



University of Denver Student Bar Association Weekly Minutes

- I. **Call to Order**
 - a. Attendance
 - i. 13/15. Last meeting of the semester!
 - b. Approval of Minutes
 - i. Cole motions to approve the minutes. Jordan seconds. Unanimous approval.
- II. **Guest Speakers**
 - a. **Dean Wiersema**
 - b. **Sarah Sweetman (Registrar)**
 - i. Director of Registration and Records
 - ii. **Exams**
 1. Numbers are going out this week!
 - a. Can download Exam4 as well now. Catalina is now an accessible platform.
 2. Let the Registrar know if you have a conflict / need to schedule an out of sequence exam. (Do not go to your professor → need to protect anonymity.)
 - iii. **Grades are due by Wednesday, January 8.**
 1. 3 weeks after the last exam date.
 - iv. **Soonest you will see a grade is Thursday, January 9.**
 1. Even if they come in before then → won't be posted until that date.
 - a. Registrar has to work with each professor's grade weigh scale. Have to match your test ID number to your student ID.
 2. There is a fair amount that comes in on 1/8. Obviously, those will not be there on 1/9. (Everything up to 1/9 will be there, then it rolls out after.)
 - v. Gideon – what is the last day that grades will come in?
 1. We don't have a set date. Typically there is a 7-10 day turn around between the date that the faculty sends it in and the date that it is published.
 - vi. Naomi – were there students there when you were discussing with other associate deans about how they implemented a “one day grade release” idea?
 1. No; however, reaching out to all of the associate deans was because she had heard this concern from students.
 - vii. Naomi – why was 1/8 chosen?
 1. 3 weeks after the last date of exam.
 - viii. Naomi – how does this one day date help people applying for clerkships, etc. where grades are needed?
 1. This date should make it sooner.

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- ix.** Naomi – will this be sent out to students?
 - 1.** Yes. Will be in the exam / registrar email.
- x.** Lisa – for 1 credit classes that happened earlier in the semester, will those also be released on 1/8?
 - 1.** Yes.
- xi.** Jacob – if there is a FAQ, would it be helpful to direct people to the website first?
 - 1.** Yes. Will also add the release date to this.
- xii.** Gideon / Jacob – might also be important to clarify that the 1/9 is the start day and not all of the grades will be there.
- xiii.** Dean Wiersema – the point of this is also to alleviate a lot of the angst about grades and to motivate faculty to grade on time.
- xiv.** Jacob – How are you enjoying your role as a dean? Are there things that you would appreciate SBA being proactive about?
 - 1.** We are really trying to put effort into the community here. That has a lot of aspects – inclusive community, diversity, (more Dean Catherine Smith), professionalism and behavior, community (the lunches are a piece of this; the feedback is incredible). There are really intangible, magical moments that occur when people interact and it isn't just work. If we could scale this up – would have a good effect on the community. We don't want the lunches to only go with their friend group – we want everyone to know that they are part of the law school. The faculty / staff that has come has been great – still want more to attend.
 - 2.** Do you find it valuable? How to get more people to come? What are your thoughts?
 - a.** Jacob – they are awesome. We plan to have SBA reps more out there. During the community lunches, we want to have an SBA / ABA rep presence. Does make a big difference when the faculty is there.
 - b.** Jeff – might be helpful if there is a list of faculty that is coming. That way students know who is coming.
 - c.** Amanda – would be awesome if there could be 1/semester for the PT program.
 - d.** Dean Wiersema – adjunct professors were also invited.
 - e.** Gideon – might be easier with people's schedules if they are Tuesdays/Thursday, not just Wednesday.
 - f.** Andrew – is there any sort of tracking, do we have any monitoring of student organizations?
Complaints?
 - i.** Sometimes these spaces are created and nothing comes out of it. Would be great if we can show that student brought up “x,y,z

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at the community lunch” and then this was implemented....

- g.** Dean Wiersema – community lunch is not intended to be that safe. The conversation starters are intended to be non-school related. Not saying that you can’t raise an issue there but not the best forum. More broadly, we don’t have a formal system but we do hear from students when we aren’t responsive. Sometimes we can’t move as quickly as students expect. Will give thought to how we could do this – would it be for complaints? Thoughts? Together? As of now, the amount of volume that Student Affairs deals with is enormous. The thought of having to consistently track every question that comes in is overwhelming – doesn’t mean we couldn’t come up with something in between.
 - h.** Andrew – Naomi took the effort to bring to Admin during her 1L year to get gender-neutral bathrooms. A lot of people don’t know this. Maybe just some way to show that student’s concerns are listened to.
 - i.** Dean Wiersema – if we can think of some way to set this up and help students connect with who to work with is great.
 - j.** Sarah Sweetman – administration meeting with SBA is a really great start. Even though there isn’t a formal reporting, hopefully most of the time when students report something there is a response to address it.
 - k.** Dean Wiersema – good to remember from Andrew’s example that we are proactive in giving credit. If something like that happens again, would be a good idea to say “we are doing this, and this is why...”
 - l.** Naomi – we now have the Pads/Tampons initiative. SBA sent out an email. Great to see that on the FB people were giving SBA/administration credit. Communicating the good or “this is where we are at” would be helpful.
 - m.** Dean Wiersema – Everyone in the building responds as best they can. Can also include that professors have to figure out the best way to address issues and communicate that amongst each other.
- 3.** Would a “walk in” where Dean Wiersema sits in the forum be helpful?

