LSU Student Bar Association

Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2023 at 7:15 pm

Via Zoom



1. Call to Order at 7:20 pm
2. Roll Call
   1. Neyah Johnson – Executive President
   2. Lance Harvey – Executive Vice President
   3. Autumn White – Executive Secretary
   4. Andrew Hughes – Executive Treasurer
   5. Summer Whittington – Executive Director of Programming
   6. Ryan York – 3L Class President
   7. Connor McCain – 3L Class Vice President
   8. Mckenna Dorais – 3L Class Secretary
   9. Catherine Rutherford – 3L Class Representative
   10. Lindsey Tizzard – 3L Class Representative
   11. Alaysia Johnson – 2L Class President
   12. Mekkah Husamadeen – 2L Class Vice President
   13. Mary Burchill – 2L Class Secretary
   14. Ansley Sumner – 2L Class Representative
   15. Diamond McCray – 2L Class Representative
   16. Matthew Smith – 1L Class President
   17. Drake Brignac – 1L Class Vice President
   18. Hunter Reinhardt – § 1-1L Class Representative
   19. Eric Roshak – § 2-1L Class Representative
   20. Emmanuel Pressley – § 3-1L Class Representative
   21. Sigrid Soetaert – LLM Representative
3. Public Input
   1. Mekkah suggested that BLSA and SBA put together in partnership a “fireside chat” with the new dean to kind of introduce her to us and give her an idea of the needs of the students before she officially starts in July.
4. Funding Requests (3L President)
   1. Federalist Society
      1. The LSU Law Federalist Society Presents: "303 Creative v. Elenis and the No-Compelled Speech Doctrine: A SCOTUS Preview" with Professor Richard Duncan. This event is going to consist of a guest speaker presenting on the topic of "303 Creative v. Elenis and the No-Compelled-Speech Doctrine: A SCOTUS Preview.” There will also be a Q&A session after the presentation. This event is open for any law student to attend, not just club members. The event (starting at 12:00) does overlap slightly with SAL’s meeting, but it is not an issue.
      2. Location still being determined. Requesting Chick-Fil-A in the amount of $139.50. Expecting about 40 people to be there.
         1. Motion to expend up to $139.50 on Chick-Fil-A for the Federalist Society's No-Compelled Speech Doctrine Event.
         2. Seconded by Hunter.
         3. Motion passes unanimously.
5. Reading, Correction, and Adoption of the February 13, 2023 Minutes:
   1. **Motion** to adopt by Autumn.
   2. Seconded by Diamond.
   3. Motion passes unanimously, minutes are adopted.
6. Committee Reports
   1. Academics Committee – Chair & Vice-Chair: Amberlee Nix; Ann Marie Rome
   2. Athletics Committee – Chair: Coleton Guidry
   3. Community and Media Committee – Co-Chairs: Emily Fields; Kerry Steen
   4. Diversity and Professionalism Committee – Chair: Renae Pierre
   5. Elections Committee – Commissioner: Evan Gaudet
      1. Spring Election Dates:
         1. March 13: Make announcement regarding spring elections.
         2. March 22 at 5pm: Candidates must submit their statements of candidacy.
         3. March 25 at 11:59 pm: Candidates must submit their videos.
         4. March 30 – 31: Elections will take place.
         5. April 3: Announce winner of the election.
         6. April 4 – 5: Run-off election, if needed.
         7. April 10: Announce winner of the run-off election.
   6. Safety, Sensitivity & Sustainability Committee – Chair: Rubenie Stimphill
   7. Student Technology Fee Committee – Chair: Bryton Clark
7. Executive Officer Reports
   1. President
      1. Graduation Regalia:
         1. Neyah completed the form for SBA cords using the color silver. She will let everyone know once we are approved for that. I'm working to get more information on when orgs will know their cord request is approved so that they can begin ordering so stay tuned for that.
            1. Dean Henry is the one who is approving these requests, so once he gets through those and approves them, he is going to email the colors/organizations.
            2. Once we have approval of our cords, we will then talk about price and ordering those. Probably will be about $3 a cord.
      2. Transition Packets:
         1. Please start working on your transition packets. I know it's early but they take time and election packets will be going out March 13. I would like everyone to have their transition packets done by the last SBA meeting.
      3. Discussion of Situation & Steps Forward re: Director of Programming
         1. Ethics Committee’s Current Opinion on Resignation & Discussion:
            1. Neyah: Dean Carroll, Dean Henry, and our Ethics Committee chairman, Joshua Campessi, have been made aware of the situation. Dean Henry, Joshua, and I met to discuss the best way to move forward on this. At this point, Summer has not officially resigned from her position as Director of Programming since it was never sent to me directly and was not formal. She was asked to officially resign, but she has said she does not want to do that. The current language of the constitution requires a resignation for automatic removal from office. In the case of no resignation, there’s the impeachment process or a recall. The grounds for impeachment per our constitution are ailing to perform the duties of the office, fraud, theft, or malfeasance in office. Because she hasn’t officially resigned, the Ethics Committee chairman, in reviewing our constitutional language, does not feel like we have adequate grounds to impeach her. Since we’ve never really had this happen before, and because the constitution as written now is a little vague with some gaps, like the situation we are in now, we may want to amend the language to clarify for the future.
            2. Mary: What are the impeachment grounds, if not what she did?
            3. Autumn: I think that’s why we would need a constitutional amendment.
            4. Diamond: What’s considered an official resignation if not missing more than two meetings and leaving the GroupMe?
            5. Mary: Is she actually even wanting to return? I guess I am confused on that too.
            6. Neyah: Summer has expressed that she regrets what happened and that she wants to come back to SBA. Dean Henry, Lance, and I agreed that she should at least submit a public and formal apology about this before she is allowed back. We only have a few weeks left in the semester and our idea in that conversation was that this may be the best way forward because of the impeachment grounds issue and her lack of resignation.
            7. Alaysia: I definitely think we need to work together and amend it (the constitutional language) because I cannot take another year with no option to hold officers accountable.
            8. Emmanuel: I think that her behavior was a resignation. And even if not, she was in dereliction of her duties which is a ground for impeachment. Because we are about to go into the election season, I feel that it would be unnecessary and laborious to try to bring her back at this point.
            9. Drake: Couldn’t we present a case of malfeasance of office claim though? A wrongful, unlawful, or dishonest act or general misconduct?

Neyah: That definition is really referring to doing something illegal, so it doesn’t really fit our situation.

* + - * 1. Eric: It seems like the body can run, at least for six more weeks, even if she returns. What if Diamond and Summer just don’t attend meetings together?

Alaysia: No, Diamond shouldn’t have to leave. She didn’t embarrass all of SBA and resign publicly.

* + - * 1. Ansley: What are the odds that when she realizes most people think it’s better if we part ways that she’ll resign?
        2. Autumn: I think it’s kind of ridiculous that what she did doesn’t count as a resignation. I mean, she literally told the whole school that she wasn’t on SBA anymore, so I’m just confused how that isn’t a resignation. Just because she didn’t submit something on paper with a letter head doesn’t mean she didn’t resign. I mean, can’t we infer that she resigned based on her actions and like infer that as her intent? I get that she may feel regretful about what happened and want to come back, but I don’t see how that’s possible at this point or if it’s even worth the trouble considering how far we are into the semester.

Ansley: Agreed.

Diamond: Agree, she literally left the group.

Alaysia: And blocked people too. And how it appears to the school is also a concern of mine.

* + - * 1. Matthew: Personally, I feel that her actions have made me lose trust in her to perform her duties. What she did violated the mutual trust that we have amongst officers and as the governing body, and that loss of confidence is apparent. Also, allowing her to return after how she handled things may set a bad precedent because she would be allowed back with seemingly no consequences.

Ansley: I agree with Matt 100%.

Alaysia: I agree with Matt, it feels like we have no control of our org or accountability among members.

* + - * 1. Alaysia: It seems like we are majority on the same page. I don’t see why we accept this.
        2. Neyah: It seems like the option would be to institute the impeachment process, which requires that the Ethics Committee do a fact-finding process or trial before we can vote to impeach. I will have to discuss with our chairman to see what all that entails and requires from us.
        3. Eric: Is the leadership comfortable taking on her role? Who will plan GIFS?

Alaysia: Lindsey has been doing her role.

* + - * 1. Mckenna: Can we amend the constitution now?
        2. Diamond: I make the motion to move forward with the impeachment process.
        3. Lance: “Any officer of the Association shall be removed from office by the passage of a two-thirds (2/3) vote of officers present and voting at a duly constituted meeting of the Association after a trial or fact-finding investigation by the Ethics Committee. The members of the Ethics Committee shall specify a procedure and time period for conducting the trial or fact-finding investigation.”
        4. Emmanuel: If we vote now for impeachment, procedurally a trial and etc. will take time. The semester will run its course and then procedurally, this issue will become moot.
        5. Neyah: Okay, well considering everything that’s been said today and that we all seem to be on the same page about this, let’s have a motion on the table and then I will reach out to Ethics to find out what the next steps are and what the process will be moving forward.
      1. Motion by Ansley to begin the impeachment process of Summer in her position as Director of Programming.
         1. Seconded by Diamond.
         2. Motion passes without opposition.
      2. SBA’s Next Steps:
         1. Neyah: So, I’m going to talk to Dean Henry & Ethics tomorrow and see what the proper protocol will be. But that is the gist of it as far as I understand at this point. We’ll tell them that we want to move forward with impeachment, and they’ll move forward with either a fact-finding investigation or a trial based on their rules, after which they will come to their conclusion, and then we’ll take a final vote on it.
  1. Vice President
  2. Secretary
     1. April 10th is **tentatively** the last meeting.
        1. If there is a run-off election, we may need to hold the last meeting on Wednesday, April 12th, schedules permitting.
        2. If we can’t make April 12th work, the last meeting will be April 17th.
  3. Treasurer
     1. Account Updates:
        1. Inside Account
        2. Outside Account
  4. Programming Director
     1. GIFs: No GIF planned for this week.

1. Class Officer Reports
   1. 3L Class
      1. 50 Day Party
         1. Thinking about having party at Radio Bar. No superlatives or anything else special this time. Issue may be with date since there is so much going on in March.
      2. Class Gift and Farewell Party
         1. Class Gift will be a bench with a plaque with something along the lines of "Class of 2023." We are getting the details on design, etc. to the fourth floor. Once we have everything finalized, then a date will be announced for when students can purchase the cups, print, and padfolio.
         2. Farewell Party - have already told fourth floor that we would like a crawfish boil. Hayley told us they choose the place where it will be held, we just need to choose between May 5, 6, or 18.
      3. Assault & Flattery – April 1st at the Varsity
   2. 2L Class
      1. Barrister’s Ball – Friday, March 31st, 2023 at L’Auberge!!!
         1. Ticket sales
            1. Amount sold – 419 tickets sold as of 2/27
            2. We have a little under 200 more tickets to sell, please keep encouraging people to come.
            3. Please remind your friends that the sales will end on **March 17th at Noon**.
         2. Checks Finalized
            1. Deposit for L’Auberge – PAID (remaining balance due after 3/31)
            2. Deposit for DJ – PAID (remaining balance due 3/29)

The DJ is requesting a playlist from us. We want to put together a collaboration playlist where students can add songs they want to hear!

* + - * 1. Photo Booth – PAID (No balance)

Motion by Alaysia to reimburse Drew $250 from the outside account for the deposit for the photo booth for Barristers’ Ball.

Seconded by Drake.

Motion passes unanimously.

* + - * 1. Photographer – Balance will be paid in full 3/31
      1. Decorations
         1. Quote was sent to Diamond today. Diamond and Alaysia went through the details with us during meeting. $2,955 total + $131.50 in state tax. And then $1,000 for set up and breakdown (or else we would have to take the stuff back to Covington).
         2. Motion by Alaysia to expend up to $4,086.50 for decoration rentals from Fancy Faces Décor for Barristers’ Ball decorations.

Seconded by Diamond.

Motion passes unanimously.

* + - * 1. Please save your liquor and champagne bottles & bring them to the SBA office!
        2. We are hoping to gradually start putting all our decorations now that it is March.
      1. Reminder we will need at least 4 volunteers to help check-in.
      2. Reminder we will need help setting up and taking down – we have to take down the night of unfortunately because L’Auberge has an internal event the next morning.
         1. Be on the lookout for a sign-up sheet soon. We will also be asking the SBA committees for help.
      3. Other items
         1. Food = We added chicken tenders to the menu!
         2. Party Favor – shot glasses are in the works; we are simplifying a design so we can order them.
         3. Barristers’ Ball Tee – working on the final design now.
    1. Spring Merchandise Sale – March 17th – 31st
       1. Spring designs include:
          1. LSU law varsity design on sweatshirt as a patch
          2. LSU law varsity design on long sleeve t-shirts in a few color options
          3. Strikethrough design on long sleeve t-shirts in a few color options
          4. New retro design (Mary is still finalizing this design) probably in tshirt/sweatshirt/long sleeve/hoodie to meet the design # needed.
  1. 1L Class
     1. Meeting with BLSA to discuss the merchandise sale plans.
     2. Family Weekend – March 24 & 25th
        1. SBA & BLSA Family Shirts go on sale February 17th – March 17th
        2. Family Day Photos
           1. Matthew will be opening up the RSVP for family photos to the 2L and 3L class.
        3. Caterer fell through because they were not a registered vendor. We will be going with a different vendor.
        4. 1L officers will meet this week to get everything locked down. An itinerary will be shared soon.
  2. LLM

1. Old Business
   1. DJ Deposit for Barristers’ Ball:
      1. Motion by Alaysia to expend up to $100 from the outside account to pay the deposit for the DJ for Barristers’ Ball.
      2. Seconded by Diamond.
      3. Motion passed unanimously.
   2. Photo Booth for Barristers’ Ball:
      1. Motion by Alaysia to expend up to $800 from the outside account to pay Eye Wander for a photo booth for Barristers’ Ball.
      2. Seconded by Diamond.
      3. Motion passed unanimously.
   3. Photographer for Barristers’ Ball:
      1. Motion by Alaysia to expend up to $240 from the outside account to pay Alexia Bre for photography and extra photos for Barristers’ Ball.
      2. Seconded by Emmanuel.
      3. Motion passed unanimously.
   4. WLSA Motion Amended:
      1. Motion by Diamond to amend the prior motion passed for WLSA’s event on February 23rd to reflect an updated amount of $1,255.48 (from $1179.33) as the updated total cost expended from the inside account to cover Qdoba.
      2. Seconded by Matthew.
      3. Motion passed unanimously.
   5. PILS Guest Speaker Lunch:
      1. Motion by Lance to expend up to $121.74 from the inside account to cater Hungry Howies for the PILS Guest Speaker Lunch on March 6th.
      2. Seconded by Catherine.
      3. Motion passed unanimously.
2. New Business
3. Adjournment
   1. **Motion** to adjourn by Autumn.
   2. Seconded by Alaysia.
   3. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm!