

**Student Government  
General Body Meeting  
02.01.2011 | 7:34 pm | WCC 3015**

1. Called to Order at 7:34 pm (Skyler took attendance)
  - a. Absent --
  - b. Tardy
  - c. Missing
2. Check-ins
3. Taiwan Law Students Association
  - a. Skyler gives overview of process: 10 min presentation, 10 min Q&A
  - b. Presentation:
    - i. Want to start Taiwan LSA.
    - ii. Need: Demand for org where people come together and discuss political development of Taiwan. Unique culture. Want to bring together discussion.
    - iii. Membership: Diverse. SJDs, LLMs, Jds.
    - iv. Potential Events: Film screenings focusing on healthcare, aboriginal rights, political discussions re China/US-Taiwan relations and cultural events (e.g., dumpling making).
  - c. Q&A:
    - i. Greg - Number of Taiwanese students in incoming class? Will this group be sustainable in the future?
      1. 5-10 JDs and 5-10 LLMs each year. Also have US born students with Taiwanese backgrounds. Feel like there's a large population sufficient to sustain. 3-6 SJDs, who stay longer. Membership open to all. Point is to open discussion to interested parties.
    - ii. Allison -- Have you talked about pairing up with sister organizations in the University? E.g., undergrad or B-school Taiwanese orgs.
      1. Involved in Grad school Taiwanese student org. Has a different model/mission. Focused on having a place to feel at home without pressure of being away from home. This org focused on getting out key issues. There, speak in Mandarin, so not inclusive.
      2. Chinese student population also very invested in Taiwanese issues.
    - iii. Skyler -- What do you think makeup will be in terms of JDs, SJDs, LLMs, and what do you expect size of org to be?
      1. Currently large demand from SJDs and LLMs because they want to invite speakers. Expect JDs to be more involved once group is established.
      2. SJDs would love to facilitate invitations of Taiwanese speakers. Want events to educate both Taiwanese and non-Taiwanese students.
    - iv. Rachna -- Have you talked to APALSA or HALS?
      1. Talked about whether goals would match, and they do not. HALS more career focused. This group wants to focus on political

discussions. APALSA's political events are geared toward all of Asia. Impossible to hold series of events focusing just on Taiwan, which is what they want to do. APALSA focuses on Asian American issues in the States, while group wants to focus on Taiwanese issues.

v.Chinsky -- Do you have any non-HLS funding sources?

1. Not currently b/c not established. Will look into New England area Taiwanese organizations. University's Fairbanks Study Fund might also be willing to fund serious events.

vi.Chandler -- Why are speakers more likely to come with org?

1. Speakers not likely to come without a name. \
2. HALS and APALSA don't historically invite people for such a narrow topic.
3. From conversations with current HALS and APALSA boards, those events are not on the table with those orgs.

vii.Michael -- Why did you decide to go with co-Pres leadership structure?

1. Coming in as a new org, feel like having two leaders would really help it take off. Hoping to have one JD representative and potentially an LLM, so can pull different audiences.

viii.Chandler -- Activities you have in outline/plan look very interesting. Have 9 scheduled. Do you plan on people being so involved that you'd have one activity per week?

1. List of activities is a goal.

ix.Skyler -- How many people would you count as actively interested? Also, funding decisions made by student funding board. Suppose the board decided they didn't want to fund. Would that change your desire to be a student org?

1. About 30
2. No. Would just change how we get our funding.

x.Rachna -- Confident in outside funding?

1. Don't need outside funding for all events.
2. Would try to get extra outside funding or charge membership fees.
3. Would change number of events, but wouldn't change desire to have org.

xi.Skyler -- Will org be strong in 3 years?

1. Believe it will be. Trying to be aggressive this semester to make sure it stays strong going forward.

xii.Skyler -- Final thoughts?

