

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION MEETING
MINUTES- September 7, 2008
Taken by Kat Allen, Secretary

I. Attendance

Name	Position	Present (P)/ Excused (E)/Unexcused (U)	Proxy	Total Unexcused
Derek Steele	President	P		
Veronica Lopez	Vice President Day	E		
Nick Mowbray	Vice President Eve.	P		
Andrew Heap	Treasurer	P		
Kat Allen	Secretary	P		
Kristina Kirby	ABA Rep.	P		
Courtney Smith	ISBA Rep.	U		1
Jeremy Hagee	CBA Rep.	P		
Walter Tersch	4L Eve. Rep.	P		
Adam Savin	3L Day Rep.	E		
Sulema Medrano	3L Day Rep.	E		
Brian Reidy	3L Day Rep.	P		
Joe Sirchio	3L Eve. Rep.	P		
Michael Elliot	2L Day Rep.	P		
Chuck Prochaska	2L Day Rep.	P		
Jennifer Maples	2L Day Rep.	P		
Melissa Caballero	2L Day Rep.	P		
Rachel O'Konis	2L Eve. Rep.	P		

Prati Khanduri	2L Eve. Rep.	P		
Lauren Ortega	1L Day Rep. (A)	P		
Mark Mazzone	1L Day Rep. (A)	P		
Raed Abboo	1L Day Rep. (B)	P		
Diana Rdzanek	1L Day Rep. (B)	P		
Jaelyn Hilderbrand	1L Day Rep. (C)	P		
Mark Silverman	1L Day Rep. (C)	P		
Megan Wagner	1L Day Rep.	P		
Pericles Abbasi	1L Day Rep.	P		

- II. Approve minutes from last meeting
 - a. Tabled to the next meeting
 - b. KA will print out for next meeting
- III. Introductions
 - a. Student organization heads are allowed to attend our meetings
 - b. The Kent Justice Society President is present
 - c. The CASCLE president also present
- IV. Open Positions
 - a. We are not going to fill them at this time
 - b. Laura Tennison stepped down from 3L Representative Position
- V. Committees
 - a. One issue is that some of the committees are not used
 - b. Now each committee will have a specific project
 - c. Once committees are finalized DS will meet with them to make a plan for each committee
- VI. ABA Conference
 - a. DS went to ABA conference in New York along with AH and KK
 - b. DS passed around assembly – there were no issues that affected Kent directly
 - i. Vote on law schools being able to offer a bar preparation course for credit
 - ii. We voted that we did not want to make it a mandatory course
- VII. Faculty Meeting on August 26th
 - a. There are 231 students this fall
 - b. Banner System: There have been many issues with this system

- i. The administration is working on fixing this system
- ii. Let classmates know that they should be using their professors for connections to make jobs
- iii. Kent dropped from 60 to 66 in the US and World Report Rankings
- iv. There has been a proposal to coming the full time and part time statistics
 - v. Dean Krent is working with other schools on this issue
 - vi. Chicago-Kent is not in favor of combining the two
 - vii. JS: We dropped 10 spots in another ranking
 - viii. ME: Wants to know what our role is as SBA members

VIII. SBA's Role at Chicago-Kent

- a. DS: SBA's main goal is to be the voice for our student body and we need to be accountable for what we do in SBA
 - i. Goals
 - 1. Be dedicated to you position
 - 2. This 1L Election had at least 18 people run for 8 positions which is the largest number we have had in years
 - 3. Be organized
 - 4. New Ideas
 - 5. Be accountable for our actions
 - ii. AH: The biggest thing is attendance and to show up to vote.
 - iii. KK: We can't vote if people are not here.
 - iv. JH: Thinks people are more in it this year and that attendance will be better.

IX. Book Exchange

- a. Go to this link to exchange books
- b. <http://library.kentlaw.edu/bookexchange/login.asp>
- c. Need to look into whether the book exchange will interfere with the book store, this will be assigned to a committee
- d. MM: His undergrad school has both the exchange and bookstore and it worked fine
- e. Kent Justice Foundation President: They have a lot of books they were going to sell at their bake sales, wanted to check if that was going to be a problem
 - i. DS does not foresee a problem with this

X. Office Hours

- a. AH: Tabled to AH's section

XI. New Student Organizations

- a. Health Law Society
- b. Sports and Entertainment Society
- c. Education Law Society
 - i. Petitioning for recognition from SBA

