

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING
MINUTES- November 2, 2008
Taken by Kat Allen, Secretary

I. Attendance

Name	Position	Present (P)/ Excused (E)/Unexcused (U)	Proxy	Total Unexcused
Derek Steele (DS)	President	P		
Veronica Lopez (VL)	Vice President Day	P		
Nick Mowbray (NM)	Vice President Eve.	P		
Andrew Heap (AH)	Treasurer	P		
Kat Allen (KA)	Secretary	P		
Kristina Kirby (KK)	ABA Rep.	E	Andrew Heap	
Courtney Smith (CS)	ISBA Rep.	P		1
Jeremy Hagee (JH)	CBA Rep.	P		1
Walter Tersch (WT)	4L Eve. Rep.	P		
Adam Savin (AS)	3L Day Rep.	P		1
Sulema Medrano (SM)	3L Day Rep.	U		1
Brian Reidy (BR)	3L Day Rep.	P		
Joe Sirchio (JS)	3L Eve. Rep.	P		
Michael Elliott (ME)	2L Day Rep.	U		1
Chuck Prochaska (CP)	2L Day Rep.	P		

Jennifer Maples (JM)	2L Day Rep.	P		
Melissa Caballero (MC)	2L Day Rep.	E	Chuck Prochaska	
Rachel O’Konis (RO)	2L Eve. Rep.	P		
Prati Khanduri (PK)	2L Eve. Rep.	P		
Lauren Ortega (LO)	1L Day Rep. (A)	P		1
Mark Mazzone (MM)	1L Day Rep. (A)	P		
Raed Abboo (RA)	1L Day Rep. (B)	P		
Diana Rdzanek (DR)	1L Day Rep. (B)	P		
Jaelyn Hilderbrand(JH)	1L Day Rep. (C)	P		
Mark Silverman (MS)	1L Day Rep. (C)	P		
Megan Wagner (MW)	1L Day Rep.	P		
Pericles Abbasi (PA)	1L Day Rep.	P		

- II. Approve minutes from October 5, 2008
 - a. Motion to vote, second.
 - b. Unanimously approved.
- III. President Report: Derek Steele
 - a. Kent Bar Passage Rate
 - i. Overall Pass Rate: Kent 93%, Statewide 88%
 - ii. This is the highest pass rate Kent has ever had
 - iii. Pass this on to potential Kent Students.
 - b. Committee Projects: Keep updates on track.
 - c. Dean Kent Review Committee
 - i. Students can still submit comments about Dean Krent
 - ii. If so, email to studentdeanreview@kentlaw.edu
 - d. SBA Funding Request: Make sure to use the correct forms.
- IV. Vice President Report: Veronica Maldonado
 - a. Blood Drive
 - i. Thursday, November 13, 2008
 - ii. Goal is to have 75 people sign up so we can use 50 people’s blood

V. Secretary

a. New feedback address: SBA feedback @kentlaw.edu

VI. Treasurer: Andrew Heap

a. Supplemental Funding Requests

i. IP Law: Appealing \$200 amount we approved to them due to cost of Speaker's transportation: Flight and transport from airport.

1. Representative, Alan is here to speak for IP Law Society wants us to approve the request because speaker is important
2. CP: Do we have extra money?
3. AH: Yes, we have plenty of money to spend right now: about \$20,000 extra.
4. WT: Are we allowed to cover transportation costs in financial code?
5. AH: Yes.

ii. CASCLE: Appeals \$400 to local park with no explanation.

1. They gave more information: 34 LLM and JD students want to visit state capital in Springfield and other state gov't sites
2. Costs: \$864 total; asking for \$400 defrayed by dues.
3. NM: Talked to Gareth Gollrad, the president and it seemed like a good way to introduce the members to the culture here.
4. VM: Was there a breakdown b/t LLM and JD students?
5. AH: No, there was no breakdown, though he provided much documentation.
6. BR: Does not think we should set the precedent for after-the-fact funding.
7. VM: Thinks the after-the-fact funding was a result of the budgeting process and not the fault of CASCLE
8. AH: We chose not to fund it because they did not have an adequate description/details.
9. MM: We gave them \$460.
10. RO: Maybe we should bring down the number some because that is what we did with other groups.
11. AH: Recommends that we give them the full amount. They got a lot of participation, advertised to Kent students and are only asking for half of the amount spent.
12. VM: How many people attended?
13. AH: Thirty are listed as attended.
14. Motion to vote to give the full \$400:
 - a. 22 in favor
 - b. 1 opposed

- c. 1 abstention (LO)
- d. Passed to give them \$400.

15. Motion to vote for IP law society to give them \$314 for transportation costs:

- a. 24 in favor
- b. 0 opposed
- c. 1 abstention (LO)
- d. Passed to give the full \$314.

iii. Funding Request form AH: People need to use the correct funding request form which he sent out to the student organization presidents.

