things like coloring sheets, puzzles, etc.
      - a. May be able to send things (books, colored pencils) to her social worker.
    3. Be respectful if you talk about this incident.
3. Attendance
  - i. Exec: Tempest Cantrell, Leonela Urrutia, Tatum Perez, Edward Bowden, Dani Churchill
  - ii. Part-Time: Abby Schwarz (absent), Jessie Chilson, Z Williams
  - iii. LLM: Devon Peavy
  - iv. ABA:
  - v. 3L: Connor Shantz, Danielle Loth
  - vi. 2L: Marisa DeForest, Cerridwyn Nordstrom
  - vii. 1L: Gabby Gile, Jaime Greenwood
4. 2/24 Minutes
  - i. Motion to approve by Leo, seconded by Jaime.
  - ii. Vote: passes unanimously.

### II. **GUEST SPEAKERS**

### III. **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

1. Amber Dannis update: no save the date for graduation yet. Process being held up by city/county/school councils.

### IV. **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

1. Elections: Marisa DeForest
  - i. Packets out and due Saturday. No packets returned yet. Encourage folks to submit packet.
2. ABA: n/a
3. Social: Tatum Perez
  - i. Q to Edward: because we aren't doing many more zoom events, can we give student orgs gift cards to certain places that they can go to small gatherings with each other, to

facilitate community building? Is that an acceptable use of committee funds?

1. Edward:
  - a. Short answer—yes.
  - b. Long answer— there are some limitations. They have to be nominal, they have to be widespread, and the scope has to be limited (no alcohol). There are questions of method— do we do reimbursement? Or do we pay via gift card ahead of time?
2. Tatum:
  - a. We're thinking of doing something tangible to give to people instead of some zoom events we had planned.
4. Health & Wellness: Z Williams
  - i. Planning wellness week around wellness days.
    1. Dr. Austin giving a talk on student wellness.
    2. Poet McConn interested in giving a workshop on burn out in covid.
    3. Working on a budget to buy incentives to folks to sign up for a self-care challenge that spans 5 days.
  - ii. T-shirt update: gotten some feedback, mask design. People would like a few different cuts/fits of t shirts, maybe a hoodie or a long sleeve. Last day to give feedback is tomorrow.
5. Community Outreach: Jaime Greenwood
  - i. Friendship campaign is this Friday, an introductory meeting for those who signed up.
  - ii. Meeting next week to regroup for the rest of the semester.
6. Finance: Edward Bowden
  - i. Push out SBA Book scholarships. Not many people have applied.
    1. Dani suggested social media create a sharable graphic.
    2. Edward's suggested message:
      - a. You may have already seen, there was an email sent out earlier this week about an SBA Book Scholarship. Here's some explanation. Essentially if you can identify any financial hardship related to COVID (childcare, medical, rent, care-giving, or even just mental-health hardship) and bought a book for school in the last year you can request \$75 (which will go to any outstanding DU balance or if none then to you). It is meant to be as low a bar as possible to provide the funds because this is as close as I can get to just directly giving back the money

that people paid to SBA which has gone unspent. Especially if you have children, request it multiple times (you + # of kids) as I've directed that if childcare costs are identified people should not be de-prioritized for multiple applications. I'd recommend that pretty much everyone here apply. Really. Any hardship, even a bit esoteric and not directly financial. This is your money, have some back.

3. Link to application:

[https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_8oUnA1Dp qmvT7XE](https://udenver.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8oUnA1Dp qmvT7XE)

ii. See new business, below.

7. Diversity: Leonela Urrutia

i. Townhall: Sent follow up email to Deans with questions not answered at the town hall. Goal is to get something out early next week with the zoom recording and an FAQ style sheet w/ Q's unanswered.

ii. Affinity groups met w/ Deans Smith and Freeman. Affinity groups wanted us to think about bar exam fees and perhaps creating a scholarship for them (Inspired by Richard Barahona's bar fee GoFundMe). Talked about creating long term funding project for stipends for bar exam prep.

iii. Updates on diverse faculty and staff—Jennifer Bonino-Jones hired in Dean Freeman's office. Full time Islamic woman professor hired. Trying to continue diverse course program by diverse adjuncts for the next year.

iv. Dean Smith doing his own research on scholarships to see where money is being dispersed.

v. Questions/Discussion

1. Tatum: could one of our fundraisers go towards the bar applications for diverse folks?

a. Leo: living expenses seems to be a bigger issue than what we can make from the hoodie sale.