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- xv. Gideon – students feel left out sometimes from the Registrar. There was only one email for graduation. Even an email that “final exam schedules are up”, etc.
 - 1. Sarah Sweetman – issue is that people don’t want to be overwhelmed by emails, the application for graduation is in the registering email, we have been trying to use the Student Affairs email / TV screens.
 - 2. Jacob – people who don’t want to read emails, won’t read them regardless.
 - a. Dean Wiersema – there seems to be a sense of “don’t bother the students”
- xvi. Amanda – might be a good safeguard; puts it on the students if they miss it.
- xvii. Sarah – will take this back to the Registrar / CDO, can bring this to them. Previous assumption was that the Student Affairs daily email was enough.

III. Previous Business

IV. Committee Updates

- a. **Election:** Kaley
- b. **ABA:** Naomi
- c. **Social:** Gideon
- d. **Health & Wellness:** Lisa
 - i. Everything is ordered for PT Health and Wellness Day. Will bring mason jars / superglue to school.
 - ii. PT Health and Wellness Day – 11/23
- e. **Endowment**
- f. **Community Outreach:** Claire
 - i. Cans for Cold Calls brought in 260 pounds. Will send that out to students and faculty!
- g. **Finance:** Cole

V. New Business

- a. **Coalition for Criminal Justice Reform Proposal**
 - i. Tom Ford, 5 people focused on civil rights / criminal justice reform
 - ii. CCJR – seek recognition as an approved student org
 - 1. Seeks to further the academic / social welfare of the DU Law’s student to engage with criminal justice reform issues.
 - iii. Why is CCJR needed?
 - 1. US incarcerates 25% of the world’s prison population. Punitive approach has resulted in unprecedented 161 prisoner/100000 residents to 767 prisoners/1000000 residents. Over \$81B is spent per year on the prison system.
 - 2. CCJR hopes to encourage members to educate ourselves on the state of incarceration, think critically about the criminal justice system, and give students the option to network with

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professionals in this area. Will host a variety of events for their members.

iv. **CCJR wants to provide:**

1. **2 speaker events/year.**

- a. Want to schedule an event with Laura Royner for the spring semester.
- b. Laura Royner's Ted Talk – *What Happens to People in Solitary Confinement*

2. **1 panel of experts / year** to expose members to issues that pressing in the criminal justice are.

- a. Want to have one in the spring to compare and contrast the candidate's stances on criminal justice.

v. CCJR will provide volunteer opportunities.

- 1. **Ex:** Ciara Anderson's event "Words of Hope" – students got together to write more than 150 letters to prisoners who were victims of sexual assault.

vi. CCJR will provide networking opportunities with lawyers in this area of criminal justice.

vii. Other schools have similar organizations. (Columbia, UCLA, Berkeley).

viii. As a university with a history of advocating for prisoner's rights, we are in a unique position. This attracts people to come to DU and CCJR will help enhance.

- 1. CO is home to only super max prison in the country.

ix. This topic is not addressed by other organizations on this campus. This is very focused specifically only the prisoner's rights aspect. Prisoner's rights are almost an invisible aspect so it would be important to draw attention to this. Interested in reform, policy change, etc. – nothing really addresses this.

b. **SBA Discussion -**

i. Jeff – you are all Civil Rights Clinic members. How will you reach students who are part of the PT program?

- 1. The Criminal Justice Reform falls under the Civil Rights Clinic so we have experience that we have gained there. DU Arts Initiative.
- 2. We have received a lot of interest from our fellow students so we hope to carry this out as CCJR.
- 3. In the Civil rights clinic, there are 4 cases happening. They represent all 4.

ii. Jeff – have you considered amending your structure to include a 1L rep?

- 1. Yes, we would want to include as many people as possible. We had 7 people who were interested in crafting the bylaws and constitution but we are interested in expanding this to more.

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- iii. Gideon flagged some language regarding the disciplinary language.
 - 1. “executive board will address disciplinary actions”
 - a. Naomi – I read that more as people needing to be held accountable for pulling their weight.
 - 2. Bylaws – Article 3 – Section A
- iv. Andrew – this would really fill a much narrower issue that the other groups might not be able to fill.
- v. Jeff – they are all in the Civil Rights Clinic. Should we be worried that the clinic and the organization are an extension of each other?
 - 1. Andrew – Probably only this year.
 - 2. Jacob – we fund student orgs so we can’t do anything about the clinic.
- c. *Jeff sets forth the motion to approve CCJR. Andrew seconds. Unanimously approved.*
 - i. We will email them that their election timeline needs to be amended to comply with SBA bylaws.
 - ii. Cole will email about funding. Get \$250 as starter money after the fund / account is created.

VI. Student Concerns

VII. Goals Check-in

VIII. Calendar

- a. Part-time Student Wellness Day: November 23rd
- b. Breakfast for Dinner: December 3rd
- c. Wellness Day: March 17
- d. Res Ipsa Loquitor Event: April 17th
- e. Barristers Ball: April 18th
- f. Breakfast for Dinner: May 3rd
- g. Graduation Day: May 16th

IX. Remarks for the Good of the Order

- a. Naomi – great work on advocating on student’s behalf!

X. Motion to Adjourn

- a. Jeff set forth the motion to adjourn. Cole seconds. Meeting ended at 5:44.

**SBA: Over break, think about your goals for SBA and what you have done well / could improve on.