VII. Barrister's Ball Update: Derek Steele: The committee will be taste-testing soon for the ball.

VIII. Social: Adam Savin

- a. On the 6th is the Conviser Bash at Le Passage
- b. Next Social will be on the 20th at Crème
- c. Taking suggestions for locations for next social: around \$9000
- d. Also looking into non-alcoholic events
- e. DS: There is a conflict of events with KJF's annual wine event from 4:30 to 8:30pm at Kent and the Conviser Bash just so people know.
- f. KJF Representative: Wants to know if there is a way to coordinate the two events because it is going to hurt their event. Is there any way to incentivize going to both? Possibly getting a discount on the second event if they attend both?
- g. AS: The events do not overlap and we have to work around Conviser's schedule for this event. There might be some liability issues because both events involving alcohol.
- h. CS: Is the attendance at the wine event consistent?
- i. KJF Representative: Yes, there is usually 120-130 people. It is not our main fundraiser, the KJF auction in the spring is. It is not about the money so much as it is about raising their profile on campus. How can we avoid situations like this in the future?
- j. WT: Was it put on the student organization calendar?
- k. KJF Representative: It should have been placed on the calendar earlier.
- l. PA: Maybe we could give KJF additional funding for a different event?
- m. JF: Will this look like SBA is favoring KJF? Would we be having to conversation if it was a different group?
- n. KJF Representative: Thinks that because this is a fundraiser as opposed to a social, it should be given more consideration.
- o. DS: For the sake of time because we have feedback now we can discuss this after the meeting. Please stay if you feel strongly but we are not voting on it so we do not need to continue discussion.

- IX. Curriculum Committee: Rachel O’Konis
- a. Starting on their project which is looking into a Book Exchange Project so students could resell their books through Kent.
 - b. However, Dean Sowle said this was a violation of our contract with the bookstore.
 - c. ME: is on the curriculum committee. The exchange is on our website and we cannot do anything with books but maybe we could do it for other things.
 - d. AH: What is the set-up for the exchange right now?
 - e. RO: It is currently not being used for anything but it has to functionality for something like this.
 - f. LO: Thinks this is more trouble than it is worth and we do not want to interfere with the bookstore at all.
 - g. RO: See RO if any more thoughts.
 - h. This committee is also looking into Legal Writing issues
 - i. Wants to meet with the LW committee to discuss issues.
 - ii. Any thoughts?
 - iii. NM: In favor of the idea.
 - iv. MW: Brings up the trade-off between too much work for 1Ls and having a good LW program. Is it worth our time to pursue this to possibly reduce the workload a little.
 - v. LO: It is difficult but thinks it will essentially be beneficial.
 - vi. BR: Agrees that we should not sacrifice our program at all.
 - vii. JH: A lot of people complained in her section about the range of grades.
 - viii. RO: We talked to LW professors about standardization.
 - ix. DR: Wants to bring up the statutory research assignment timing; thinks assignment would be helpful for the memorandum.
 - x. VM: Where did these issues come from?
 - xi. RO: The committee brainstormed these issues.
 - xii. ME: He brought up this idea because on the ABA committee they are trying to come up with events to handle stress. He thinks it makes more sense to deal with the source of stress: the workload.
 - xiii. CP: Does not think the other schools press so hard in LW for first year students. Is our program good or over the top? As opposed to cutting the work down, we could just put more weight on LW 1 and 2.
 - xiv. RA: Does not think the work is overwhelming. Thinks more help with TAs and professors would be helpful. Thinks the classes should be smaller.
 - xv. DS: Direct other comments to RO.
- X. New Business:
- a. ELSS: Tamara Starks present.
 - b. Co-sponsored Kids Korner Book Drive which brought in over 500 books