- ii. This would allow them to receive funding for activities
 - iii. We will be voting on this later.
 - d. All of these have taken the steps to be active this year
 - e. After one year, they will be a permanent societies
- XII. Vice President Evening-Nick Mowbray
 - a. Student Book Drive through the Lake County Courthouse
 - i. Ask students to bring in children's books
 - ii. Tell other students to bring in their books
 - b. Committee Chairs
 - i. Constitution requires that that chairs pick their own committees
 - ii. Everyone got in their top couple choices
 - iii. Made a spreadsheet so you can see if wants to be on which committee
 - iv. RO: How many people are on committees and is their interest for all the committees?
 - v. NM: Yes there was interest for all the committees
 - vi. NM: He will send out spreadsheet but chairs are free to do as they please
 - vii. VL is not present, she is on her honeymoon
 - c. Barristers Ball is set for Saturday, April 4th, 2009
 - i. Unfortunately for 1Ls it is the weekend of oral argument
 - ii. Description of law week for the 1Ls
 - iii. We are in the early stages of planning law week
- XIII. Treasurer-Andrew Heap
 - a. Budget Issues Last Year
 - b. He has been fielding questions from student organizations
 - c. Tell students to contact AH if they have questions
 - d. Bottom line is that budget must be turned in two weeks
 - i. September 19th is the firm deadline
 - e. Committee: AH needs two IL Representatives to be on the committee
 - i. See him after meeting if interested
 - f. Committee Commentator article
 - i. In the past the President has submitted an article saying what SBA is doing.
 - ii. AH suggests each committee chair write a small section about what they are doing to replace the commentator article
 - 1. This way the SBA is accountable.
 - 2. This is not in the constitution but Ah hopes that we can come to an agreement about this and participate in.
 - 3. DS: wants to open this up for feedback,
 - 4. DS: Not every chair will have to write a blurb every month, just when they are being active

5. BR: thinks this is a great idea and hearing the same voice every week, the students stop listening.
6. NM: He thinks that it should not be every month
7. AH: He was prompted to do this because he was on the speaker committee which did not ever host a speaker last year and thinks this will prevent that problem.
8. RO: Thinks that there should be firm deadlines for this would be helpful.

g. Office Hours

- i. Students last year could not get a hold of officers and thinks setting up office hours for all the SBA officers each week that this would avoid these problems
- ii. ME: How often?
- iii. AH: Once a week for an hour or two.
- iv. DS: This is not mandatory and is just a suggestion and realizes we are all busy
 1. This is because there were major issues last year that were crucial to SBA
 2. DS will have office hours on Wednesdays from 5-6:30 p.m.
 3. This is something we will be discussing.
 4. MC: Is it possible for the 2L representatives to sent out their information on a List serve?
 5. DS: He does not think there is a list serve for this but he will look into it.
 6. ME: Thinks this is a good idea but making the officers do it every week is excessive. Maybe we can have a time that SBA officers can be available in the SBA office to cut down the time.
 7. BR: You can do work in the SBA office in addition and does not think that an hour a week is too much to ask especially since approachability was an issue last year.
 8. CP: Do we have to vote on this?
 9. DS: There is no vote, this is just a suggestion and something we will be discussion. Let students know he will be available one Wednesdays from 5-6:30.
 10. DR: Dean Sowle will let us know when there is a 1L listserve.

XIV. Barristers Ball: Derek Steele

- a. SM is absent today but she is the chair for Barristers Ball
- b. The ball will be April 5th at the Field Museum
- c. We have the entire venue
- d. It is a sit down dinner catered by blue plate.

- e. Ticket Price is \$55 per ticket
 - f. It will be a flat price this year.
 - g. AH: BB committee has done a great job so far.
 - h. Currently we are working on the menu and getting a DJ.
 - i. We changed the date to April 4th because someone stole our original date which was the Saturday before.
 - j. NM: In addition the legal writing classes just released the state.
 - k. CP: Are the bathrooms inside this year?
 - l. DS: Yes, they are inside this year. We used to hold BB at the field museum.
 - m. There is currently a cap of 500 people but there is a small chance that we came move it up to 600.
 - n. DS will forward the email from SM so we can have the information to pass on to other students.
- XV. Social Chair-Adam Savin
- a. AS is not present, DS will speak for him
 - b. The Dean Sowle Social went well
 - c. we covered out costs so it was a success
 - d. AS will give an update with more concrete numbers.
- XVI. Election Committee: Brian Reidy
- a. It was a success
 - b. Thanks to everyone who helped, it was appreciated and a success.
 - c. There were 20 candidates this year
 - d. Thanks to ME for helping and making announcements to the classes.
 - e. DS: Thanks to Brian for his hard work and for making a 1L process. We did not have a 1L process until this year.
 - f. CP: The ballots were confusing if there can be instructions at the table.
 - g. DS: There were some things still that need to me modified.
 - h. ME: Going to the different sections really helped out and in the future we should be doing this as well for every election.
 - i. MS: The information for elections should be released earlier.
 - j. JH: It would be a good idea to post the information on a bulletin board.
 - k. BR: He wants to get together with the 1Ls to make the election better.
 - l. JH: It would be helpful to know what SBA was in addition so people would know what they were getting involved with.
 - m. MS: They did not get the email until after the petitions were due.
 - n. BR: He will work on changing the process email DS or BR about
- XVII. ABA: Kristina Kirby
- a. This year the ABA is pushing mental health issues
 - b. 20-40% of law students suffer from depression.

- c. Lawyers rank the highest in depression for occupation and have high suicide rates.
- d. Thinks the SBA should address this and that with our open bar functions we should keep this in mind.
- e. Wants us to try to foster healthier ways to de-stress.
- f. Kent gives more money for alcohol than other schools.
- g. She will pass out papers to look at that have ideas to combat this problem.
- h. DS: There is a counselor on campus here that is open to Kent students
- i. RO: Thinks we should mention this around finals time.
- j. ME: You can reserve a room in the library for meditation or prayer. He thinks we should reserve a room for not studying that is a “relaxing room.”
- k. JH: Thinks this is a good idea and that we should promote that.
- l. DS: Two years ago there was a survey that was focused on this issue that dies off due to an administration change.
- m. NM: Thinks we should have one social event that is not at a bar or is non-alcohol related.
- n. BR: That is a good idea but that the message should be expressed.
- o. RO: Agrees and does not attend socials because she does not drink and thinks this is a great idea.
- p. PA: What are these social events?
- q. DS: We have 3 socials a semester. There was interest in a fourth and possibly a non-alcoholic event in place of the fourth social. We earmark \$9,000.00 for socials and then make up the rest in ticket sales which are \$5 per student. We have one of the largest budgets in the country. We are currently in good shape with the budget.
- r. WT: We should have food at the events to encourage more students to attend.
- s. Another issue the ABA is pushing is helping veterans
 - i. Many are homeless and have issues getting healthcare benefits
 - ii. We could put together brochures or possibly have a legal clinic to help them out.

XVIII. Old Business- None

XIX. New Business

- a. SBA Open Positions already discussed
- b. New Student Organization Approval
 - i. Must submit proposal to the President
 - ii. Must have a faculty advisor, constitution and a board.
 - iii. Once recognized, they can get funding.
 - iv. Education Law Student Society
 - 1. Will focus on careers in Education law.
 - 2. They have performed all of these steps.

3. Vote: 23 Votes for, None opposed, none abstained.
 4. Now the ELSS is recognized.
 - v. The Sports and Entertainment Law Society and APALSA are now active to and do not need to vote.
- XX. IL Orientation
- a. DS wants 1Ls to stay to talk with him.
- XXI. Faculty Appreciation breakfast.
- a. This is something 1Ls do in the fall
 - b. DS will talk to 1Ls more about this after the meeting.
- XXII. SBA Gathering-Chuck Prochaska
- a. Thinks we need to have a board member gathering for everyone to get together.
 - b. Wants to get some money for food maybe at Cactus or Plymouth this Friday
 - c. JH: Knows the manager and can get a discount possibly.
 - d. No objections to this time or idea.
 - e. CP will let us know about it later this week.
- XXIII. Committees
- a. NM will email us about committees.
- XXIV. Open Floor announcements
- a. DS met with the cafeteria and we are looking into getting the vending machines to use a debit card.
 - b. Cafeteria will now offer Splenda.
 - c. There will also be an un-cola option in the machine.
 - d. If there is anything you want in the cafeteria, they are open to suggestions and talk to them.
 - e. RO: Evening LSS has issues with cafeteria, who should they talk to?
 - f. DS: They can talk to DS about it. Also, we are looking into after-hours food.
 - g. DS: We are also looking into a card option, where you can load money on the card to use in the cafeteria.
 - h. Next meeting is Sunday October 5th at 5pm.
 - i. WT: Can we change the meeting time to 4pm?
 - j. DS: Next meeting will be at 5pm and it will be on the agenda to discuss at the next meeting.
 - k. 1Ls are concerned about meetings before Memorandums are due.
 - l. DS: It is in the constitution to have meetings the first Sunday of every month. It is one meeting a month, so we should budget are time accordingly.
 - m. CP: Motion to adjourn. Seconded.