1. Taiwanese issues matter b/c currently a lot of scholarship about Taiwan as a study in re Taiwan/China or US relations. This spring, House is trying to pass Taiwan relations act. Shows there's a spotlight on Taiwan and its development. Believe that will continue into the future.

d. Discussion

- i. Rachna -- briefing us on convos with DOS
  - 1. DOS thinks this is the perfect example of something we could reject given the decisions we've made in the past given Brazilian Students Association. Have to think about HALS/APALSA overlap. Big reason DOS is hesitant. Already have two orgs that focus on Asian issues. Adding a national identity org seems a little redundant. Concern that half the board is graduating this year. A lot of support signatures are from friends, not necessarily people very interested.
- ii. Lina -- Why good candidate for rejection?
  - 1. So many meetings re Brazil Students Association about not opening floodgates. With them, one of the big four developing countries. Huge thing was the Portuguese language difference from La Alianza. Also change in student org name.
  - 2. Here, a lot of social events, so not as
- iii. Allison -- Does APALSA have specific national identity committees? (No)  
Seems like a potential problem that could keep cropping up. If no nationality committee on the org like APALSA, sympathetic, but line drawing becomes a problem.
- iv. Jonny -- If it's a money issue, don't understand why we can't just let them form orgs and take money out of the equation?
  - 1. Rachna -- in these convos, operating under impression that there is no money involved. Groups that already exist
- v. Allison -- Don't think we should recognize one group over another b/c one has been more forceful. Think we shouldn't use persistence and assertiveness as a measure of group recognition.
- vi. Victoria -- Can't give priority to persistent group. Need objective criteria. Underlying issue -- Brazil upcoming, but so is Taiwan. Purpose of this group is, in part, to clarify what the role of Taiwan is in the global scheme.
  - 1. Rachna -- If we keep saying yes to everyone, won't stop getting applications. Just starting to see so many more. Takes up a lot of time. Want a smaller group of student orgs that do a lot of good stuff. With Brazilian Students Org, persistence was an issue b/c it hit with DOS.
- vii. Michael -- How many student orgs are there now?
  - 1. Rachna -- 70+. 40ish active.
  - 2. Michael -- thought they articulated why they should be different from HLS groups and university-wide group. But, agree that we can't just keep letting people come and get approved as organizations.
- viii. Emmanuel -- Taiwanese students org came to me to explain why they don't fit with other orgs. Understand we can't open all the doors b/c would lead to one-person orgs. But this is distinct b/c lots of people supporting. Comes back to idea of them being able to express themselves. Think the

criteria of significant number of people, activeness, and ability to contribute should be considered.

- ix.Lina -- Aversion to large number of student groups need to be defended before just accepting that Minow says so. If concern is money, don't fund. If concern is overload to students, no one actually knows how many there are; just know what they're being invited to. If so many clubs that everyone can find own niche, that's a great thing. Good to have large number as long as they're active. If want to trim fat, why not just cut groups that are inactive rather than keeping out orgs that might do well.
1. If concern is meeting efficiency, why not make application harder so questions would be answered ahead of time?
- x.Andrew Roach -- Persuaded by uniqueness of Taiwan and why org can't fit in under umbrellas of other groups. From speakers advocating group, political outlet is really a goal. There is a political chair of APALSA, but for whatever reason that's not working. Since we've let nationality orgs form in the past, feel it would be arbitrary to close this one out without considering others that were previously formed.
- xi.Andrew Chinsky -- Said they can't fit under existing org, think that's just as much because we've set precedent that you can create own group. If say we want to make quality orgs, can increase pressure on collaboration.
1. Proposed standards/criteria: depth (variety of activities), breadth (of law school), external relations. Look at impact on campus rather than simple fact that it's a national identity group.
- xii.Greg -- Many concerns with org. Don't see org as becoming engaged in or expanding current framework of orgs. Don't see prospects of collaboration or drawing in other people. Small niche org that might have important things to say, but more concerned about how many people it will touch/effect it will have on general org framework.
- xiii.Jonny -- If going to deny, should be for idea of sustainability. But haet the idea of this is DOS saying this is the chance to make an example of a group that can be denied. Onus is on us to put in stronger standards.
1. Sitting here talking about merits about Taiwan or Brazil. Not our job to say these issues are important.
- xiv.Allison -- Uncomfortable with saying, this country should have a group b/c it's more important than another country. Wondering if small group/large group problem could be solved by tiered structure.
1. e.g., smaller orgs that have niche recognized, but only larger groups with breadth and depth given funding. small groups could partner with either big groups or outside groups to get funding. Recognizing but not funding will cut down on number of events.
- xv.Victoria -- Maybe objective criteria should be application process. Also, unfair for DOS to make a decision but force us to make the final one/be the bad guys.