- c. Thanks for the support SBA
 - d. Issues that came up:
 - i. Evening students want to do something with the student lounge so it is not an extension of the library but actually a lounge.
 - 1. Wants to improve the lounge with new furniture.
 - 2. DS: Table has been ordered but is on hold. We are looking into identifying a space that is student-friendly. 84% of those that applied want an area that is not for studying and just a lounge. If results lean toward the student lounge being a common area space, we will rededicate that area for a student lounge. This depends on the surveys and once we get more feedback it will be discussed here.
 - 3. TS: ELSS can donate board games or something like that to help.
 - ii. Also Yoga for students
 - 1. ELSS has contacts for this
 - 2. DS has identified space for this to work, we are working on this now.
 - iii. Complaints in Spak
 - 1. Complaints about no hot meals and salad bar
 - 2. ELSS is planning a meeting with the Spak to resolve any further issues
 - 3. Email: Tstarks@kentlaw.edu with issues about Spak.
- XI. Speaker's Program
- a. ME: Wants to thank people for volunteering to help with the Speaker's programs.
 - b. CP: Happy with how things went and people knew SBA was involved. Chicago council of lawyers wants us to join. He will bring forms to sign up for next meeting.
- XII. ABA: Derek Steele for Kristina Kirby
- a. They are having a canned food drive November 10th through 25th.
 - b. More info via email; look out for that
 - c. As representatives, get your sections involved.
 - d. If you have any ideas to get people to bring cans, tell Kristina.
- XIII. Old Business
- XIV. New Business: Derek Steele
- a. Future SBA Speakers: We want to bring well-known speakers to Kent to boost our legal reputation like Supreme Court Justices. Ideas:
 - i. PA: 7th Circuit Judges?
 - ii. JS: What about the State's Attorney: Fitzgerald
 - iii. CP: Thinks we need to make more of an effort to make sure prominent speakers, no matter what affiliation, are invited to Kent.

- iv. RA: Also thinks our events should be open to other law schools.
 - v. BR: We should work our professor connections here to get speakers. Some professors here clerked for Supreme Court Justices. Thinks we need to do something outside of regular emails to let people know that someone big is coming.
 - vi. DR: Thinks if our professor endorsed the speakers, more people would come. Getting the professors on board would be a good way to gain interest.
 - vii. PA: The 1Ls can speak to their sections.
 - viii. ME: Is the Speakers Chair; let him know if you have connections.
- b. Technology Concerns: Mark Silverman
- i. Has been emailing a lot but still has not got much accomplished.
 - ii. He will continue with this and let him know if there are any problems.
 - iii. There is now Mac Support but you need to have Windows on it and cannot take exams on a Mac.
- c. Faculty Appreciation Breakfast: Jaclyn Hilderbrand
- i. Went well, make a good relationship with Einstein Bagels.
 - ii. Made a good impression with staff and faculty.
 - iii. Thanks to 1Ls for putting that together.
- d. Non-alcoholic social: Derek Steele
- i. This will likely not happen until next semester
- XV. New Business: Derek Steele
- a. Funding Fundraisers
- i. Should SBA be providing these funds when the funds ultimately go back to the organizations?
 - ii. This was an issue last year, is it this year?
 - iii. JH: Thinks capping it is a good idea.
 - iv. NM: Wants to know what organizations are doing with profits.
 - v. DS: The concern is that student orgs can collect a lot of money that we do not regulate.
 - vi. RO: How much of an issue is this?
 - vii. AH: Thinks this more comes with frustration in past years.
 - viii. RO: Are we preempting a future problem?
 - ix. CP: Is there a way to set it up like a loan so they pay us back for what we fund them.
 - x. JS: Thinks it is ok that we do not regulate these funds.
 - xi. ME: Do we have an idea whether the fundraisers are making more money than we are giving them?
 - xii. AH: We have no idea.
 - xiii. KJF Representative: We use extra funds fellowships.

- xiv. CP: They should be turning profits; that's the idea of a fundraiser.
- xv. KJF Fundraiser: How many fundraisers are there?
- xvi. AH: A lot of organizations do this.
- xvii. DS: Some of the concern has been alleviated because now all student organizations have to have an IIT account.
- xviii. ME: Can we just ask them if they think they will make money of it and if they have a history of not making money, get rid of them.
- b. Conference funding: Andrew Heap/Derek Steele
 - i. AH: wants feedback on the \$1000 cap on conferences for student organizations.
 - ii. DS: We has discussion on this last year and there were concerns that student organizations were taking these funds and not providing any benefit to the student body with SBA money.
 - iii. AH: Another idea last year was having people fill out papers to account for the conference.
 - iv. CP: Thinks that the cap should be lower to deter people from trying.
 - v. RO: We wanted to cap it to keep it uniform among the students organizations.
 - vi. AS: Does not want to discourage people from going to conferences. Can we have a website where they report on the conferences?
 - vii. DS: In the handbook there is a requirement that people write an article in The Commentator which has not been enforced.
 - viii. VM: Does not think that cap should be so low to discourage students from attending conference because it can help get out Kent's name.
 - ix. WT: Thinks we should enforce the Commentator requirement.
 - x. AH: People can still lie about what happened. But maybe that will happen no matter what.
 - xi. ME: The committee has the appropriate discretion to decide whether to give the money or not and that is enough of a measure to take.

XVI. Open Floor/ Announcements

- a. DS: December 5th there will be no meeting however we reserve that time for any emergency that may come up. Does not anticipate using this time.
- b. DS: Next meeting is February 1st 2009.
- c. CP: Remember to vote.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 pm.