

SBA Town Hall Meeting Notes

February 1st, 2022 – 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Starting with pre-asked questions submitted via SBA email

- Question 1: What is SBA doing about the issue of diversity? There is a committee and they have had one event open to the public, but what else is SBA doing?
 - Niaya - Diversity Committee chair answered this question
 - This is our second year since starting the committee
 - With last years limitations from COVID we could only do mostly virtual things
 - Releasing monthly statements
 - Legal films/articles about diversity related topics
 - Drafted diversity statement on website
 - This year we've had more freedom to do interactive/hands on events
 - Lunch and learn events
 - Have one in February coming up
 - Another one mid march/early april
 - Someone asked to know more about what Lunch and Learns are
 - SBA provides food
 - Ask about 10 questions
 - Prompt students to answer questions either in person or on index cards
 - The first one got a lot of great feedback. The theme was "feeling boxed in."
 - February's theme – being a legal ally and will be moderated by professor Fields
 - Want to invite faculty/staff and just listen for them to absorb some of the feedback they hear
 - Acknowledging different months for different communities
 - Sending out newsletters
 - The school hired Russel McClain who is meeting with the faculty and working with them to improve our diversity issues
 - The school previously sent a link out for people for people to weigh in
 - He has workshops/discussions for students
 - Question → are we doing more with the faculty outside of Mr. McClain
 - If we have a specific issue, we can bring it up to the faculty and address it
 - We tried to hire someone for a permanent diversity position specifically and last year it was not possible
 - Hopefully in the future, they will hire someone

- Question → can people work with the diversity committee that are non-SBA?
 - Yes, Diversity is an “Ad hoc” committee which means we can let people who are not in SBA join the committee
 - SBA has the discretion
 - Not likely going to extend it to 50 or more people but if there are people who are very seriously interested
- Question 2: Why are the meetings and the entire SBA agenda focused solely on student life events?
 - Melvin - Vice President responded
 - That's what we have in our power to do as SBA
 - We are limited to what we can do
 - We were just allowed to have in person events again
 - We've put more focus on having events for student body as a whole to relieve stress and build community
 - We are trying to reach out to as many people as we can
 - Christina - Treasurer
 - We get two hours a month to plan some of the biggest events for our school
 - We have a committee to do the work but the committee decisions have to be approved by council
 - Its apart of the process of what we do
 - Caroline - President
 - Most of the planning is done in private meetings
- Question 3 → Why do members of SBA not want the help, ideas, input, and participation of students not in SBA?
 - We do want feedback
 - The context of our last meeting may have been confusing, but we definitely want feedback. BUT we want leadership roles to be SBA members because we are voted in.
 - The comments in last weeks agenda pertained to a specific vote
 - We absolutely want someone to come to your SBA reps, not a third party
 - Purpose of SBA is to represent and speak for the student body

Questions added within the meeting

- Do we have a “threshold” for going back to online school?
 - Administration is likely not going to do another hybrid situation
 - When there was a vote in 2020, the majority of students wanted to be in person
 - Not aware of a particular threshold
 - If main campus goes online, we likely will but we are not sure
 - The original decision was main campus and they did not really consider us when going online
 - We think they forgot about our start date

- Some people feel scared to bring concerns because they feel like SBA members are taking it as an attack
 - Please bring your concerns to SBA
 - Virtual suggestion box is always open if you want to leave an anonymous comment
 - Reach out to people that you are comfortable with if you don't feel like you can talk to a specific person
- Bulletin board
 - We are doing a bulletin board with student reps info
 - Add office numbers
 - We only have one office in the student offices - its caroline office
 - Across from the printer on floor 2
- Where is the virtual suggestion box?
 - Bottom of week ahead email every week
- Bar review
 - We're having one this week - Friday- at Pine State
 - We will post about it soon
 - Instagram: cuatbarreview
 - Barristers ball - buy your tickets!
 - Spring cookout in march
- Talent show is next week
 - We need more people to sign up to participate
 - There are alot of giftcard awards
 - There is a musical category and performance category
 - Try to keep it to five minutes for your talent
 - If you attend were having chickfila
 - Sign up closes the 4th at midnight
- When can we see a calendar for SBA?
 - Everything goes out the week ahead
 - We don't have a calendar at this time but will discuss working on one
- We will start going over the suggestion box line by line starting next week