

**MITCHELL HAMLIN SCHOOL OF LAW
 JANUARY 2024 SBA MEETING MINUTES
 START TIME: 7:03pm END TIME: 8:23pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

	Representative	
President	Nicoli Johnson	P
Vice President	Elliot Culp	P
Treasurer	Rachel Bakke	EA
Secretary	Sophia Mazullo	P
At-Large	Braxton Wheeler Thomas	P
ABA	Rhonda Bryant	P
1L BAM Sec. 1	Sigrid Jewett	P
1L BAM Sec. 2	Aaron Roessler	P
1L BAM Sec. 3	Alexander Moe	P
1L Blended Sec. 1	Wendy Jeter	P
1L Blended Sec. 2	Hannah Allhands	P
1L Blended Sec. 3	Day Woods	P
2L BAM Rep	Madeline Hertaus	P
2L Blended Sec. 1	Laurence O'Donnell	P
2L Blended Sec. 2	Erika Weisdorfer	P
2L Blended Sec. 3	Craig Alderton	P
3L Day Rep	Raya Esmaeili	P
3L Blended Sec. 1	Kirsten Gorman Buscher	P
3L Blended Sec. 2	Carinne Murphy	P
3L Blended Sec. 3	Evbu Osawaru	P
4L BAM Rep		
4L Blended Rep	Tori Collins	UA
Judicial Council	Amber Miller	
	Jaycee Hass	
	Joseph Catron	

3. BOARD UPDATE

- a. SBA Secretary, Sophia Mazullo, is stepping down from the Board but will continue to serve on the Barrister's Ball Committee as a volunteer.
- b. Logistics: Interim Secretary to be appointed by Nikki and will continue to fill in until special elections can be held. Any students with interest in the position should reach out to Nikki.

4. MOTION TO AMEND THE MINUTES

- a. Elliot moves, Laurence seconds.

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

- a. Nikki moves, Raya seconds.

6. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

- a. Carinne motions, Wendy seconds.

7. DEAN'S REPORT

- a. Introductions:
 - i. Dean LeMoine is the Dean of students. She is the first point of contact for student issues – including academic probation, academic affairs, and making sure students are represented in decision making at the school.
 - ii. Dean Hilbert is the Interim President and Dean of MHSL. He was appointed to serve as President while the board conducts a search for a new president. Process ongoing – there are some promising candidates – more information to come.
- b. **Open forum:**
 - i. Carinne Murphy, 3L blended rep: three main issues: (1) Conflict in the Middle East bringing up tension between students who don't feel

supported by the school. Carinne has been supporting as best she can but would appreciate some support. (2) Students graduating in the spring are struggling to find classes they need at the times they need. (3) Advocates for a review of protocol for supporting students with physical disabilities and health disparity while on campus and during study abroad.

1. Dean LeMoine: (1) when conflict comes up between students, encourage the students to reach out to our counseling services; (2) students struggling with finding appropriate classes please reach out to academic counselors; (3) there are procedures in place to support students with disabilities: reach out to Allie in student services.
2. Dean Hilbert: appreciating how hard it can be to support each other, please reach out to any dean directly – they are here to help you! Dan Nimlos is also a great resource and can direct you to the right services.
3. Nikki: Dean Hilbert gathered a working group which includes student leaders, faculty, staff, and board representatives. One component of the working group is to create and update policies such as (1) use of space on campus, (2) religious and secular holiday observations, and (3) the use of social media.
 - a. Faculty have had recent training on antisemitism and islamophobia.

