SBA Minutes
January 14, 2008

Senate Members in Attendance: no attendance taken
Senate Members Absent: no attendance taken
Ex Officio Member in Attendance: Katie Kostka
Minutes Recorded By: Sarah Gilliland

I. Call to Order (4:30 pm)
   a. Brad Moloney, President

II. Election of New Officers
   a. Nomination for Secretary Position opened
      i. Sarah Gilliland nominated
      ii. Voted unanimous

III. Speakers/Guests
   a. Susan Erlenborn, Director of Admissions, College of Law
      i. SCOL is redesigning admissions brochures
      ii. Marketing firm wants to meet with students of each class regarding
           their experiences at law school, why they chose DU Law, etc.
      iii. Meetings to take place January 30 and 31 from 9-4
      iv. Groups of 10-15 from each class
      v. Able to work around schedules
   b. Unfinished Business
      i. 1L Concerns: cancellation of core classes throughout last semester
         and also large class size for 1Ls
         1. Set over to next meeting for plan of action and further
            discussion
      ii. Writing Requirement: confusion concerning which classes satisfy
          the requirement; conflict between classes that meet requirement
          and classes listed on the catalog as satisfying requirement
         1. Set over to next meeting for plan of action and further
            discussion
   c. New Business
      i. Cancellation of Wills Lab
         1. The Wills Lab was cancelled last week on the Friday before
            classes started. It is a one credit class that gives students
            the opportunity to write a will for a member of the
            community; it also satisfies the public service requirement
         2. Professor Lucy Marsh
            a. Wills lab in existence since the 19802
            b. The administration decided not to fund the wills lab
               this semester, so Professor Marsh cancelled it due to
               lack of funds
            c. Expense is $3,000 which pays for one paralegal
               who performs necessary formatting of the documents
i. Performance of these responsibilities by a regular staff member would require intense training and overtime pay by the SCOL
ii. Need a person that can be contacted if there is an emergency
iii. School's intake from the program (after $3000) is approximately $17,000

d. Attorneys and professors that participate in the clinic essentially operate pro bono
e. Clinic provides a valuable service to members of the community who cannot afford to hire an attorney to draft their wills or power of attorneys
i. At this time, there are at least thirty people expecting to acquire wills through the Wills lab
ii. Professor Marsh has not informed these people that the service cannot be provided at this time
f. Compare with env law clinic with two full time faculty members; SLO has three full time staff members and 11 faculty members; Wills has one staff, no faculty; new director going to be hired for env law clinic; as a clinical program, wills is an incredible bargain for the school
g. Class can still be reinstated: students would just start the projects a few days later, which would not adversely affect the ability of the students to complete the assignments for their clients

3. Professor Bryon Hammond
a. Supervises one student per semester in the Wills lab for free
b. Believes that the lab is an essential service to underprivileged members of the community
c. The Denver probate community is upset that the program would be cancelled; DU Law is not making the best impression in the probate community with this decision
d. States that will writing is complicated and that the right formatting is absolutely critical
i. Paralegal is the best person to format the wills
e. Students who take the Wills lab are in a better position when interviewing in the Denver legal community, especially in the probate community
4. Senator Discussion
   a. Clarification of the necessity of the paralegal
      i. Professor Marsh reiterates that the training
         and expectations are best met by a trained
         paralegal rather than a staff member
         working overtime
   b. Problem seems to be lack of communication and
      lack of concern from the Dean regarding the
      cancellation of a class and the explanation for the
      cancellation
   c. Issues for graduating students depending on one last
      credit to graduate and/or depending on the class to
      satisfy their public service requirement
      i. Extremely difficult for those students to
         meet those requirements at this point
   d. Proposal that SBA can provide the funding for the
      clinic and then draft a request that the SCOL
      reimburse the SBA
   e. Motion to allocate $3,000 to the Wills Lab for
      payment of a paralegal and other necessary funds
      i. Moved by Night VP Jen Zamarripa
      ii. Discussion
          1. SBA able to provide the funds
          2. It is not the responsibility of the SBA
             to fund classes, but rather the
             administration
             a. Resolution to be drafted by
                Professionalism committee
                under the supervision of
                Senator Richardson
             b. Anyone interested, contact
                Aaryn Richardson
          3. SBA must be cautious not to send
             the impression that the SBA will
             fund any and all school projects –
             must be accountability by the
             Administration
      iii. Motion passes unanimously

IV. Adjourn (5:30 pm)