b. Z: we could also allocate some funds from Barrister's for this—covid really hit a lot of 3L's in a special way. We could gain ground by approaching the Deans by saying "we have this much" and they might give us more funds.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Part-Time Committee Proposal

i. **Section 8. Part-Time Committee**

ii. This committee shall be chaired by the Part-Time Vice President and each Part-Time Senator shall be appointed to it by the President. Other members of SBA and non-

members of the general student body concerned with the part-time program may join the committee. The committee should seek to address the needs, concerns, and advancement of the part-time program by: (1) increasing the communication between its students and the SBA/Faculty; (2) increasing academic/career/networking opportunities, both within the part-time and with the full time-programs; and (3) furthering the life bit of the life/work/school balance.

1. Intro by Edward: this will help facilitate communication between part time and full-time programs, as well as between PT students and the school administration in general. It would be helpful for PT students to join this committee, even those not on SBA, to air their concerns with the PT program.
2. Motion by Edward: Create a part time committee as per above. Seconded by Leo.
  - a. Discussion:
    - i. Z approves b/c it would be very helpful and beneficial to PT peers.
3. VOTE: passes unanimously.

## 2. Budget Reorganization

- i. Edward shares spreadsheet. We have about \$84k in our accounts. Wants to talk about how we should adjust allocation of these funds since certain things (Barrister's) are not happening. Anything we don't spend this year gets rolled over to next year, on top of what we receive next year. Suggests changing Barrister's, Speakers, and Travel and putting those new funds into the general fund.
  1. We do have a bar fund scholarship every year, which is administrated exactly like the book scholarship is. They may be able to award \$3,900, which is 5-6 full scholarships. Or, we can give more half scholarships. We have options. Edward suggests putting \$2,000 more into the bar scholarship funds.
  2. This might be a good year to give extra funds to students rather than back into the endowment for future use.
  3. We can put funds towards a headshot event (separate from grad headshots).
  4. We can give straight funds back to all people—we can reimburse each student for \$22 or so dollars.
  5. We can give funds to student clubs. Club funding will not roll over, so if we give them funds in a certain way, it can roll over to help them jump start things next year.

- ii. Edward motions to alter our budget to fit with his alternative sheet. Gabby seconds.
  - 1. Discussion
    - a. Danielle: Thanks Edward for running through it. Wants to clarify—what is the criteria for making sure we're managing the funds in an equitable way?
      - i. A (Edward): Trying to find a way to balance needs of all students from different years, situations, etc is very difficult. I think it's how we use those funds that addresses the issue. Funds need to be targeted to those who are having specific needs.
    - b. Danielle: do you think this gives us the flexibility to address the different needs of different students unique to this year?
      - i. A (E): yes. Putting things into the general fund is a flexible way to address these needs and issues.
    - c. Tatum: Clarification—if we did invite people to request certain social events, we can just access one of these general funds?
      - i. A (E): yes. I think most general fund requests will come from committee requests.
    - d. Leo: Clarification—we are only moving to submit these reallocated funds to the general fun, right?
      - i. A (E): No. I'm suggesting we go with my alternative budget plan (see chart).
    - e. Danielle: we should later figure out how to allocate these funds once they're in the general fund.
      - i. A(e): agree. We can do this at our next meeting.
  - 2. VOTE
    - a. Passes unanimously.
- iii. SPREADSHEET:

