

## **SBA Minutes**

### **January 14, 2008**

*Senate Members in Attendance:* no attendance taken

*Senate Members Absent:* no attendance taken

*Ex Officio Member in Attendance:* Katie Kostka

*Minutes Recorded By:* Sarah Gilliland

- I. Call to Order (4:30 pm)
  - a. Brad Moloney, President
- II. Election of New Officers
  - a. Nomination for Secretary Position opened
    - i. Sarah Gilliland nominated
    - ii. Voted unanimous
- III. Speakers/Guests
  - a. Susan Erlenborn, Director of Admissions, College of Law
    - i. SCOL is redesigning admissions brochures
    - ii. Marketing firm wants to meet with students of each class regarding their experiences at law school, why they chose DU Law, etc.
    - iii. Meetings to take place January 30 and 31 from 9-4
    - iv. Groups of 10-15 from each class
    - v. Able to work around schedules
  - b. Unfinished Business
    - i. 1L Concerns: cancellation of core classes throughout last semester and also large class size for 1Ls
      1. Set over to next meeting for plan of action and further discussion
    - ii. Writing Requirement: confusion concerning which classes satisfy the requirement; conflict between classes that meet requirement and classes listed on the catalog as satisfying requirement
      1. Set over to next meeting for plan of action and further discussion
  - c. New Business
    - i. Cancellation of Wills Lab
      1. The Wills Lab was cancelled last week on the Friday before classes started. It is a one credit class that gives students the opportunity to write a will for a member of the community; it also satisfies the public service requirement
      2. Professor Lucy Marsh
        - a. Wills lab in existence since the 19802
        - b. The administration decided not to fund the wills lab this semester, so Professor Marsh cancelled it due to lack of funds
        - c. Expense is \$3,000 which pays for one paralegal who performs necessary formatting of the documents

- i. Performance of these responsibilities by a regular staff member would require intense training and overtime pay by the SCOL
    - ii. Need a person that can be contacted if there is an emergency
    - iii. School's intake from the program (after \$3000) is approximately \$17,000
  - d. Attorneys and professors that participate in the clinic essentially operate pro bono
  - e. Clinic provides a valuable service to members of the community who cannot afford to hire an attorney to draft their wills or power of attorneys
    - i. At this time, there are at least thirty people expecting to acquire wills through the Wills lab
    - ii. Professor Marsh has not informed these people that the service cannot be provided at this time
  - f. Compare with env law clinic with two full time faculty members; SLO has three full time staff members and 11 faculty members; Wills has one staff, no faculty; new director going to be hired for env law clinic; as a clinical program, wills is an incredible bargain for the school
  - g. Class can still be reinstated: students would just start the projects a few days later, which would not adversely affect the ability of the students to complete the assignments for their clients

### 3. Professor Bryon Hammond

- a. Supervises one student per semester in the Wills lab for free
- b. Believes that the lab is an essential service to underprivileged members of the community
- c. The Denver probate community is upset that the program would be cancelled; DU Law is not making the best impression in the probate community with this decision
- d. States that will writing is complicated and that the right formatting is absolutely critical
  - i. Paralegal is the best person to format the wills
- e. Students who take the Wills lab are in a better position when interviewing in the Denver legal community, especially in the probate community

4. Senator Discussion
  - a. Clarification of the necessity of the paralegal
    - i. Professor Marsh reiterates that the training and expectations are best met by a trained paralegal rather than a staff member working overtime
  - b. Problem seems to be lack of communication and lack of concern from the Dean regarding the cancellation of a class and the explanation for the cancellation
  - c. Issues for graduating students depending on one last credit to graduate and/or depending on the class to satisfy their public service requirement
    - i. Extremely difficult for those students to meet those requirements at this point
  - d. Proposal that SBA can provide the funding for the clinic and then draft a request that the SCOL reimburse the SBA
  - e. Motion to allocate \$3,000 to the Wills Lab for payment of a paralegal and other necessary funds
    - i. Moved by Night VP Jen Zamarripa
    - ii. Discussion
      1. SBA able to provide the funds
      2. It is not the responsibility of the SBA to fund classes, but rather the administration
        - a. Resolution to be drafted by Professionalism committee under the supervision of Senator Richardson
        - b. Anyone interested, contact Aaryn Richardson
      3. SBA must be cautious not to send the impression that the SBA will fund any and all school projects – must be accountability by the Administration
    - iii. Motion passes unanimously

IV. Adjourn (5:30 pm)