

SG Meeting Minutes 3/21/12
5-6:30pm

- Vote to approve last meeting's minutes
- Committee Reports:
 - USS check-in (Tabled for 3 meetings)
 - Onya (2L) Alternative USS rep
 - Three big things:
 - 1. State Dream Act support
 - 2. Pathways to Completion Program for community college students transferring to the CUNY system (debate on how much USS can engage the BoT)
 - 3. Vice chair for Intl Studies Prog (still undecided; works with BoT)
 - Question about how the representative might like SG to support them in their role. Ans: not much at this point; will continue to report. As Pathways to Completion discussion continues there may be ways to participate, however.
 - Question about Pathway program: concerns that the pathways program are not enforced. What will CUNY Central do if they don't adopt a curriculum? Ans: Unsure, but there was discussion about faculty who have issues with the limitations of the program. Not much input has been solicited. Ask again after next meeting!
 - EXTERNAL
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 - Curriculum Committee 3/7/12 Meeting (Claire & Colleen)
 - FAMILY LAW CONCENTRATION CANCELLATION!
 - LSA: Reserve Budget Allotments by Student Group
 - APALSA 265
 - BLSA 610
 - CAP 185
 - DVC 310
 - End of Year Party 2000
 - Iraqi Representation 300
 - Justice Basketball 70
 - LALSA 380
 - Law Review 70
 - Law Revue 190
 - Miss Project 150
 - PILA 210
 - SELSA 70
 - SG 190
 - Tech Fee Check-in (Daetan)

- Others?
 - INTERNAL
 - Best Practices Working Group (Moira, Mark, Dana)
 - Charles will head up new SG TWEN site with Garrett
 - Should be live by end of Spring Break
 - Hoping to do first poll up there.
 - Minutes up there.
 - Will be great!
 - Other reports?
 - Student Proposal (Sean Diller, 3L)--to auction off all items not moving to building as part of class gift, which would require mechanism by which to determine what's not moving to the other building, who owns it, & whether they still want it.
- **SG Proposals, RE: Student Union: Defining SG, roles of its members, purpose, and potential**
 - **April 5th proposal re: proposed amendments to SG Constitution at Student Forum, vote subsequent meeting - Franco**
 - **3 proposals: 2 constitutional amendments, 1 strategic proposal**
 - **Alex's proposal to devote time at student forum to allow people to present and discuss proposed amendments to the SG constitution.**
 - What is the role of SG and its members? What are our purpose and scope of responsibilities as a body?
 - liaisons between students and admin?
 - advocates for students?
 - What power do we currently have (as distinguished by what power we wish we had, or could someday have)?
 - How do we use the power we currently have to its full potential?
 - What are our definable short- and long-term goals?
 - How do we use our power to realistically reach these goals?
 - What does each committee do and how can we maximize power in those roles?
 - Just take notes or push for change?
 - How do we make decisions (vote or consensus, and when for each)?
 - How do we prioritize problems brought forth by students?
 - Do we cater to needs of certain student groups over others? If so, why?
 - What power do we actually have to even deal with student problems?
 - Who can propose amendments to SG constitution and when?
 - When do we send thank-you notes?
- Referendum is a very high bar with a low low turnout - although this is another option it is not realistic.
- Passed motion to: At the student forum we will add to the agenda (as SG) the amendments as a discussion item which the group can opt to discuss or not. Next meeting we will have a vote on the amendments.

- A student highly recommends a carrot to tempt our peers: a keg. And what better a carrot than that?

Family Law Clinic discussion

- Administrative and student concerns which were forwarded to the administrative resulted in an outright cancellation of the Family Law Concentration.
- Professor failed to provide doctrinal knowledge paralleled and encouraged student frustration about methodology.
- Student sees two options of a solution: 1) look over the current (ex) professor's shoulder which doesn't seem to be an effective solution, (2) different professor: Judge Hamill and Atty. Julie Goldscheid (Sue Bryant suggested, too, to general enthusiasm).
- Reasons for closing: short word from the administration was that the closing was in response to student feedback.
- Student encourages approaching the administration with suggestions - names and recommended professors (even approach these professors beforehand) - gain traction.
- History: the students had to fight for the Family Law Concentration after the closing of the Battered Women's Clinic. These clinics, which students come to CUNY in order to participate in, seem expendable according to action taken in spite of student interest.
- Request for support. Idea to put a clinic preference for "Family Law Concentration" as protest. Concerns: that students will be sequestered into their second choice or that by over-representing interest in the clinic students will be stuck with a clinic they don't want.
- Special faculty meeting for a vote
- Brittney, Kunal, Colleen want to help the effort!
- Question of how many students will indeed take the concentration: 5 for sure was mentioned, but general outrage seems to imply more.
- Student relates that students here have a reliance interest. Idea of compromise with the faculty to keep the concentration for 2 years and then PHASE OUT the concentration (as opposed to cutting it abruptly 2 weeks before students must submit their preference). Feels that the dean has made themselves extremely unavailable and, further, the chain of command is unclear - to whom do we go?!
- 12 credit concentration means we can't do advanced family law courses AND the bar classes on top of that. (Side note that DRL is available as a bar course).
- Suggestion: Co-teach by melding classes and clinic
- IDEA: canvas the 1L students as well. AND HIGH FIVES WERE GIVEN THAT DAY. AND IT WAS GOOD.

Steven's proposed resolution

- Require that the Family Law concentration be available for the next two years
- requirement of faculty/student ratio be 8:1 so family law concentration reso should include some language to the effect of "in accordance with the governance plan, the family law clinic shall have two or more instructors depending on the number of students enrolled in the clinic"
- Family Law concentration was a great answer to the closing of the battered women's

clinic.

- Great for the connections to the NY family law legal efforts; student would've taken the concentration again (in its regrettable state) if only for the contacts, internships, and good work.
- Resolution passed - Petition to Keep Family Law Concentration: <https://docs.google.com/open?id=0B2u3qLnLHocPQ0pwVy12dXRSOEdjVXFFampfaU5xZw>

- REMINDERS:
 - **SG-sponsored Peer-to-Peer Clinic/Concentration Talk is THIS THURSDAY SIT time, Cafeteria -- See Garrett, Colleen, or Franco to help**
 - **Spring Student Forum is April 5 (SIT) -- See Franco to help**
 - **Community Day is April 11 (ASL) or April 12 (SIT) -- See Moira to help**
 - **Deans Forum is April 19 (SIT) -- See Milo to help**