Fund #	Fund Title	Present Amount	Planned Spring Adjustment			Alternative	General Fund	Students
			Percent To Transfer	Added Amount	New Total			
90018	Wichi - Law	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
90175	Student Bar Assoc'N	\$ 32,614.21		\$ -	\$ 179.21	\$ 36,001.46	PT 38	
90178	Delta Theta Phi	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FT 234	
90206	Continental Deposit	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	All 272	
90217	Public Interest Law Group	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
90634	ABA Law Student Division	\$ 103.00	0.31%	\$ 100.55	\$ 203.55	\$ 203.55		
90695	LAW-Barrister's Ball	\$ 6,972.00	20.77%	\$ 6,736.75	\$ 13,708.75	\$ 2,000.00		
90696	SBA-President's Budget	\$ 620.00	1.85%	\$ 600.05	\$ 1,220.05	\$ 1,220.05	2L	
90697	SBA-Social Committee	\$ 1,352.76	7.69%	\$ 2,494.25	\$ 3,847.01	\$ 3,847.01	PT 45	
90699	SBA-Speakers	\$ 8,780.00	26.15%	\$ 8,481.75	\$ 17,261.75	\$ 1,500.00	FT 224	
90700	SBA-Communications	\$ 258.00	0.77%	\$ 249.75	\$ 507.75	\$ 507.75	All 269	
90701	SBA-Travel	\$ 5,113.75	15.38%	\$ 4,988.50	\$ 10,102.25	\$ 1,500.00		
90705	SBA-ABA-Travel	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	3L	
90718	SBA - Emergency Reserve	\$ 10,516.00	1.54%	\$ 499.50	\$ 11,015.50	\$ 11,015.50	PT 36	
90719	SBA - Community Relations	\$ 1,762.23	0.77%	\$ 249.75	\$ 2,011.98	\$ 2,011.98	FT 203	
90720	SBA - Elections Committee	\$ 258.00	0.77%	\$ 249.75	\$ 507.75	\$ 507.75	All 239	
90721	SBA - Finance Committee	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		
90722	SBA - Club Funding	\$ 15,759.47	22.31%	\$ 7,236.25	\$ 22,995.72	\$ 22,995.72	Non-ID	
90742	SBA - Wellness	\$ 310.00	0.92%	\$ 298.40	\$ 608.40	\$ 608.40	PT 55	
90748	SBA-Student Org Returned Funds	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	FT 61	
90751	Diversity	\$ 258.00	0.77%	\$ 249.75	\$ 507.75	\$ 507.75	All 116	
?????	Endowment							
-	SBA - Part-Time Committee	\$ -		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 249.75		
	<b>Totals</b>	\$ 84,677.42	100.00%	\$ 32,435.00	\$ 84,677.42	\$ 84,676.67		

  

General Fund		Students
Bar Scholarships	\$ 2,000.00	
\$3900 to award		
5-6 Full at \$710		
Gave 7.5k last year as 1/2		
Endowment	\$ 2,000.00	
SBA Book Scholarship	\$ -	2L
Anticipate about \$1,500 being awarded	\$ 2,000.00	PT 45
SA Emergency Fund	\$ 2,000.00	FT 224
Awarded ~\$50,000		All 269
\$7,430 remaining		
SBA Emergency Reserve	\$ -	3L
Headshots	\$ 10,000.00	PT 36
\$1750 - 4hr, \$20 - person, 500 - \$10k		FT 203
\$90 - person new but with studio		All 239
Straight Funds Back to All	\$ 20,000.00	
Per Person	\$ 22.32	Non-ID
Per Person with Committee Contribution	\$ 25.08	PT 55
<b>Remaining</b>	\$ (20.86)	FT 61
Leftover Committee Funding	\$ 7,402.26	All 116
Contribution/Co-Ordination (1/3 Default)	\$ 2,467.42	
Furthering Your Committee Aim (1/3)	\$ 2,467.42	
Club jump start	\$ 22,000.00	
\$500 to each club, 44 clubs		
Club amount covers		
<b>Remaining</b>	\$ 995.72	

### 3. Excess Fund Use

i. See above.

4. Added by Tempest: Survey of our experience on SBA is on the way.

## VI. STUDENT CONCERNS

1. Gabby: 1L expressed concerns with electives that they are being curved against 2L's and 3L's. The student is in labor law and they are doing a project that is focused on negotiations. Requests we raise the curve for 1L's in those classes.

i. Tempest: Dean Wiersema is not sympathetic to this issue. Changing the curve is not likely to be on the table because we just raised the curve to match CU's this summer.

ii. Leo: Perhaps the specific professors can take their own approach to their grading processes.

iii. Dani: Maybe 1L's can do an extra credit project.

2. Danielle: 3L's are concerned about grades as well. We should begin discussions about another pass/fail option. It's not just the 1L's that are concerned.

i. Tempest: Believes we will have a 1 class p/f option for this semester and the next. Perhaps the Deans should send a reminder about grading policy for the semester.

3. Danielle: Not all classes have their final schedule posted.

i. Leo: we hear about this a lot. If the professor's class isn't up, it's an issue between the Registrar and the professor.

## VII. CALENDAR

- March 5 @ 5pm: Friendship Campaign
- March 6th @ 9pm: Candidacy Packets Due
- March 7th @ 8am - March 14th @ 9pm: Campaigning Period
- March 15th @ 8am - March 16th @ 12pm: Voting (Get-Out-To-Vote Campaigning Only)
- March 16th @ 4:30PM: Winners Announced

## VIII. REMARKS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

## IX. MOTION TO ADJOURN

- Marisa moves to adjourn, seconded by Jaime.