

**MEETING AGENDA**

**Oct. 26th, 2016**

**HLS Student Government**

**Student Council**

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Guest Speakers**
4. **Representative Updates**

* David Heckman: Discussed the “law school best practices” program and is receptive to improving its design. Program will operated through an online document shared with other schools.
* Cameron Pritchett: Health + Wellness Committee is conducting the dodgeball event again this year on November 12th.
* Tyra Walker: Wants to solicit feedback from 2Ls to see what they want from their representatives. Also, wants to screen *OJ: Made in America*; seeking to contact its director.

1. **Executive Officer Updates**

* Robin Ladd: Discussed the Harvard Graduate Council Constitutional Committee; email [governance@hgc.harvard.edu](mailto:governance@hgc.harvard.edu) by 11/1 if interested.
* Nino Monea:
  + Happy to see the HUDS strike resolved.
  + A student is trying to start a new journal about addiction and is seeking a student resolution, we will vote on it soon.
  + A resolution vote on Harvard University grad student unionization is also upcoming.
  + Finally, encourages everyone who can to have their home open to ASW students
    - Cameron: How can we get a list of those students ahead of time?
      * Nino: We are working on it with the administration.
* Adrian Perkins: When we vote on the journal resolution it will be useful to have complete information about how the journal system generally works.
* Anika Khan: There are posters downstairs you can sign to welcome back the HUDS workers.

1. **Committee Chair Updates**
2. **New Business**

A. New Student Council Meeting Guidelines

* Robin presented; passed through roll call vote

1. Approval of Student Funding Board Members.

* Votes taken by ballot.
* Elected: Jane Jeong, Sam Sagartz, Rick Houghton, William Smith

1. Graduate Student Unionization

* Nino: All HU graduate students in research or teaching positions seeking to hold a vote on unionization. If not approved, goes back to the status quo. Law School students are encouraged to be involved in helping write policies for the bargaining committee, and it will be possible to write nuanced, targeted policy.
  + Paola Eisner: If a student is not part of the eligible list they can still cast a contest vote.
* Nino:
  + Benefits: We can have more say in wages and other terms, including number of students per teaching assistant. A union can also provide political support for initiatives we want to push, including a more diverse HLS faculty.
  + Downsides: Unexpected changes, and also there may be divergent interests within the union. Wages will be withheld for union dues; 1.44% of pay.
  + Cornell, Columbia, and NYU have all gone through this process.
* Adrian: Important to be mindful of the potential negative externalities that can come from this. Interests are so different; we have to make sure law school specific interests are represented.
* Anika: There were worries with the communication between the HUDS workers and Local 26.
* Tyra Walker: Any sort of exception in place if a school doesn’t support unionization but it’s still passed?
* Nino: We’ll be able to join the bargaining body and advocate for an exemption, for example. But can’t bargain in advance.
* Nino: University won’t forcefully argue against, so you might have to search harder to find the opposition’s views. Would be good in a resolution to go beyond saying whether we support unionization and mention how we want it to be structured and implemented.
* Paolo: Wishes school would better address certain interests like childcare.
* Nino: The BSA will be active on this issue. They’re trying to hold a forum on Tuesday, 11/2. Will be moderated by Professor Ben Sachs. Question: better to hold it open to law students only or should it be open to other grad students?
* Adrian: Would be good to open it up, some other schools have a further advanced debate than we presently have.
* Kerry Richards: There should be 2 events; law students who are RAs have very different interests from the rest.

1. **Special Business**
2. **Announcements**
   1. HLS Halloween Party, Oct. 31st at the Sinclair
   2. Email SG accomplishments you’ve worked on to Maseeh (mmoradi@jd18.law.harvard.edu)
3. **Adjournment**