

STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION MINUTES

November 1, 2017
General Body Meeting

SBA President Joye called the meeting to order at 8:30PM on Wednesday November 1, 2017.

Secretary Gregory called attendance.

ROLL CALL:

Badida

Barthelemy

Cadavid. A

Campbell

Cervera A

Chamberlain

Cline A

Cuffe

D'Amico

D'Anna

Ellis

Emrick A

Fils-Aime

Fray

Fuerst

Gerbier

Gluck A

Gregory

Jacobs

Jadon

Joye

Lengacher

Liddell

Manor

Moreno

Watson

Macarages

Vazquez

Quorum has been established.

GUESTS:

Zandra Walker

Carlos Lievano

David Fagot

Quinton Brady

Ben King

Connor Ellis

David Yau

Blake Murphy

AMENDMENTS TO THE PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- There were none.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Joye makes his report.

- The last SBA meeting of the semester will be held November 15, 2017.
- Joye recognizes various members of the BOG for their contributions to SBA.
- Joye proposes that SBA make an order for pullovers and graduation cords with SBA logos. This would hopefully be cosponsored by administration and SBA member's personal funds.
 - SBA funds would not be used for the purchase of these items.
 - Badida suggests that Rules and Bylaws establish guidelines or requirements for receiving graduation cords.
- Joye recognizes that SBA must follow parliamentary procedure.
 - There will be a default of five minutes for discussion, one minute per person per comment, two comments per person.
 - All of these time limits may be amended by motion.
 - Joye makes a brief presentation of motions in Robert's Rules.

OFFICERS REPORTS:

Social Chair Lengacher makes her report.

- Jermaine Fray is leading an "Exam Preparation Panel" for students to speak to 1Ls as a panel
 - Budget request: \$200
- Exam Coffee and Donut request will be addressed at the next meeting.

Treasurer Ellis makes his report.

- Ellis reports the updated balances.

- Ellis reports on the Gator Give Back Challenge.
 - This was a UF Law initiative, not an SBA initiative. However, the earmarked money remains in the SBA accounts. The earmarked money will go straight to the student organizations but it will go through SBA.

Vice-President Fils-Aime makes her report.

- The Eight Circuit Bar Association
 - SBA is creating a mentorship program with the ECBA. Professor Rawls is the president, and is working on creating an application for 1Ls, 2Ls, and 3Ls. This initiative will continue into next semester.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Service Chair Campbell makes her report.

- SBA will be hosting a Guardian Ad Litem school supply drive from November 7-10. There will be a donation box in the SBA offices.
 - There will also be tabling from 10-1PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Campbell is also planning a BOG community service event in the spring.

Treasurer Ellis makes the Allocations Committee report.

- Allocations Hearing on November 8, 2017 at 12:00PM in the SBA offices. OARs are due November 6, 2017.
- Current Amount Allocated: \$1,116.93
- Remaining Balance: \$14,612.72

Communications Officer Badida makes the report for the Communications Committee.

- Badida puts Gaetano D'Anna's nomination to the BOG for an approval vote.

Parliamentarian Moreno makes the report for the Rules and Bylaws Committee.

- Final reading of the bylaws

OLD BUSINESS:

BOG David Jadon presents the final reading of the proposed bylaw amendments.

Moreno entertains friendly amendments.

- Proposed Amendments:
 - Moreno moves to approve the bylaw amendments. Jadon seconds. Ellis and Badida object.
 - Badida moves to amend. D'Anna seconds. Moreno accepts Badida's friendly amendment to remove a gendered term.
 - Cuffe moves to change (1/2 +1) to (50%+1). Moreno approves Ellis' friendly amendment.
 - Ellis moves to amend V.3.1.C from "allocate" to "appropriate." Moreno approves Ellis' friendly amendment.
 - Gregory moves to amend IV.1.3 from "Secretary" to "Secretary or Communications Officer." Moreno accepts the friendly amendment.
 - Cuffe makes another friendly amendment related to IV.1.4. Moreno accepts the friendly amendment.

- Campbell moves to amend IV.3.7 to “unrelated side conversations.” Moreno rejects this amendment.
- Campbell also moves to amend IV.3.9 about the dress code. Moreno rejects this amendment.
- Joye moves this to a vote.
 - For: Jadon, Lengacher, Liddell, Jacobs, Watson, Badida, Ellis, Manor, Chamberlain, Gregory, D’Anna, Macarages, Moreno
 - Against: Gerbier, Fray
 - Abstention: Campbell, Barthelemy
- The motion passes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Vote on Social Committee Funding Request for \$200 for pizza for the exam panel.

- Lengacher moves to approve. Liddell seconds.
- Cuffe moves to waive the new bylaws in reference to the policy proposal. D’Amico seconds. Vote by approval. Passes.
- Vote to approve funding request:
 - For: Moreno, Jadon, Lengacher, Liddell, Fuerst, Gerbier, Barthelemy, Fray, Chamberlain, Macarages, D’Anna, Vazquez, Fils-Aime, Manor, Gregory
 - Abstention: Badida, Watson, Ellis, D’Amico, Cuffe, Jacobs
- The motion passes.

Moreno moves to reestablish the bylaws back into effect except for V.3.3. D’Anna seconds. Vote by approval. 16- Y 4-N 2- Abstentions

Vote on confirmation of Gaetano D’Anna to the Communications Committee

- Badida moves to vote. Watson seconded.
- Vote to approve nomination:
 - Unanimous approval barring two abstentions.
 - Abstention: Fray, D’Anna

Moreno moves to vote on AJ D’Amico’s nomination to RB. Ellis seconds.