- ii. Wendy Jeter, 1L Blended Section 1 rep: what is being done about complaints about professors – are student complaints being heard?
 - 1. Dean Hilbert: process for getting complaints heard: (1) fill out a bias incident report; (2) reach out to Dean Holcomb (contact point who oversees faculty).
- iii. Question from chat: how many students were dismissed after the change to the academic forgiveness policy?
 - 1. No students were dismissed from the school, all were able to complete the requirements.
 - 2. Dean Hilbert: this was the first time in a long time that no students were dismissed. Incredible achievement for these students and our school.
 - 3. Rhonda Bryant: when students reach out with academic issues, please encourage them to reach out to the relevant school resources (tutors, counselors) as soon as possible.
 - 4. Elliot Culp: personal experience with these resources, reports they have been very beneficial for him.
 - 5. Nikki: streamline what we communicate and when: working on a more streamlined approach to presenting new school policies.
- iv. Raya Esmaeili, 3L day rep: re student evaluations: Certain courses have received negative feedback, but no changes were made – are the evaluations being acted upon?

1. Dean Hilbert: all evaluations are confidential: cannot track specific students.
 2. Two purposes for review for course evaluations: (1) identify consistent issues with professors and (2) update course practices.
 3. The Advocacy course is being reviewed by faculty members to see what major changes could be made based on course evaluations and to coordinate it with the NextGen Bar and the expectations in higher level classes.
- v. Chat question: Any budget set aside for facilities upgrades?
1. A major overhaul of registration system is ongoing – will integrate many existing systems.
 - a. New system will be implemented in the Spring
 2. HVAC system overhaul.
 3. Wi-Fi upgrade is close to finished.
- vi. Rhonda Bryant, ABA rep: promotes using starfish to connect with faculty and staff!
1. Dan Nimlos: the new system is more comprehensive than the existing one (Agresso). Major improvements to come.

8. OFFICER REPORTS

- President
 - SBA Email welcomed students back to the school. Email included an update of our work so far this year and covered the items we will be prioritizing this semester. Please email Nikki with questions.

- Vice President
 - Schedule set for elections: will be electing a new governing board and section representative elections (exact dates TBD).
 - Looking for election chair, a person who would be in charge of (1) reading bylaws to see how the elections are run; (2) educating potential candidates; (3) manage who has turned in each documents; and (4) counting ballots and reporting on the winners. Reach out to Elliot or Nikki if interested.
 - Student leadership conferences will be organized in the coming weeks.
- Treasurer
 - Student Organization's Spring Budgets have been approved. Rachel will continue to approve those requests.
 - Looking to see what we can achieve with the leftover money.
- Secretary
 - SBA Orientation happened last week. If you were unable to attend, please check your email for the recording and other notes. Emails were sent by Dan Nimlos.
- At-Large Representative
 - Attended an alumni board committee meeting – if you are a part of this committee please be on the lookout for an invitation.
- ABA Representative
 - ABA is highlighting 2L students – Promotions for 2L during this month.
 - ABA has elected a new president, and there are 700 committee positions open. Look out for email from Rhonda.

9. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Bylaws
 - Working on standardizing rules, meeting with staff liaison, and plan to set up a meeting in February to go over potential changes in bylaws.
- Ways and Means
 - Rachel, Nikki, and Dan will be prioritizing getting funds to student organizations, and then will reconfigure costs of future events. Adding to section representative funds.
- Culture and Diversity
 - This functions as an Ad Hoc committee at this point. Refocusing affinity group meetings – first one on 1/25/24. Looking to get feedback from students on how to make the school more socially conscious and focused on anti-racism efforts.
- Health and Wellness
 - Dean LeMoine and Rhonda working together to create a monthly newsletter and create a food shelf. First newsletter was sent out this past month, including an article by Professor Natalie Netzel.
- Barrister’s Ball
 - Braxton confirmed the Barrister’s Ball will be held on April 13, 2024.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. REP REPORTS (2 MINS)

