



**Georgetown University Law Center
Student Bar Association
House of Delegates Meeting**

**April 15, 2020
9pm
Meeting Minutes**

- **Dean Treanor/Dean Bailin**
 - Presentation
 - Gratitude for commitment to SBA and the school
 - Admin finds the student's dedication inspiring
 - Grading policy
 - We have student representation/input on all committees
 - Grading question didn't have an existing committee so Dean Treanor created a new committee → Ohm was chair and past associate deans for curriculum were members as well as chair of existing committee looking at grading
 - Student input was a big part of the initial decision during the first faculty meeting (resulting in optional pass/fail)
 - All the input Dean Treanor got was shared with the faculty
 - 106 faculty at the meeting (largest faculty meeting turn out ever)
 - Reasons for change in policy
 - Faster acceleration of the pandemic than was expected
 - OCI changed its date to January
 - To assign grades in a class it has to be on the proposition that students are in a relatively even position to earn those grades
 - Faculty were worried they could not grade in a way that would be with integrity
 - Tuition Freeze for fall
 - Body passed a resolution in support of this in the fall
 - The school is not in a position now to freeze tuition
 - Tuition goes to student services and increasing support for students
 - This is why tuition goes up every year
 - In this crisis it is more important than ever
 - University as a whole has spent \$25 million in student support since the start of the COVID-19 crisis
 - Essential services free food and free parking
 - Forgiving rent for students leaving dorms
 - Expect this to continue in the fall
 - Expectation of more financial aid in the fall

- Looking at ways to support students losing jobs over the summer
- 3.7% increase in tuition is in response to the student's request for a tuition freeze
- Dean Treanor would like to focus on tuition when SBA meets again in the fall
- Fall contingency plans
 - Dean Treanor has put together working groups to think through different areas
 - Summer semester
 - Fall semester (Dean Ohm is chairing)
 - Admin is looking at the timing for the decision
 - Hoping to decide by June 1 what the fall will look like
 - Considering full range of responsibilities
 - Law school online
 - How do we make it work better than what we have now?
 - Supporting students without internet or low-quality internet
 - Possibly structuring classes differently if we need to be online
 - Faculty would vote on grading policy
 - Hybrid- people with the antibodies are allowed on campus
 - Social distancing in the classroom
 - No in person events outside of class
 - Segment the courses
 - September is one course (online)
 - October is another (in person)
 - Trying to be mindful that not every student is similarly situated as they consider the options
- Question and Answer Session
 - What will the grading system be for summer classes and will there be any kind of tuition reduction?
 - Admin is just turning to these questions now
 - Dean Treanor has a group of peer deans he meets with → they are mostly doing traditional grading and charging normal tuition
 - Concern among evening students about over subscription for summer classes
 - Dean Treanor will bring this back to the academic team
 - Head of academic affairs is looking at this issue and considering possible solutions
 - We are situated across the street from one of the largest homeless shelters in the US, does the law center have plans to house the homeless community?
 - There are still 100 students living in Gewirz
 - Suites on every floor are occupied
 - There would be significant risk management and security issues

- We have gone to a skeletal staff on campus
 - Universities that have done this are mostly state schools with fully empty buildings
 - How is the admin soliciting student input when deciding about the fall?
 - Would like to get information from students about what is and isn't successful in an online environment
 - Committed to a shared governments model
 - Want nuanced and broad-based feedback
 - Is a financial aid and student contribution freeze possible?
 - Continuously trying to increase financial aid
 - Not sure whether this is possible or not, but always want to increase the discount rate
 - Evening students are in a very precarious financial situation, aren't eligible for grants, students are feeling they aren't getting everything they are paying for. Will any action be taken about this?
 - Admin realizes this is even more acute of an issue now
 - They will look hard at it
 - If the fall is online, has there been discussion of adjusting the grading curve?
 - Admin is still considering what the grading policy will be for the fall
 - Faculty have brought up the idea of a more generous curve
 - If the curve is changed that will be a permanent decision
 - There will be more time to plan if we are online for the fall
- **Updates**
 - We have a new member- SJD Rep Andy Constantin
 - **Resolutions**
 - 2020-2021-4: Committee Chairs
 - Jade can set up transition meetings between the old and new chairs
 - Passes unanimously
 - 2020-2021-5: Committee Membership
 - Passes unanimously
 - 2020-2021-6: Tuition Affordability and COVID-19
 - Question and answers
 - Given Dean Treanor's statement that tuition won't change how do we think this resolution will be effective?
 - It's important to show the administration that this is very important and a top priority for students
 - If tuition keeps increasing every year it will be unaffordable
 - Friendly amendment to include language in the resolution about SJD tuition
 - Passes
 - Question about whether we could ask for a refund instead of a tuition freeze
 - Debate
 - People are wondering how the cashflow of the school has changed now that we are online

- Answer: all staff are still being paid, and the law school is taking a \$25 million loss during this time
 - We are behind many other T-14s in terms of fundraising capacity
- Suggestion for survey about tuition freeze for the student body
- While a resolution won't necessarily get tuition freeze, it has a lot of power when it is unanimously supported by SBA
- Suggestion to discuss this issue with faculty
- Transfer student support (especially because they pay full tuition)
- Want to balance this issue so that we don't have to lay off staff, but also want to increase discount rate
 - This idea was seconded
- Suggestion to fight for a tuition decrease because we are receiving a lesser quality education
- We can pass this resolution and still continue fighting for tuition affordability and transparency in the future
- Peer schools have passed tuition freezes
 - Coordinating with peer institutions and SBAs at peer schools is important
 - Resolution passes!
- **President Updates**
 - This is the last meeting until September but the work doesn't stop!
 - E-board will be continuing to meet and will be reaching out to the body as we navigate what the fall will look like
- **Vice President Updates**
 - Jade would like to meet with the committee chairs during the summer
 - Will connect with individuals about ideas for the summer
- **Secretary Updates**
 - Committee chairs should set summer goals and email them to Madison by 5/1
 - These will be publicly available to the SBA body in the google drive
- **Open Forum**
 - Reach out to Anna (acb328) and Panya (pg706) if you have thoughts about OCI and how that should proceed and they can communicate this to OCS
 - We can have ad hoc SBA meetings during the summer if needed, regardless Olivia will definitely be emailing with updates throughout the summer
 - Student-Faculty committee discussions are going to start happening now, we may try to move up the application process if there are conversations that need to happen over the summer
 - Grad School student government is putting together something to celebrate how the Georgetown Medical School has responded to the crisis
 - They would like law school support
 - Olivia plans to continue having weekly meetings with the Dean throughout the summer
 - Conversations about how to get students involved in decisions
 - Olivia is continuously advocating for this