

SBA Meeting 11.6

Dean Wong

- A new version of Exam4 is ready to go and an email will be sent to students
- Process for papers has changed -> they will go through the professor or faculty support instead of the Registrar
- The registrar office is thinking about how to streamline communication about exams
 - I.e. do we need to video before exams
- Discussion
 - Georgetown is still talking with Exam4 about possible changes
 - Georgetown has reached out to other schools to talk about issues with the vendor together but has had limited success
 - The contract for Exam4 is 3 years and will continually assess
 - It could be useful to get information from SBA if other school's who use Exam4 have similar concerns
 - The timer feature in exam4 is turned off out of concerns that it will not work properly for in class exams
 - Last year's legal practice delay
 - Was a result of a lack of access to the room where the exams were held
 - Administrative issues with exams are not generally shared with faculty
 - Delayed release of grades last year
 - The curve at georgetown is reviewed for every course
 - Have been conversations on if this should be the case
 - There were changes in the curve not fully communicated to faculty
 - Grades released last semester prior to their finalization
 - Was a result of attempting to get graduating students grades released on time, some 1L grades got caught up in the release
 - Curve is recommended
 - In theory this means faculty can submit grades outside of the curve
 - The Registrar's office has been told that faculty should stay within the curve and checks each course for this
 - Students have an expectation that grade curve is mandatory
 - Should there be more information given on Exam4 prior to exam time
 - Is information online
 - Discussion about mandatory exam practice sessions (some T-14 schools have this)

Student Faculty Committee Updates

- Academic Standards
 - Curve Subcommittee is discussing
 - Externship updates from the last meeting would be enacted next year
 - If the 1L elective could be a more generous curve
 - Note from SBA that section 3 would need to be taken into consideration they can't take the elective
 - If the curve should be recommended / required, if it should be more generous for upper level courses
 - If the top and bottom of the curve should be adjusted
 - E.g. instead of 5-7% going to 0-5% or assigned as earned - 5%
 - Making A+ 0 - 2% instead of very rare
 - Considering making an A+ a 4.33
 - Pass / Fail expansion likely off the table for now
 - We could try pushing for 8 credits instead of 7
 - Hoping to discuss a more generous curve for classes under 30 people
 - Clinic curve - only a hist clinic curve, not a published curve. Often conflated with the seminar curve
 - 1L Curriculum Subcommittee
 - Various proposals for updating the 1L curriculum (very nebulous)
 - Proposals for elective curriculum
 - Only admin law electives
 - Open up upper level courses (would have to consider the curve)
 - Make Admin law required by
 - Removing property
 - Decreasing credits of other classes
 - Changes to the elective
 - for all admin law, to open up upper level courses
 - Adding a leadership or social justice course into 1L curriculum or upper class requirement
 - Curriculum C: Tech
 - Discussion
 - Legal Writing
 - Add cover letters
 - Add oral advocacy as part of the graded component
 - Make it more useful generally
- Careers Committee
 - Guiding question: What do students need to feel successful and be successful during their job search during law school
 - Four pillars: personal development, skills development including soft and hard skills, tangible job opportunities, and relationship building (vertical columns)
 - Ideas
 - Creating a podcast with alums to talk about their careers — changes and failures

