

Student Government Open General Meeting Minutes 12-2-15

*Editors Note**

**[Below are comments generated from an open discussion among ~100 students. Uses of “we” are attributed to individual students or subgroups of students within the larger group discussion and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Student Government. The goal of this meeting was to receive input from a wide-variety of student perspectives. No final decisions were made at this meeting]*

What do we want to discuss on Friday?:

- Prior Suggestions
 - Make sure there is time for students to express opinions, student voices need to be heard
 - Students in solidarity standing together- wear black
 - Main agenda as of yet has been to express unity
 - Group of students would like to say something specifically at the beginning, then open it up to general community, then leave time at the end for Dean Minow to respond in a constructive way
 - Facilitator?
 - Student or professor
 - Is it ok that not every student will know the professor?
 - Which student would it be?
 - Could we have a student and a professor? And a staff member?
 - How do we find someone who is neutral?
 - Should it be someone outside of the school? How can we do this logistically?
 - How do we get all of the students to support one agenda?
 - How can we be transparent about what each group would like to achieve?
 - Opportunities for feedback
 - Hard to talk about everything in the abstract
 - Standing mics
 - Concern that administration will not abide by student suggestions, so there is a plan to take over the meeting to make sure that it is a student-led meeting (student run, student moderated, and students in control)
- All community insights matter- students (at all levels), staff, employees
- Clear priority: students having the opportunity to speak
- It will be difficult to address everything on Friday-look beyond Friday
- Options Voted On
 - Moderator: Student, Faculty Member, Someone from Outside
 - Format: when/how often will the administration respond
 - Layout of the room: Dean Minow on the stage, floor mics, people facing the front
- Decisions- Things to be SUGGESTED to the Administration
 - Standing mics
 - Administration sitting on stage

- Agenda will be sent out to students before the meeting on Friday
- Things not decided
 - More committees?
 - How many students on the committees?

General Thoughts:

- Royall Crest Committee
 - 2 student is inadequate
 - Would like to discuss how they will be selected
 - Would like student government to be held accountable to represent how the students would like the representative to be chosen
 - Would like to express that to the administration
 - Would like the administration to express a position on the crest
- Student Government accountability
 - How does SG get the opinion of the student body?
 - Referendum- 150 signatures from a group are needed in order for SG to send out a general poll to the student body
 - SG itself can decide to send out a poll
 - Simple Majority is all that is needed in order for the student government to present an issue as the view of the student body
- 6 demands as of yet
 - Hiring and support of a tenured Critical Race Theorist
 - Changes to the mandatory aspects of legal curriculum at HLS that address and contextualize racial justice and inequality in the law (including but not limited to 1L Orientation, PSW, and Legal Profession)
 - A permanent acknowledgment, such as a monument on campus, of HLS's legacy of slavery that would include removing the Royall family crest
 - An Office of Diversity and Inclusion that is empowered to make real changes to the pedagogy, diversity, and culture of HLS and will publicly report on the progress of its initiatives every semester
 - Improved affordability and financial access to HLS by students of color, students from low socio-economic backgrounds, and otherwise marginalized students
 - A committee to discuss the procedure by which these issues will be addressed
- Thoughts about how these demands/ideas should be addressed
 - We want to show a large amount of support for anything that is put forth
 - In order for this to happen the students need to be aware of what people are discussing
 - Be sure to include the LLMs
 - Student-to-student interaction
 - It does not necessarily have to be an either/or decision between this list of demands and a growing list
 - Student government could be in a great position to do this
 - Clarity about the purpose of the meeting on Friday
 - Discussion
 - Solutions

- What does the administration think?
 - Administration is not planning on speaking unless spoken to
- What are our goals?- perhaps we need a moderator in order to structure the meeting
- Proposed Format
 - Student/Staff Groups each get a set amount of time to speak (25)
 - Dean Minow has short time to respond (5)
 - General Open Discussion (25)
 - Should the administration speak at the end or in the middle?
 - Is it important for them to speak earlier on so that they actually respond constructively
 - Can administration take notes/general meeting minutes?
 - How can the note-taker gauge student response to what is being said
 - Real time response system?
 - Goal is community discussion?