

FIU | **Law**

Student Bar Association

MEETING AGENDA

July 29, 2016

- I. Open Meeting and Quorum** *Reginald Guillaume*
- a. Opening Remarks
 - i. Called to Order at 6:13pm
 - b. Quorum
 - i. Selena Gibson
 - ii. Mariah Manley
 - iii. John Lynch
 - iv. Roger Pou
 - v. Courtney Boullion
 - vi. Gabriel Miranda
 - vii. Reginald Guillaume
 - viii. Justin Duran
 - ix. Brandon Smith
- II. Swearing in of New Officers** *Reginald Guillaume*
- a. 3L Representative
 - i. John Lynch
- III. FIU Law: Community Building** *Rebeckah Diequez*
- a. **Student Concerns**
 - i. Professors should send emails about the high, low and median of the scores that we receive for exams and various grades
 - 1. If students want to suggest this, there is a student on all of the committees such as curriculum and academic standards and students can send it to the faculty committee (*Dean Fridman*)
 - ii. Adjunct professors grading mechanisms are unusual and different from usual professors and they should be reviewed by more seasoned/tenured faculty
 - 1. There is an academic review committee for the adjuncts, anything sent to Dean Ansan is placed in the Adjuncts file and it is considered (*Dean Fridman*)
 - iii. LSV curve should be explained properly, not sure if it's within the small course or the entire LSV section
 - 1. LSV 1 and 2 are only graded with your own class, LSV 3 are graded across the entire curve and Walters is curved by itself
 - iv. Lack of candor from the professors regarding grades

- v. Some 1L professors do not want to talk to the students and do not want to speak and do not want to talk to students (*Courtney Boullion*)
- vi. **Review of the response to the student concerns by *Dean Fridman***
 - 1. Any student who has a complaint about an adjunct professor (including the professor's exams), should provide the complaint in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who will review the complaint and forward it to the Adjunct Review Committee, as appropriate.
 - 2. If the SBA would like to propose any changes to the academic policies concerning grading, those proposed changes should be made in writing to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, who will review the proposal and forward it to the Academic Standards Committee, as appropriate.
 - 3. Grades can only be changed in accordance with section 1201 of the Academic Policies and Regulations, which allows such a change only in the event of a computation error.
(https://law.fiu.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2015/07/Academic_Policies_Regulations-May-21-2015-with-601.pdf)

b. Barristers Update

Rachel Gonzalez

- i. Twelve members, five committees and most have two people
- ii. Right now they are choosing the themes and venues to maximize what they have to spend less and stay within the budget
- iii. Goal to include everyone, students, faculty and staff
- iv. Waiting on the full budget to make more decisions pertaining to choosing venues because they are pricey, the biggest contender is The Rusty Pelican
- v. Themes
 - 1. Masquerade
 - 2. Gatsby
 - 3. Casino Royale
- vi. *Dean Fridman*
 - 1. March 25, 2017 is the optimal date to hold barristers considering the FIU Law academic calendar and to also have Dean Acosta present.
- vii. *Reginald Guillaume*
 - 1. By the end of the meeting we should have the budget for barristers voted on
 - 2. Approx. \$17,000
 - 3. Possibly have other SBA's use the same hotel on a different day to negotiate a lower price with the nevus that we are seeking

c. Cultural Awareness and Professionalism

- i. Facebook exchange within the FIU Law community: A number of things said were distasteful and disrespectful. It would be irresponsible of us not to address this point given the events that

unfolded. We are FIU Law and we can get through this bypass as a community through meaningful discourse. *(Reginald Guillaume)*

- ii. It was suggested to me by a number of students that we should consider having a meeting with our student organization leaders or something for the FIU Law community to learn and heal from what happened and how to move forward *(Reginald Guillaume)*
- iii. Increasing programming/discussion during orientation to address social media *(Dean Fridman)*
- iv. Suggestion to have a professional facilitator to have a productive session to have a positive discussion amongst the rest of the FIU Law Community *(Dean Fridman)*
 - 1. Suggestion to meet with the student organization leaders and have them organize events for the students to learn from this *(Courtney Bouillion)*

d. Orientation

Reginald Guillaume

- i. We need people to be present at the orientation to have a SBA Board presence on the Thursday and Friday

e. SBA President Stipend

- i. For the last few years the College of Law provides a stipend to the SBA president, which mirrors the SGA president. It is a scholarship that is given to the SBA president through their financial aid. Next year it should be a student decision if this should continue or if it should be in put into the SBA budget
- ii. Bring it to a vote before we request candidates for next year

f. Protocol which we run our meetings

- i. In terms of the way we run meetings in general do we follow the Sunshine Laws?
- ii. SBA has never operated under Sunshine Laws in the past, before the next meeting we should have an answer if we have to operate under those laws.

IV. New Student Organization

- a. The FIU College of Law Democrats Pledges
 - i. Paperwork present
 - ii. Motivating speakers to come and speak to the FIU Law
 - iii. Working with the undergraduate to host events
- b. Moved to vote by the board
 - i. Unanimous approval
 - ii. To be submitted to Zory H.