- Vote to approve nomination:
 - Unanimous approval barring two abstentions and one objection.
 - Abstention: Fray, D’Amico
 - Against: Gerbier

Ellis moves to place SBA Resolution 1 into first reading. D’Amico seconds. Moreno reads Resolution 1. Ellis makes his presentation on the Resolution 1.

- Ellis expresses his desire to represent all UF Law members to enrich all UF Law students’ experiences. Ellis has three reasons to maintain neutrality. First, endorsing partisan stances would frustrate SBA’s important functions. Second, the SBA, as an entity, is not the proper place for partisanship; student organizations are more appropriate. Third, the SBA should strive to govern, educate, and acquaint rather than persuade.

- Watson moves to extend Ellis' presentation time by three minutes. Moreno seconds. No objections.

Chamberlain makes her comment on the motion.

- Chamberlain posits that SBA should be a neutral organization to represent all UF students.

Fuerst makes his comment on the motion.

- Fuerst argues that it is possible to have a neutral organization that takes stances on political issues. Fuerst also notes that SBA may naturally be a partisan organization by virtue of the constitutionally mandated Diversity Committee. Fuerst recommends that operational issues be delineated in the Bylaws.
- Fuerst motions to raise the threshold from 1/3 vote to a majority vote. Liddell seconds.
 - Vote to amend the voting threshold:
 - For: Manor, Badida, Gerbier, Jacobs, Fray, Liddell, Fuerst
 - Against: Gregory, Ellis, Moreno, Jadon, D'Amico, Lengacher, Chamberlain, Macarages, D'Anna, Vazquez, Cuffe, Watson
 - Abstention: Barthelemy, Fils-Aime
 - Motion fails.

Discussion:

- Gerbier asks for clarification on what a resolution is.
- Gregory moves to limit discussion to 10 minutes. Ellis seconds.
 - Motion passes.
- Jacobs moves to amend. Friendly amendment from "political" to "partisan." Ellis accepts friendly amendment.
- Badida asks how this works with or conflicts with the Diversity committee's charter.
 - Moreno notes that advocating for diversity is a non-partisan issue.
- Lengacher notes that this discussion should be focused on whether or not SBA should be neutral.
- D'Amico notes that this vote is a vote to refer this resolution to committee and that further comments and discussion.
- Liddell notes that some of SBA's actions may already be political and that the resolution may not be necessary.
- Manor notes that SBA needs to define what neutrality is before we can vote on it.
- Jadon voices his support for the resolution.
- Vazquez notes the implications of the Resolution on the Diversity committee.
- Fray notes that there are some issues that the SBA must take a side on.
- Cuffe notes that this vote is just to go to committee with a set comment period.

Joye moves to extend the discussion for 5 minutes. Fils-Aime seconds. No objections.

- Gerbier notes that the feelings and leanings of the Bylaws committee may not reflect the feelings of the entire student body. Gerbier also

Cuffe moves to extend by 5 minutes. Gregory seconds. No objections.

- Badida suggests a joint committee between the Rules and Bylaws and Diversity committee. Cuffe voices his support for this idea and notes that amendments and suggestions can be made throughout the three-reading process.

Cuffe moves to vote on the resolution. Gregory seconds.

- Vote on submitting resolution to committee for second reading:
 - For: Jadon, Ellis, Gregory, Watson, Chamberlain, Macarages, D'Anna, Vazquez, Cuffe, Campbell, Jacobs, Barthelemy, Liddell, D'Amico
 - Against: Lengacher, Badida, Manor, Gerbier, Fray
 - Abstention: Fuerst, Fils-Aime
- Motion passes- Resolution moves to committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tiffany Batten submitted a public comment via email. She suggests that the agenda should be made available at least 24 hours in advance, that more transparent voting records should be kept, that the SBA create criteria for public debate, that SBA should follow SG's stance on abstentions, and that SBA should remain neutral on controversial topics.

David Yau makes his comment. His concern is that this discourse will have a 'chilling' effect on minority issues at UF Law. Yau expresses his gratitude and urges SBA to keep minority populations in mind.

Blake Murphy makes his comment. His concern is that the Blood Ban was political in nature, rather than educational. Murphy took issue with the rhetoric, which Murphy found to be untrue. Murphy urges the SBA to be diligent about keeping the line between political and educational in mind.

Quinton Brady makes his comment. Brady also took issue with the fact that SBA took a stance on the Blood Ban. Brady also raises the point that when a student brought up this question, the student was met with a lot of strong, negative rhetoric.

David Fagot makes his comment. Fagot also expresses his concern about SBA's neutrality. In regards to educational events, Fagot thinks that both sides of any issues should be presented. Fagot also feels that conservative views are in the minority here at UF Law, and that SBA should remain neutral to represent all students.

Connor Ellis makes his comment. Ellis echoes the concerns about SBA's neutrality. Ellis urges neutrality and educational stances on topics.

Carlos Lievano makes his comment. Lievano did not believe that this was an educational event, rather than a political event and that SBA did not take a stance on the topic. Lievano also feels that SBA should not be afraid to take a stance on certain topics as long as both sides are presented.

Ben King makes his comment.. King expresses his concern about students feeling uncomfortable on campus—especially women in sexual harassment situations. In regards to the blood ban, King feels that there is a difference between political and controversial issues.

Motion to adjourn made by Fils-Aime. Manor seconds. Meeting Adjourned at 10:38PM.