CUNY Law Student Government
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, Sept. 27, 2012
6:15-7:45

1. Call meeting to order
2. Vote to accept agenda for today's meeting Vote (14-0-0)
3. Vote to accept minutes from last meeting on Tuesday 9/11/2012 Vote (14-0-0)

4. Welcome and Introduction by Allie Robbins (5 mins)

5. SG Orientation (30 mins) -- Milo & Mark
(See the attached)

Discussion re Decision-Making Authority
- Roberts Rules
  - Formalized
  - Book available
- Concensus
  - Less formalized, but ability to block... agree to disagree
- Hybrid
  - To develop a mixed bag of nuts.
  - **Vote (23-0-1)**

6. Finalize Nominations for SG Officer Positions & External Committees (10 mins)

PRESIDENT
Mark Maher (2L)
Kunal Sharma (3L)
Garrett Kaske (3L)

VICE PRESIDENT
Cristina Castro (2L)
Warren Ritter (2L)
Greg Harris (3L)

SECRETARY
Garrett Kaske (3L)
Andrea Bible (2L)
Mark Maher (2L)

WHIP
Lino Diaz (1L)
Laila Saima Varcie (1L)
Greg Harris (3L)
Nora Cuddy (1L)

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (One student)
Ian G. Barnett (1L)
Milo Primeaux (3L)

Matt Grill (1L)
Somalia Samuel (2L)

ACADEMIC STANDING COMMITTEE (One 3L)
Noor Ahmad
Keriann Pauls

FACULTY COMMITTEE (One 1L)
Ian G. Barnett
Laila Saima Varcie
Matt Grill
Kimberly Juszczak
Lino Diaz

Sexual Harassment, Workplace Violence, Prevention of Domestic Violence, Campus Security,
ADA & Race Compliance Committee (Two active student reps + four contingents)
Caitlin Parton
Lindsay Cowen
Phil Ingram
Allen Shoikhetbrod
Phillip Raymond
James Chin
Sara Bovill
Rage Kidvai
Lauren Paulk
Andrea Sands
Zacarias Praino
Maggie Tran

7. Accessibility Meeting Update (5-10 minutes)
Discussion
- Update (Kunal & Greg)
    - Meetings held for past few weeks re accessibility. Met with Cheryl Howard, Allie Robbins, Steve Katz, Pat Kennedy.
    - Not fruitful. Hostile meetings and yelling.
    - Needs of students are not being met in this building, though they have been aware of this since the spring. (ADA related)
        - Number of proposed solutions from admin, but they have not been sufficient.
        - Students believe that the admin has disregarded their complaints and have not taken them seriously.
    - List of Asks
        - Doors are too heavy
            - Bathroom
            - Elevators area
        - Handicap Accessible Door is broken or under performs
        - Swipe Timing was too short
            - Steve Katz adjusted it from 5-12 (Not bad CUNY)
        - Notetaking
            - Notetaking is poor
            - One student does not have a notetaker

- ■ Lights are too low
  - ● can't read lips
- ○ ADA Compliance
  - ■ Admin does not acknowledge that the school is out of compliance. They get mad . . .
- ● Discussion
  - ○ Dean Anderson
    - ■ They are in the process of installing doors.
    - ■ Things are underway. Have not compiled list of problems.
    - ■ Acknowledged that she is having a meeting on Monday.
  - ○ Some things are beyond ADA compliance
    - ■ e.g. trainings for faculty
    - ■ Long struggle
  - ○ Students are not just struggling with academics, but also emotionally.
  - ○ What are the strategies?
    - ■ Outline:
      - ● Issues
      - ● Failures
      - ● Suggestions

8. Resolution Discussion and Possible Adoption (30 mins) (TABLED)
Discussion
- ● Considering Tabling as a strategy
- ● How to make the resolution a useful tool
- ● Proposal to put in on hold till next week.
- ● Mary Nevins is begining to connect with students
- ● Mass Mobilization is being discussed
- ● Lots of cameras here . . .
- ● Dean & Students Forum
- ● Andrea will be the point person for the resolution & its on google docs.

WHEREAS,

The administration of CUNY Law has failed to ensure that the design of 2 Court Square is accessible to all students;

This lack of accessibility creates a school environment that favors groups of some students over others;

CUNY Law is required to comply with and has violated the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) by

failing to ensure that the building construction was ADA compliant (e.g., non-functional accessible front doors; interior doors set at non-compliant levels of weight/pressure required to open) and failing to enact appropriate educational access plans for students with disabilities (e.g., remote captioning assistance; appropriate class note-taking assistance; lighting and microphone usage);

Be It Resolved That:

- Student Government calls on CUNY School of Law Administration, Faculty, Students, and Staff to collectively work to advance CUNY School of Law's dual mission of training public interest lawyers and increasing access to the legal profession

- To that end, Student Government works in solidarity with those whose access to CUNY School of Law is most restricted by CUNY Law's institutional policies, practices, and physical limitations and by oppressive social norms to reduce or eliminate barriers to access within CUNY School of Law.

This work to increase access to CUNY Law includes, but is not limited to:

- Eliminating barriers to access experienced by people with disabilities within the CUNY community, beyond minimal compliance with ADA requirements (e.g., being mindful of disabilities when creating room or office assignments for students and faculty, particularly concerning time scheduled between classes and proximity and design of classrooms; building in structures of accountability, awareness, and support among administration, faculty, staff, and students regarding educational access for students with disabilities; promoting institutional programming within the CUNY community regarding being effective allies to students, faculty, staff, administrators, and guests with disabilities)

- This includes ensuring that an ADA compliance officer evaluates 2 Court Square and CUNY Law's educational accessibility plans and that CUNY Law take immediate steps to ensure complete compliance with the ADA as required by law;

- Eliminating barriers to access to the building experienced by people who, for various reasons, do not have state-issued personal identification (e.g., people whose IDs are not affirming of their gender identities, people who are undocumented immigrants)

- Eliminating barriers to access to education that may be experienced by people who are current or former survivors of trauma (e.g., increasing awareness of ways to minimize the potentially harmful effects of reading or discussing cases where trauma is addressed; increasing awareness among students, faculty, staff, and administrators of ways to be more effective allies to trauma survivors; effectively communicating protocols for institutional responses to CUNY community members with ongoing safety concerns).

- Eliminating barriers to access created by various forms of institutional oppression (e.g., supporting anti-oppression programming for students, faculty, staff, and administrators to give people tools to address and resist racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ablism, xenophobia, classism, and other forms of oppression).

8. In re: Nikki Esposito (25 mins) (TABLED)
Discussion
- Will be circulated in a fresh email
- What the admin did and doing is okay (law) but wrong (values)

9. Student Forum & Deans Forum Formats (10 mins) (TABLED)

10. Close meeting

Student Government Orientation
...or How I Learned How to Stop Worrying and Love Procedural Limitations

WHAT IS STUDENT GOVERNMENT?
The Student Government (SG) acts as an independent mechanism for unified student action and a voice for academic, government, political and social concerns. The general purpose of SG is to serve as a focal point for organizing the collective power and interests of the entire CUNY Law student body – over 400 students, all with a demonstrated commitment to justice and the service of human needs – in order to address the issues that matter most to students. SG bears a general responsibility to deliberate and act upon matters of obvious serious interest to the student community; it also has a responsibility to set an agenda which is at once proactive and responsive to student interests.

HOW DOES SG WORK?
- SG meets weekly or biweekly to talk about and do things related to student needs

- We can follow one of two categorical decision-making models:
  1. Robert's Rules Parliamentary Decision-Making; OR
  2. Consensus Model ("majority" decision-making with notable reservations on those who agree to disagree)

- SG hosts at least one Deans Forum and one Student Forum per year, preferably one or more of each per semester. The purpose of these forums is to provide a space for students to speak candidly with one another about issues faced by community members and the student body as a whole, and to have the direct attention of the deans to communicate these issues.

- SG has helped coordinate staff appreciation days, which occur once a semester.

- SG also organizes and hosts Community Day, held at the end of the second semester

- Sg hosts the student-only clinic fair

- SG drafts and adopts resolutions and creates petitions that help to hold the faculty and the administration accountable. The specific nature of these projects depend on the concerns that are brought to SG by the student body.

- SG members also serve on a number of important internal and external committees

INTERNAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS
- **Budget & Finance Committee**
- **Office and Records Management Committee**
- **Communications Committee**
- **Polling Committee**
- **Academic Affairs Committee**
- **CUNITY Committee**

- **SG Steering Committee (all officers and internal committee chairs)**

EXTERNAL COMMITTEE POSITIONS
- **Academic Standing (two 3L students)**
- **Admissions and Admissions Policy (2+ students)**
- **Art Committee (# students unspecified-- currently 2 students)**
- **Buildings Committee (# students unspecified-- currently not in operation)**
- **Committee on Committees (1 student)**
- **Curriculum Committee (2 students)**
  - Plus numerous subcommittees that are open to student involvement.
- **Faculty (3 students, 1 from each class)**
- **Student-Faculty Disciplinary Committee**
- **Law School Association (6 students, 2 from each class)**
- **Personnel & Budget Committee (one 2L or 3L):** *Reviews applications for appointments and reappointments, and makes recommendations*
- **Sexual Harassment, Workplace Violence, Prevention of Domestic Violence, Campus Security, ADA & Race Compliance (Two active student reps + Four contingency reps)**
- **Student Scholarship (2 students -- activity unknown)**
- **Sustainability Council (# students unspecified -- activity unknown)**
- **Technology Fee (2 students -- activity unknown):** *Reviews policies and procedures, gathers information and makes recommendations concerning the technological concerns of the school*

SOUNDS GREAT...WHAT'S THE CATCH?
We have to be organized!