LSU Student Bar Association

Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2023 at 7:15 pm

Via Zoom



1. Call to Order at 7:19 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. Mckenna Dorais – 3L Class Secretary
   8. Catherine Rutherford – 3L Class Representative
   9. Lindsey Tizzard – 3L Class Representative
   10. Alaysia Johnson – 2L Class President
   11. Mekkah Husamadeen – 2L Class Vice President
   12. Mary Burchill – 2L Class Secretary
   13. Ansley Sumner – 2L Class Representative
   14. Diamond McCray – 2L Class Representative
   15. Matthew Smith – 1L Class President
   16. Drake Brignac – 1L Class Vice President
   17. Hunter Reinhardt – § 1-1L Class Representative
   18. Eric Roshak – § 2-1L Class Representative
   19. Emmanuel Pressley – § 3-1L Class Representative (late)
   20. Sigrid Soetaert – LLM Representative
3. Public Input
   1. Revisiting the Language / Result of Disaffiliating with AssFlat Committee:
      1. Neyah, Ryan, Lindsey, and Autumn talked last week about some confusion around the language of the motion we made last week disaffiliating the AssFlat Committee from SBA. They agreed that it would be worthwhile to have some members of the committee come and hear us clarify that motion and the result, so everyone understands what will happen going forward.Assault & Flattery Committee
      2. Ryan: Last meeting, we passed a motion to essentially disaffiliate ourselves from the SBA. Primary, this means that we will not be helping with anything or fundraising. It is not canceled though. We understand that the committee has skits prepared. We passed the motion for two main reasons. Mckenna’s concerns over consent of people to be in jokes or skits. And then the issue that the committee doesn’t want SBA looking over shoulders, but SBA does not want any liability if that is the case. I made the motion, and we want to make sure the language is clear, so it has the proper consequences. We understand that students look forward to AssFlat every year. Ryan asked if we need to fix the language to reflect this intention.
      3. Drake: He echoed Ryan’s sentiments, but we don’t want to give people the impression that we are disbanding the committee. We want to disaffiliate it from SBA, but don't want to get rid of the AssFlat for all intents and purposes.
      4. Lindsey: As far as fundraising, the committee has that figured out. She agrees that disaffiliating the committee, rather than disbanding.
      5. Ryan: When we were still tied with the AssFlat committee, we were doing the ticket tailor.
      6. Lindsey: The committee actually has another ticket website they are going to use. And the venue is not in SBA’s name, Mckenna, Lindsey, and Summer have made sure of that.
      7. Ryan: Well if no one else has any other questions or concerns, I will
      8. Lindsey: Just want to make clear, SBA is just disaffiliating, will not help with the committee, but AssFlat will still be happening.
4. Funding Requests (3L President)
   1. Update on the LLM Cajun Trip from Ryan:
      1. They had a meeting about some issues with the trip that had not been ironed out yet. Ryan told them that they may need to move the event back because they have to have a two-week turnaround to get the trip approved. He communicated this to Evan and asked Evan to provide the new date of the event and the company that would be doing the tour, so that Ryan can send in the request. The new date is March 26th. Since we are not working with Melinda anymore, it may be difficult to get this event approved in a week’s time. Albin suggested someone paying the costs up front and the getting reimbursed afterward. The biggest part of the request is the traveling expenses.
         1. The question is whether this is something we are willing to reimburse for?
         2. Neyah said that the only avenue it appears we have is to have someone pay the $2,000 travel expenses up front and then reimburse from inside account after the event. Not sure if this is going to be feasible, but it is worth a shot at least.
   2. HLSA Merch Sale Request:
      1. HLSA has faced difficulties with their merch sale. For a month, HLSA has not been able to reach the minimum on their merch sale, given the changes to merch policies. Since they are a smaller organization, they wanted to partner with SBA to have us purchase their remaining shirts.
      2. They have sold 11 out of the 36 needed and expect 6 more sales from their Board members. There seems to be no precedent, so it is something SBA can discuss the pros/cons of.
         1. Note: WLSA also had issues with meeting minimums of their 3 items. So far, two of the items were dropped and the one shirt is almost to minimums, but WLSA had to extend the sale again.
         2. Autumn: I think this is not a great precedent to set especially considering that other organizations have had trouble meeting minimums this year and it is pretty late in the semester and year, so this may be a factor in why minimums can’t be met. Also, I am curious if there is any way to get around minimums, such as a fee like we had with Geneologie last year when we just paid for them to make something even though it didn’t meet minimums. If B-Unlimited has some fee option like that, then that should probably be the route taken. And then maybe, have the cost of that fee spread out over the people who want a shirt. If those people don’t want to pay that fee, or if it just isn’t an option, then I feel like our hands would be really tied here.
         3. Lindsey: I would urge on the side of not doing this because of the precedent that this sets. We have no way of knowing if we would ever recoup those costs.
            1. Autumn: Yeah, plus we would be setting up a debt that HLSA would owe with our incoming administration, and that just seems like something we shouldn’t do.
         4. Drake: Is this a main campus policy?
         5. Alaysia: No, this is a trademark office thing with using LSU Law’s trademark. Organizations can only sell to their own members. Licensed vendors have to do whatever the royalty agreement says they can. The royalty policy is something we can’t get around.
         6. Sigrid: Concerning the comparison between WLSA and BLSA, HLSA has no bank account or money that they can use themselves to sponsor t-shirts. HLSA is also not making a profit from these t-shirts. Also, it’s a small organization and we can only sell to our own members.
         7. Matthew: Well, BLSA has met minimums. If HSLA partnered with SBA, then that may would open up the sale to other people to buy. That may be a way to meet minimums. Maybe we should partner with all student orgs in the future, if they chose to do that.
         8. Mekkah: Aside from the BLSA partnership thing, BLSA ran into the same issue. I don’t think that this issue should become retroactive, in the sense that BLSA had to get rid of a sale because we didn’t meet minimums, so it’s not fair to orgs that had to cancel their sales in the past because of this. Organizations should try to come up with a solution together over the summer to avoid this happening in the future, but I don’t think this is something we should do right now.
         9. Sigrid: I know it’s late in the year, but I think it’s “too bad” to say that this is a problem that has to be solved next year. Half of the HLSA members are 3Ls that will not be able to have a t-shirt if we don’t make this sale.
         10. Drake: So would we essentially be thinking of this as a loan? That could work.
         11. Autumn: Definitely think the idea of a loan with orgs and them owing us money is a bad situation to be in. And, it is late in the year and everyone has spent money on tons of other things from graduation to the ball, so it just may not be a good time.
         12. Sigrid: For the timing of the sale - I believe HLSA waited this long because all of the other orgs had their sales and they didn't want to conflict with anyone else's merch to optimize sales
         13. Mary: It’s not a timing issue, it’s that no other org has ever gotten SBA’s help for paying for merch + they’ve had to lose out on merch because of it, so for us to randomly agree to help paying, it would set a precedent and be unfair. Again, next year this could be a great idea like Alaysia said to do a HUGE merch sale with everything together, but right now it’s unfair.
         14. Sigrid: I understand what you're saying and agree with the fact that it's unprecedented, but I don't think it's unfair in the sense that if it hasn't been asked before then it's not penalizing the other orgs, it's just that it's never happened before.
      3. The issue did not have enough support among officers to move forward, so it was tabled.
   3. March Madness Bracket Gift Cards:
      1. The Athletics Committee has started the March Madness bracket. We need to discuss gift cards for the winners of each bracket. They asked for 2 $25 gift cards to Walk-On’s for the winners.
         1. Motion by Lance to expend up to $50 from the outside account for Walk On’s gift cards for the winners of the two March Madness brackets.
         2. Seconded by Hunter.
         3. Motion passes unanimously.
5. Reading, Correction, and Adoption of the March 13, 2023 Minutes:
   1. **Motion** to adopt by Autumn.
   2. Seconded by Catherine.
   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 & Media Committee – Co-Chairs: Emily Fields; Ellie Dore; 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
      1. JLAP Event:
         1. **Tomorrow!** JLAP Speaker will be giving a presentation on JLAP on Tuesday, March 21st in Room 301 from 12:40-1:30pm.
   7. Student Technology Fee Committee – Chair: Bryton Clark
7. Executive Officer Reports
   1. President
      1. Update on Ethics Committee Complaint / Impeachment Process
         1. Have not heard back yet, but Neyah will update officers when we have a ruling from the Ethics Committee.
   2. Vice President
      1. Lance will be contacting administration on behalf of the Student Organizations asking to have banquets.
         1. Discussion about Banquets
            1. Mekkah (with BLSA) received an email from admin detailing that there would now be 3 tiers of banquets, meaning that if an organization falls into one of those tiers, it has to share their banquet with the other orgs in those tiers. So essentially there will be only three banquets this year.
            2. Officers discussed their concerns with this tier system and administration taking over everything, mainly that organizations will not be able to plan the event that they wanted to have and will not be able to honor their members with the awards that they wanted to give out. Additionally, there was concern shared that some organizations may not fall neatly within a tier, so would they just not be able to have a banquet?
            3. Neyah and Lance are going to look into this, but the turnaround time on the banquets this year is very tight, so they may be very limited in what they can do regarding our concerns.
   3. Secretary
      1. Last Meeting of the Semester:
         1. Tentatively April 10th depending on how the upcoming elections go. If there is a run-off election, we may push this to Wednesday, April 12th. Please go ahead and check your schedules for that date and email me with your availability ASAP, so that we can have that information squared away. (I’ve only gotten emails from two people so far.)
            1. If April 12th doesn’t work for everyone, last meeting would be April 17th.
      2. Attendance:
         1. I went through our minutes to get a better idea of what everyone’s attendance looks like for the semester. If you are curious about your attendance, send me an email or dm!
   4. Treasurer
      1. Inside Account
      2. Outside Account
   5. Programming Director
8. Class Officer Reports
   1. 3L Class
      1. 50 Day Party:
         1. **Just a reminder**: the 50 Day Party will be March 30th at Radio Bar from 7:30 - 9:30pm. Will have $6 cocktail drink special. List of cocktails will be sent at a later date.
   2. 2L Class
      1. Barrister’s Ball – March 31st, 2023
         1. Update on ticket sales – 15 left.
         2. We need some volunteers to help with signing people in at the ball (2-4 ppl). And we need help putting together the centerpieces for the ball. If you cannot help out with the ball or during the date of the ball, please let us know!!!
         3. Uber Codes:
            1. Motion by Alaysia to expend up to $1,500 from the outside account to buy uber discount codes for students who are attending Barristers’ Ball.

