

General Meeting
Tuesday, February 6, 2018
1:00 - 2:00pm, Rm. 136

Present: Travis Mitchell, Katie Lee, Elizabeth Castellanos, Katie Burkhart, Nestor Gonzalez, Erika Hernandez, Debbie Oh, Javier Mabrey, Griffin Brunk, Mark Jaycox

1L Parent Concerns

- Current 1L and 2L classes have fewer parents than in years past
- Feel the smaller number has left them with less influence to get school to meet their needs; identified several areas of concern:
 - Parents put in mods that conflict with child drop-off time windows, forcing them to arrive late to class regularly
 - Some professors are accommodating, some are not
 - 1Ls who have tried to change mods told switching isn't permitted
 - Professors have varying policies regarding student absences
 - Some hold absences against students' grades, despite personal/childrens' emergencies, job interviews, etc.
 - Is this completely up to professors' discretion, or are their institutional policies in place for this?
 - Sudden changes to the syllabus
 - Especially difficult for parents to adjust accordingly to be prepared for class
 - Some schools have policies/deadlines for when syllabi can be changed
- How can BHSA help?
 - Some of these issues--particularly absences--come from ABA rules that bind all law schools, not UC Berkeley or Boalt Hall policies
 - ABA rules followed inconsistently
 - Can explore drafting some internal policies for Berkeley Law
 - Would let all students know what kind of policies to expect from their classes; lend themselves to more long term internal policies (e.g., Information required to be on all syllabi)
 - Might look into filing formal petitions for allowing emergency absences, etc.
 - How are "excused absences" are defined? Professors approach this differently
- Need to determine which policies are Boalt-specific, which are UC Berkeley-wide, and which are ABA-wide
 - Boalt won't implement policies that go against ABA rules; puts school accreditation in jeopardy
- Might run into obstacles with union negotiations with certain professor policies
- Katie and Travis will bring up with Dean Chemerinsky, as well as Dean Hirshen and Kyle
- In the meantime, can look at circulating informal petitions

Student Fundraising

- Requests from student groups that policies surrounding student group fundraising be made more clear. What is/is not allowed?
- Avenues currently suggested for student groups not realistic; Alumni Office not helpful for large fundraising initiatives

Student Space Allocation

- We received 48 applications for office space; some of these only for lockers
- BHSA Exec Board to review in the coming weeks
 - 2-3 people will read each application; scores averaged
- Kyle will be sending email to student groups instructing them to clean out their offices (regardless of whether or not they end up moving to a new office space)
 - Aiming to have this finished by **March 1**
 - Will likely dock points from groups' applications if they do not complete this
- First round of assignments also released on March 1
 - Need to get appeals process started quickly
 - Ideally, some groups could even be moved prior to Spring Break

*Candidate statements for BHSA elections due to Katie B. sometime in March

Potential New BHSA Position for Wellness Fund

- Would be a voting member of BHSA--do we want to add this position?
- If so, need to amend bylaws
- Current committee has a separate grant from main campus, but this officer would serve as a coordinator of wellness-related events at Boalt more broadly
- BHSA bylaws can't be amended after candidate statements have been submitted, so this decision needs to be made in late February/early March
- Travis will draft position information; will hold email vote on creating this position

Student Speakers at Graduation

- Currently, 3L class presidents automatically speak at graduation
 - Dean Hirshen interested in changing this policy
 - Many students don't know this; don't vote in line with who they'd want to speak *or* don't realize they aren't eligible to speak themselves
- There is only one student speaker; can't add additional speakers due to time constraints
- Other schools select their graduation speakers differently
 - Allow entire class to vote on speakers/speeches
 - Select speakers on a nomination/committee selection basis
- Do we want to change this process?
 - If so, this also must be completed before BHSA candidate statements have been submitted, as this would entail a bylaw amendment
- BHSA will have a vote on this soon

Humans Rights Center is helping to organize a blood drive at the law school on April 5

- Have reached out for support from BHSA, but unclear what that support would look like
- Will vote via email whether to send a Boalt-wide email promoting the drive
 - Could still advertise on social media in lieu of an email blast

Ad Hoc SVSH (Sexual Violence Sexual Harassment) Committee Update

- Elizabeth met with Kyle; still deciding what they want to do with grant money
- This will be an ad hoc committee with project deadline of sometime in April
 - Everyone who received funding from main campus will be presenting their projects, so April deadline is not negotiable
 - Berkeley Law considered a “community” within grant structure; will be presenting alongside other “communities” on campus (Greek life, student housing village, etc.)
- Applications for this committee to be released soon
 - Elizabeth waiting to get a formal announcement from either Chemerinsky or COO before releasing applications
 - Before announcing committee, want to announce that school is committing itself to a larger campaign called “Berkeley Law CARES”
 - Extension of main campus’ “CARES” Program

Housing issue

- Graduate student union has submitted a petition to the administration about this ongoing problem
 - Mark will reach out to check on this