- Having office hours with people in institutes and different people we have at Georgetown to connect more
- Maybe a young alumni salary and benefit sheet, to allow for easier negotiating and have more access to information
- Diversity committee
 - 1. Digital strategy Subcommittee
 - 2. Admissions Subcommittee
 - How to increase the number of diverse admitted students who decide to come to Georgetown
 - Call day leveraging affinity groups
 - Affinity groups or the university sending swag to students
 - Following up with admitted students sooner
 - 3. Career strat Subcommittee
 - Coord OCS / OPICS to dev pipelines for diverse students
 - Faculty lunches w/ diverse students talk about career goals
 - More opportunities outside big law diversity pushes
 - Speaker series talking about social topics
 - Talking about improving our criminal justice offerings
 - More cohesiveness between affinity groups
 - 4. Office equity and inclusion Subcommittee
 - Feedback on a campus climate survey for all graduate students
 - Frustrated that it was not law school specific
 - Asking for additional questions
 - Had a listening session with 20 students and 4-5 faculty
- Finance committee
 - The finance committee has strict confidentiality rules, that the committee thinks SBA should consider challenging
 - The number of meetings was cut down this year from 10 to 4 meetings
 - Mel has been disinvited from the meetings
- Graduate and Transnational Programs
 - There has not been a meeting yet and the committee is looking into it
- Law Journals Committee
 - Data collection - want to have more data about what journal members and EICs are experiencing
 - E.g. are there issues w/ 3Ls not being engaged or is that more of an entrenched belief
 - More collaboration with centers and institutes
 - Discussion about adding a transcript denotation for journal membership
 - Discussion
 - Has been some discussions about a credit hour for journal, but faculty doesn't seem too keen on the idea
 - Issue in lack of understanding of what is required once a student joins a journal and how journal experience differs across journals
 - Sexual Assault Committee

- Was disbanded, working on a campus wide committee
- Student life and wellness
 - The committee is looking into restructuring student organizations
 - Approved 5 new student organizations
 - Discussing practice law practice well
- Free speech and expression
 - Committee was disbanded but after Acting DHS Secretary protests it is being reformed
 - Dean Bailin is the chair
 - The only students allowed to join were the students on the committee last year...
 - Will be evaluating
 - How speakers are invited
 - How to address protestors in the moment
 - If there should be consequences for student protestors after the event
- Unclear committee
- Legal Careers & Clerkships Committee
 - Peer institutions are better at keeping data on clerkships
 - Discussion on if there needs to be more “grooming”
 - Talking to professors about more individual letters of rec
- Legal research and writing committee
 - Hired a new LRW professor
 - Cover letters are outside of LRW scope per the committee

Resolutions

- Resolution 2019-2020-18 Declaration of Understanding About Reproductive Justice and Support for Recognition of If/When/How
 - Slightly different than last years resolution which focused on lack of recognition of the group harming students and going against free speech policy
 - This year focusing on educating community about reproductive justice and how it ties into other social justice missions of the university
 - Unanimously approved
- Resolution 2019-2020-19 Hiring a Trauma Specialist on the Law Center Campus
 - The law center had a trauma specialist in the past for 2.5 months that came 1 day a week and was fully booked
 - It is an important resource for students
 - Unanimously approved

Exec updates

- President
 - Retreat was great, please fill up the survey
 - Tower green halloween was great

Committee updates

- ABA
 - DC BAR had tabling session in October
 - SBA tabling will occur in mid November
- Alumni
 - Awaiting information for gateway
- Campus services
 - Will conduct a survey about campus amenities and offering gift cards to fill out
 - Textbook resolution has made change!
 - Will offer a bridge loan for 2500 for rent and books
 - Campus Enforcement
 - The gym is discussing longer gym hours
 - Mental health and wellness
 - Follow up meeting with Maura Demoy to discuss FAQ document
 - Meeting next week with CAPS
 - Sexual assault - thank you for your support on the resolution
 - Sustainability
 - There is a discount if you use reusable mugs for it in the market cafe!
 - You only pay for small coffee there
 - Can't do reusable plates b/c no space for a dishwasher
 - Going to create a free and for seal page
- Career services
 - Focus group about OCI w/ OCS and liked the peer mentorship idea
 - Barrier for them on 1L programming is they don't know what the LRW curriculum and have some scheduling w/ major delines
- Diversity
 - Events next semester stay tuned
- Elections
 - Will meet to discuss elections in spring and how they are different
- Social
 - Wine down today
 - Bar review salsa at lost society tomorrow
 - 1Ls heard from section that make sure sections know whats up
- Special events
 - Thanks for tower green halloween
 - Barristers announced for dinstorouse
 - Invite people / section to the event page