V. 2016-2017 Budget

a. Budget Committee

Reginald Guillaume

- i. Brandon Smith informed me that he needed help with his position and wanted to for a budget committee. He asked me if I could help him find suitable candidates to help him

- ii. Joshua Gilbert and David Miller were both experienced in the field of accounting and general finance. They were both interested in being appointed to the committee
- iii. Brandon approved the two appointments and they are now a part of the Budget Committee

b. Proposed Budget

Brandon Smith

- i. Reginald and Brandon have a final version of the proposed budget, it will be uploaded to google docs so that the VPs can have their input
- ii. Total budget \$48,158.28
- iii. Student Organization and Barrister's take up most of the funds
- iv. Modeled after Zory's books from last year and tailored to our lower budget for this year
 - 1. Student Organization
 - a. Events such as guest speakers, Mr. and Ms. FIU, judicial panel
 - b. General body meetings
 - c. Smaller budgets from last year
 - 2. Deans Cup
 - a. Split with the medical school but we have been carrying the load
 - b. Paying referees, the fields, the tents, etc.
 - c. Make it more attractive to drive student attendance
 - 3. Food for Finals
 - a. Significantly less than what we did last year
 - 4. Law Review and guest speakers
 - a. SBA does not pay for the symposiums so the budget can be lower for the Law Review
 - b. FIU will fund events where they invite the community to give awards to members and tell the 1Ls what they are about
 - 5. Emergency competition funding
 - a. Board of Advocated who do everything to get funding for funding from the SGA and do not get funding then they get funding from here
 - b. Can be reassigned if they do not use it
 - 6. ABA Funding
 - a. ABA tailored events, this year they will have their mid year conference in Miami
 - i. Excellent opportunity for students to network and get funds
 - 7. Miscellaneous allocations
 - 8. Overhead charges
- v. We will have a budget update after each meeting to make sure we reconcile and things flow smoothly this year
- vi. Calculation of the budget was done using the previous years spending according to the budget for this year

- vii. Halloween ticket sales the funds go back to the club not to the SBA, the tickets are a discounted group price
- viii. Voting to finalize the budget when the entire SBA board is present
 - 1. Unanimous vote to wait

VI. ABA Annual Conference

Justin Duran

- a. ABA-LSD Resolutions
 - i. ABA Conference in San Francisco next week
 - 1. Form a relationship with FIU Law so that when the lawyers come to Miami for the mid-year conference
 - ii. Law Student Division (LSD)
 - 1. Free membership
 - 2. Free quimbee for limited time
 - 3. Discounts for membership off of various things
 - iii. Help distinguish FIU and attract more people to come to FIU and increase brand awareness with more student involvement
 - iv. Resolutions to modernize the by laws
 - 1. Resolution to cut the board to seven people, eliminate the circuit governors positions to have direct communication directly to the schools and the ABA to save the ABA \$150K
 - 2. Law Student Representation in choosing
- b. Funding
 - i. Request for additional \$100 for travel expenses if needed

VII. SBA Committee Appointments

Reginald Guillaume

- a. **Deans Cup**
 - i. *Gabriel Miranda* - unanimous
- b. **Commencement**
 - i. *Andrew Sagona* – unanimous
- c. **Constitution/Bylaw**
 - i. *Roger Pou* – unanimous
- d. **Homecoming**
 - i. *Eddy Franca*, as a possible person to nominate for this position
- e. **Alumni Relations**
 - i. *Marcus Nielson, Roberto Behar* and *Chanelle Artiles*
 - ii. People will be called and voted on next meeting
 - iii. We can get alumni attend Deans Cup and other events
 - iv. Networking events with alumni
- f. **Judicial Committee**
 - i. *Selena Villadiago* present at the meeting
 - ii. Unanimously appointed as the night representative
 - iii. One more person needs to be appointed

VIII. Faculty Committee Appointments

a. Library Committee

- i. *Alex Johnson* – 8 yay/1 nay

- b. Law Review Committee**
 - i. *Rebecca Sicowitz* –6 yay/2 nay
 - ii.
- c. Curriculum Committee**
 - i. *Mariah Manley* - unanimous
- d. Job placement**
 - i. Postponed nomination until next meeting
- e. Academic Standard Committee**
 - i. *Courtney Bouillion* - unanimous

IX. Fall SBA Meeting Date and Time

- a. Sunday at 6:00pm works best for everyone’s schedule
- b. Email the date and time to the board members who were not present at the meeting to secure all availability
- c. At some point in the semester the SBA Board will hold a Town Hall Meeting during the week where the larger FIU Law body can attend

X. Open to the Floor

- a. Mariah will coordinate registering people to vote this needs to be approved by Dean Fridman
- b. Are there reserved hotel rooms for FIU students for the Bar July 2017

XI. Close Meeting

- a. Move to Adjourn – unanimous
- b. Meeting closed at 8:59pm