Seconded by Mary.

Motion passes unanimously.

* + - 1. Spirit Week
         1. Finalized the days of the week! (Ansley)

Days: (look in GroupMe)

* + - * 1. Do we want to purchase snacks or food for the movie showing?

Alaysia is going to put a shopping list in the GroupMe, so look for an e-vote on this.

* + - * 1. If everyone can participate and send us pictures, please do!
    1. Merchandise (Mary)
       1. Sale is now live! Remind your classmates that the sale is going on!
       2. The items will not be shipped until the sale closes.
  1. 1L Class
     1. 1L Family Weekend:
        1. Updates:
           1. Shirt Sales:

Met the minimums. Shirts will not be in time for the actual handout of the shirts at the Family Weekend. The 1Ls want to sell the excess merch from the Fall sales at a discounted rate.

Alaysia says that the designs that are in the current sale cannot be offered for a lower rate so as to not conflict with the spring sale. But other designs could be offered at a discount.

* + - * 1. Board of Advocates Oral Argument Cancellation: There will not be an oral argument to view on Saturday.
        2. Friday Social Venue:

Chimes and Lakeside told us no. The Revelry is not available.

Mekkah says she has a contact at Rock Paper Taco.

Someone else suggested Main Lobby.

Radio Bar is doing our 50-Day party, and they did not make us put any money down.

Matthew is going to discuss those options with the 1L Officers and then get back to us with a decision.

* + - * 1. Photographer Payment and Scheduling:

Photographer emailed contract to Neyah, and she signed it. Drew will write a check for the 1Ls to pay her the day of.

* + - 1. Fourth Floor Updates on the Fish Fry Vendor:
         1. Funding request was approved and everything is good to go!
  1. LLM

1. Old Business
   1. Barristers’ Ball Party Favor Motions:
      1. Motion by Ansley to expend up to $900 from the outside account for the shot glass party favor for Barristers’ Ball.
         1. Seconded by Drake.
         2. Motion passed unanimously.
      2. Motion by Ansley to reimburse Drew up to $802.80 from the outside account for his purchase of the Barristers’ Ball Shot Glasses.
         1. Seconded by Catherine.
         2. Motion passed unanimously.
   2. Barristers’ Ball Tablecloths Motions:
      1. Motion by Diamond to expend up to $633.21 from the outside account to pay Olinde Event Rentals for tablecloths and red carpet.
         1. Seconded by Catherine.
         2. Motion passed unanimously.
      2. Motion by Diamond to amend the previous motion of $633.21 to reflect corrected amount of $643.21.
         1. Seconded by Sigrid.
         2. Motion passed unanimously.
   3. Barristers’ Ball Décor Expenses Reimbursement:
      1. Motion by Diamond to expend up to $123.53 to reimburse herself for feathers, roses, stickers, and gold spray paint.
         1. Seconded by Alaysia.
         2. Motion passed unanimously.
2. New Business
3. Adjournment
   1. **Motion** to adjourn by Diamond.
   2. Seconded by Drake.
   3. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm!