

SBA MINUTES

March 18, 2020 (4:30 PM)

Zoom Meeting

- I. Attendance
 - A. Everyone in attendance.
- II. Meeting Minutes
 - A. Last week's minutes were approved.
- III. Discussion
 - A. Grades
 1. There have been a lot of rumors about whether or not we are switching to P/F.
 - a) There has been a lot of work done on this quickly. Gideon has been really hard at work in opening a discussion with the administration about grading.
 2. 3/18, 2 PM - Gideon, Jacob, Kaley had a meeting with Dean Smith and Dean Wiersema.
 - B. SBA Feelings / Thoughts
 1. Can be on worry, emotion, distress, etc.
 2. Went around SBA to share 30-60 seconds about what students' stressors are. Common stressors were:
 - a) take home exams and academic honesty surrounding it, that some professors are not teaching, P/F grading and how it affects people's grades, refinding school-life balance, issues with uploading to Zoom, summer externships being up in the air, how to be there for other students, some haven't had any classes yet, graduation, bar review / exam, will there be partial refunds on parking passes, how will printing money roll over, how can people in clinics serve their clients / how will their grades be effected
 - C. Graduation
 1. Will be happening!
 - a) Will either be May 16th or at a later date (might be immediately after the bar).
 - D. Bar
 1. As of now, still happening July 28-29, 2020.
 - a) Get your documents notarized if you can asap...
 - E. Bar Prep
 1. Still happening online...
 2. Bar Success will continue to be online (has been online previously)!
 - F. Parking Pass Reimbursement?

1. Maybe bring it up to the Dean?
- IV. Agenda Items (Jacob)
- A. Events
 1. *everything is OFF*
 2. Headshots - cancelled
 3. Barrister's Ball - cancelled
 - a) We need to vote on this to officially cancel.
 - (1) Events larger than 10 people go against the CDC guidelines.
 - b) Postpone it until next year?
 - (1) Kaley - do we make a Barrister's Alumni Ball to allow graduates to come back?
 - (2) Amanda - do we postpone it to the same time as the week of graduation (if it is moved to after the Bar?)
 - c) *Jacob moves to motion cancelling Barrister's Ball and sending an email to the students.*
 - (1) *No objections. Passed.*
 4. Res Ipsa Loquitur - cancelled
 - a) Amanda - are we still doing awards (but not the event)?
 5. Student Awards
 - a) We were supposed to start nominations today. With everything going on, that doesn't really make sense. Send them out next week during Spring Break.
 - (1) Will need 3 nominations to end up on the ballot.
 - B. Claire - undergrad student council is compiling a list of virtual events
 1. Jacob - we can reach out to student org leaders
 2. Lisa - we could do a mindful Monday email
 - a) Corepower, etc. are doing online classes. Could compile those (thank you Jeffrey for the idea!) and send out the HCC Telehealth link.
 - C. Sweaters (Claire)
 1. Order closes tonight.
 - a) 2nd order closes at midnight. We have sold about 50 already.
 2. This second order is being shipped directly to people.
 3. Students who have not picked up from the first order → will also be shipped.
 4. **We have made about \$4500 total on the sweaters!!**
 - a) Not doing the Appreciation dinner anymore.

- b) Claire and Chris met this morning to discuss what to do with the money.
 - (1) Some of the options:
 - (a) Care packages / gift baskets
 - (i) For each individual; would not have a tax issue
 - (b) Visa Gift Card
 - (i) (if we give a \$50 visa giftcard, then it needs to be reported as income)
 - (c) King Sooper / Safeway Gift Card
 - (d) Grab n' go meals at school
 - (i) Right now, the building is open but we don't know how long it will be...
 - (2) **SBA:** GO TO TWEN → VOTE on the option you think best.

D. Grades (Gideon)

1. Jacob, Gideon, Kaley met with Deans Smith and Wiersema today at 2 PM.
 - a) Grading policy is different from scholarships and people who are on academic probation → that decision will be prior to the grading policy coming out (most likely).
 - b) Nothing has been decided and nothing is off of the table.
 - c) Dean Smith wants to make sure that this goes through the right process to get a good solution.
 - d) A change to the grading policy will require a vote by the faculty.
 - (1) The vote alone takes 4 days.
 - e) Not all of the schemes may be feasible.
 - (1) Ex: High Honors / Honors / Pass / Fail → might not be possible
 - (a) Issue of what we want to do vs. what is feasible.
 - f) Timeline
 - (1) Policy would need to be in place by the end of Spring break?
 - (2) Dean Smith is sending an email in the next 24 hours to students to say that this is being looked into.
 - (3) Big takeaway is that both Deans want feedback in this process.
 - g) **SBA Vote**
 - (1) Rate 0 - 10 about sending a survey to students.