xvi.Lina -- Why isn't there an external group that makes student org formation decisions? Or why don't we institute a deadline every semester for org formation?

xvii.Rachna -- this is first time Stugov has taken on this role.

1. In terms of DOS telling us to make an example -- Don't appreciate being in that position, but don't think we give ourselves a choice without a rubric. Our job to create rubric if we're going to say no. Should be working on codifying this.
2. Can't understate fact that half of board is graduating.
3. Having too many groups is de-legitimizing to leaders of student orgs.
4. Group couldn't really justify inability to fit under HALS or APALSA.
5. Didn't seem to have sense of external funding.
6. Suggestion -- should table this until they have a real discussion with HALS and APALSA leaderships to see if there's room to fit there.

a. Rachna motions to table. 13 in favor. Tabled.

xviii.Andrew Roach -- If they come back and say they can't exist under HALS or APALSA, would know if they can or cannot exist.

xix.Skyler -- Will have Alex sit down with leaders and figure out if there's any room. If not, vote next time.

1. Re fact that DOS is pushing on us -- would we rather have orgs shut down by peers or DOS? Seems more legit for us to do it, rather than DOS.

#### 4. Collaboration Proposal with Clinical Advisory

a. Clinical Advisory Committee wants to send out survey polling students re Clinicals.

b. Discussion --

i.Greg -- Thinks we should do it. People complain about law school not being practical. This would be a way to make it more practical.

c. Skyler motions to vote. Passed unanimously (15 in room)

#### 5. Buried Life

a. Theory re why this is relevant to law school:

i.Girl in Chinsky's section works with them. They want to come here.

ii.Basically group of guys that started making a list of 100 things to do before they died. Have started crossing things off list. For every item they cross off, help someone else cross something off their list. Have played basketball with Obama, given toasts at wedding, etc. Have also made book deal and donated \$\$ to charity.

iii.Would be awesome b/c

1. Would be totally unusual.
2. Would blend with Minow's Living Well in the Law campaign. If they've done all this w/o HLS degree, what could we do? Reminder of how we could live well with ourselves.

- 3. Would be fun
- iv. They're doing East Coast tour in Spring. Would waive \$20k speaking fee.
  - 1. At most, would have to buy bus ticket. Maybe provide dinner or snacks for event.
  - 2. Doing this is not on their list.
- b. Discussion
  - i. Jonny -- Do you think people will really come if they come to speak? I wouldn't personally care.
    - 1. Poll indicates some people would go sans Student Gov't requirement.
    - 2. Chinsky -- depends on marketing.
  - ii. Jonny -- Why should we do this (in re Living Well with the Law)?
    - 1. Because it was brought to us.
    - 2. Chinsky -- Would want to pitch this to Living Well with Law people as an idea.
  - iii. Leon -- What would they do if they came?
    - 1. Tell their story. Could ask them to tailor to their audience. Take questions, have a dialogue back and forth.
  - iv. Bo -- How old are they?
    - 1. Probably around 23-24.
  - v. Chandler -- In favor of it. Big fan of Buried Life. Can we see any push back as far as fact that their offering is that they were on hit MTV show. How would HLS feel about us inviting them?
    - 1. Dylan -- If we do this, should look for co-sponsor. Don't want StuGov't to be only org associated with it.
  - vi. Andrew Roach -- They have record for placing highest single bet on roulette wheel in Vegas. #67 on list is make an important speech.
  - vii. Rachna -- What's the timeline? Do we want to wait for more info?
    - 1. Chinsky -- Was asked to get initial feel. Happy to go back.
  - viii. Bo -- Sounds interesting, but seems like something better fit for undergrad. Could we reach out to them?
    - 1. Chinsky -- Could reach out to college. Really just by chance that I'm the contact this girl had.
  - ix. Greg -- What are they going to talk about?
  - x. Skyler -- How many of you guys would care if this showed up on Above the Law?
    - 1. None.
- c. Vote to let Chinsky to continue talks (unanimous)
  - i. Will talk about
    - 1. Firm dates/times
    - 2. Talk to Living Well in the Law people
    - 3. What they'd be speaking about
      - a. Chandler -- this is very important. They could just be pranking us.

#### 4. Any other specific questions

#### 6. Way grades were released

##### a. Discussion

- i. Andrew Chinsky -- Thought it was the worst release possible. One prof hinted at it and that info spread. Got a vague email from BSAs the night before.
- ii. Also, repeated statement that grades don't matter actually makes people more stressed.
- iii. Allison -- Talked to registrar about this. Reason they don't release a date is that they don't know they'll be able to meet it and don't want to tie themselves down.
- iv. Dan -- Counterproductive to keep telling people grades aren't a big deal. To timing issue, why can't they just release whatever they have on the release date?
- v. Andrew Roach -- Comment that grades don't matter is common across every law school. Can't do anything about this.
- vi. Lina -- Could at least give a 1 week range. Like culture of grades don't matter.
- vii. Chandler -- Not that hard to just give us a day. Also, don't release them during class time.
- viii. Allison -- Think releasing them at 5 not that effective b/c if there are any problems no one in the office to fix glitches.
- ix. Danny -- Part has to be procedural aspect of letting them out all at the same time. Professors have less flexible schedules, which impact ability to post grades.
- x. Michael -- Think should release all at the same time. Think they did know in advance which day they were going to release them. Should announce 1 week in advance.
- xi. Greg -- Should tell in December that they know they'll release at end of January. Rolling grades bad idea because Professors turn them in at very disparate times.
- xii. Chinsky -- Should give us a date either the end of December or first week of J-term.
- xiii. Allison -- re rolling: it's important for profs to experience peer pressure for turning in grades.
- xiv. Rachna -- Is there a way for Student Gov't to advocate for this? Minow has tried, but maybe a student gov't petition could make a difference.
  1. Allison -- At least have registrar be in contact with professors to make them accountable.
- xv. Robin -- Friday not ideal b/c people might need to adjust schedules depending on grades.

##### b. Vote on pre-announcing date for release of grades:

- i. Yes - 12
- ii. 1 - want 1 week

##### c. Vote on when Registrar should give notice of when grades will be available

- i. End of December - 8
    - ii. Beginning of January - 5
    - iii. Compromise -- give them a window
  - d. Vote on time for release --
    - i. 9 am -- 0
    - ii. Noon -- 5
    - iii. 5 pm -- 9
  - e. Want them to preannounce between December and January on a certain date at 5pm.
- 7. Editor of Record requested to come into meeting re budget and Student Funding Board money. She would be quoting people. Uncomfortable b/c want people to be honest. If people think discourse would be minimized, want to reconsider whether she can come for a portion only. Have to figure out now b/c President has to decide in advance if outside parties are not allowed in.
  - a. We will be deciding on disclosure of this year's Student Gov't budget, last year's Student Gov't budget, and Student Funding Board budget.
  - b. Skyler -- Will anyone be uncomfortable with reporter being here during discussion?
    - i. Bo -- is she quoting us?
    - ii. Rachna -- Could tell her not to do sound bytes.
    - iii. Skyler -- Negotiable whether she's disclosing names.
      - 1. We've never disclosed in the past, so the discussion will be on whether to do so.
- 8. Emmanuel -- lots of emails re food at Hark. People think food never changes, too expensive, plastic utensils bad, metal utensils not clean. People concerned b/c when they go to Lesley, food is better and much cheaper. Should force RA to improve quality of services.
  - a. Skyler -- DOS is going to arrange meeting with RA and Student Gov't. Going to explain cost structure and give us more feedback.
- 9. Skyler -- meeting adjourned at 9:07 (effectively 9:10)