1L BAM Sec. 1	Sigrid BAM 1 and 2 are hosting a meet and greet with coffee and pastries this coming week.
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	Competitions committee: opportunity to be a bailiff – more info to come.
1L BAM Sec. 2	<p>Aaron</p> <p>Participated in SBA coffee break during J-term. Greeted students and handed out coffee and cookies alongside Nikki and Raya.</p> <p>Interested in helping to create more of an SBA presence on campus.</p> <p>Looking for advice with getting student's access to the back door, to provide students another channel to get into the school, especially when it is cold.</p>
1L BAM Sec. 3	<p>Alex</p> <p>Students are content with first semester grading, happy to be able to park in front lot, and excited about capstone headshots.</p> <p>Setting up meetings for academic advisors to talk to students (potentially to be held during open office hours).</p> <p>Set up google form for section to submit questions, comments, concerns (potentially anonymous).</p>
1L Blended Sec. 1	<p>Wendy</p> <p>Newsletter went out weekly last semester, going to bi-weekly this semester. NL includes updates on school events and space for student questions.</p> <p>Cohort wants info on headshots (date, time, cost).</p>
1L Blended Sec. 2	<p>Hannah</p> <p>Wrapping up prep weekend, students seem content. All student concerns have been reported to the relevant resources.</p> <p>Potluck event went well, and students were happy to be in person.</p>
1L Blended Sec. 3	<p>Day</p> <p>Wrapped up prep week, students seem happy. Student concerns have been reported.</p>

	<p>Hope to plan a social event during capstone.</p> <p>Looking forward to sending out more information for Barrister's Ball – students are looking forward to it.</p>
2L BAM Rep	<p>Madelyn</p> <p>Student concerns: (1) professors are not allowing Zoom attendance when students are sick, emergency, etc; (2) professors changing exam questions to reflect one or the other BAR version – concerns with how that will affect their studying.</p>
2L Blended Sec. 1	<p>Laurence</p> <p>ABA Book has been helpful to cohort: "Roadmap: The Law Student's Guide to Meaningful Employment." Recommends to other students moving towards employment.</p> <p>Moving in to prep weekend, students are looking forward to being on campus.</p>
2L Blended Sec. 2	<p>Erika</p> <p>Things seem to be going well, no new issues have been brought to her attention at this time. Will be heading in for prep weekend starting this Friday, and planning a small get together during one of our lunches to kick off the semester.</p>
2L Blended Sec. 3	<p>Craig</p> <p>No complaints. Facility requests have been heard and responded to.</p> <p>One microwave was out of order, and complaint has been submitted.</p>
3L Day Rep	<p>Raya</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
3L Blended Sec. 1	<p>Kirsten</p> <p>Echoing other reps: some concerns with adjuncts and professors.</p> <p>Concerned that individual students reaching out to academic counselors may be overwhelming – wondering if</p>

	there is a more succinct way to get concerns to the relevant people.
3L Blended Sec. 2	Carinne Lots of stress in cohort. Sent out Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers and counseling services contact information. Concern with J term running into the beginning of the Spring Semester – bring to faculty’s attention. Will meet with Deans to discuss how to better support students who are experiencing stress around conflict in the Middle East.
3L Blended Sec. 3	Evbu Heating was an issue over capstone. J-Term: students had assignments due before Spring semester started, creating an overlap and conflict with the classes.
4L BAM Rep	
4L Blended Rep	N/A

11. OPEN FORUM (2 MINUTES PER COMMENT)

- a. Rhonda Bryant, ABA Rep: what are the changes in how many credits can be taken online/not on campus?
 - i. Dean Hilbert: 50% of credits can be taken through distance education.
MHSL may have been the first school to make this change and are proud of this work.
- b. Wendy, 1L blended, section 1: one specific class felt chaotic for many students – everyone was confused, seemingly including the professor.
 - i. Dean Hilbert will meet privately with Wendy – updates to come.
- c. SBA Office Hours will be held this semester, providing a new opportunity to connect with student reps and work with the SBA.

d. Carinne, 3L, blended, section 2 rep: considering the new credit rules, will blended students need to attend in person for this semester's capstone?

i. Dean Hilbert: Yes, Spring classes will continue as scheduled.

10. ADJOURNMENT

a. Carinne motions, Raya seconds. Meeting adjourned.