- (a) Some other schools have done this. They sent their students a survey to vote on options about grades (ex: P/F, Honors, P/F optional, no changes, etc.)
 - (b) Endorsing a survey doesn't forestall other avenues. Just trying to make sure to get student's voices heard.
 - (2) 1 = not, 10 = for it
 - (a) Gideon - screenshotted SBA votes. Will take this vote to the administration in regard to whether or not sending a survey resonated with SBA.
 - 2. Amanda - did the Dean speak about if they are in communication with other law schools and how they are handling this? The ABA?
 - 3. Kaley - Dean Smith said he wanted to be aware of what other schools, the ABA, and particularly what CU is doing.
 - (1) Leeway so long as it is in line with other schools.
 - (2) Ex: think about the fact that Yale has an entirely different letter grading system.
 - (3) Dean Smith is in communication with the Law Dean's list serve.
 - (4) Dean Smith is looking to SBA to provide a student perspective.
 - b) These people will be involved in the discussion -
 - (1) Faculty, student perspective (primarily SBA; need to use TWEN; make sure you are acting as a representative); curriculum committee.
 - (a) Then, a faculty notice / vote period (4 days):
 - (i) 48 hours for notice.
 - (ii) 48 hours to vote.
 - (2) In contact with the University of Denver Provost
 - (a) Dean Smith great in making sure that there is not a university-wide decision where undergrad/master's programs are going to effect the law school
 - c) Dean Smith will be sending an email to the students about reaching out to SBA about concerns - not just grades but also concerns in general.
4. Jacob - Deans seem very genuinely concerned
 - a) TWEN - post your genuine thoughts on TWEN and POST PEOPLE'S CONCERNS ON TWEN!

b) Send an email to the student body → tell them to join TWEN so that they can post.

(1) We need to really work on making sure that people know that their student concerns are being heard.

(a) SBA - you are representatives. Post on TWEN that you got X emails saying that students want P/F, etc.

(i) We don't want a situation where SBA talks about this → opportunity to really make sure that each student has the chance to get their voice out.

(a) Then, SBA can craft an email using all of the student concerns, etc. and pass along to the Deans.

c) SBA - PLEASE POST ISSUES / CONCERNS ON TWEN!!!

(1) Reality is that no matter what system Deans choose, someone is going to be affected.

(a) Everything has pros/cons.

(b) We want to make sure that Dean Smith hears the student opinions.

(2) SBA can't make decisions but we can make student voices heard.

5. Claire - right now, there are 85 students enrolled on the TWEN page.

a) Need to send out an email that this is here so that people can / should join!!

b) Jacob - **SBA → send an email out about TWEN in 1-2 days**

V. Money (Jacob)

A. We have a lot of money and no events.

B. Doesn't need to be the #1 issue (that is currently grading). There will be a TWEN page on this later to discuss and vote.

C. Reminder- this SBA's original goals (August 2019) -

1. Respectful and open environment
2. SBA is more accessible and visible
3. Representing DU inwardly and outwardly
4. Health and wellness of our law students
5. Leaving SBA better than we found it

D. **Current amount in the SBA account is about \$45,000.**

1. Three categories to think about:

a) Things to do for the current Student Body

- (1) Ex: supplies (paper towels)
- (2) Basically the NOW, this school year!
- b) Things we can do for the future Student Body
 - (1) Donate to the scholarship?
- c) Things we can do for the future SBA boards
 - (1) Supplies (pens, shirts, etc.)
 - (2) Shirts, etc.
- 2. Discussion
 - a) Kaley - are we freezing student org funding right now?
 - (1) Can orgs do anything with their money or is that going back in the SBA account?
 - (a) Timing of when?
 - (2) Chris - if the money was dispersed, the money would only come back to SBA at the end of the year (per regulations) and wouldn't come back to this year's SBA account.
 - (a) Orgs can still use their money to buy tablecloths, supplies, etc.
 - (3) Jacob - orgs can also use current funds if they want to pay for virtual events
- 3. **SBA** - GO TO TWEN. COMMENT / LEAVE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE THREE CATEGORIES!!

VI. Meeting Adjourned

A. Meeting adjourned at 5:49 PM on 3/18.