

## **SBA Meeting Notes 10/20/21**

*Zoom Meeting 12:15 to 1:15*

Members in Attendance – located on separate excel document

Welcome

12:15 – 12:20 p.m.- New Member Intro

Swearing in ceremony

12:20 to 1:11 - Emory Free Speech Forum for Temporary Charter (Will have all rights and privileges of a club, temporary for two semesters)

- Non-partisan organization devoted to fostering open dialog
- Anyone who is in Emory can join
- 20 members so far
- Advisor would be Professor Partlett
- Types of Events
  - o Social discourse events – casual environment where people can discuss topics like health care or criminal justice
  - o Speaker events – individuals with unique views or relevant topics
  - o Ad-hoc meetings
- Budget
  - o Social discourse events will be hosted at restaurants
  - o Biggest expense will be speakers
- Working to promote stronger community within longer
- Working to enhance the academic environment within school
- Arguing that they do not share an overlapping mission with already existing student orgs
- Open to working with other organizations
- Plan for self-generating funding
  - o Speaker and dinner
- Related to law because free speech and free expression issues
- Open to all law students and larger Emory community
- Questions
  - o SBA cannot pay for speakers or venues? Is this true? (- I believe Felix asked this)
    - Pay be possible for SBA to fund speakers
  - o See budget, typically only around \$700. May need to be alter budget?
    - Need more answers around what SBA can pay for and the typical amount that SBA can give
  - o How do we regulate discourse, so it is not harmful? – Taiye K.
    - They do not want harassment, but they want to hear all idea
    - No intention of being intentionally provocative

- Want be to be open and honest in person, want it in casual non-threatening way
  - Want respectful dialogue
- Why does this require an SBA charter to talk? – Demetrius W.
  - Believe it falls under an area of law that people study and practice
  - Believe people don't bring up ideas because of a stigma, believe we should talk about this and give them a place
- Why cannot fall under another organization? – Demetrius W.
  - Could go under Fed Soc and create task force? – D.W.
  - Answer is that their values are not necessary aligned with groups like Fed Soc
- Is this Emory Law or Emory Uni organization? – Mason M.
  - Emory Uni
  - Because of limited funding, how would this work?
  - They would like to be inclusive
- Will you bring controversial speakers? – Mason M.
  - Not trying to bring individuals who will be divisive
  - There are concerns about the speakers
- Will there be any mediator? – Olivier
  - Not for the group meetings, they are just trying to talk...
- Because you can do these activities over zoom for free, why do you need funding? Do you just want administrative approval? – George
  - They believe dialogue is often stifled, need for org like this
- BOARD thoughts
  - Free of expression policy for who? Very few individual of color. May not be proper avenue for funding. – Demetrius W.
  - Feels like friends talking – Ariana
  - No sure they need validation of SBA. – Jady
  - These conversations are not very ~chill~. – Taiye
  - Agree. Unsure what their message is. Very contradictory. Emory already has shown they prioritize free speech and expression. – T
  - Issue with the fact that there'd be no moderator. – Daniel S.
    - Many agree.
  - They are not a first amendment practice society. -Mason.
  - Facebook messages are interesting. / They want to take back the law school... against who??? The libs???
- Vote.
  - No from everyone.

1:11 – 1:19

Scarristers

- Would like to purchase decorations and dance floor for \$300?
  - Yes from all.

- Concern for alcohol. People assume they will only receive 3-4 drinks. Raise maximum?
  - o Jady expressed concern about liability, advisor has also said no.
- People need to watch out for wristbands.
- Finalized menu: no more bacon in grilled cheese, no salad because dressing is mixed in, can ask to add beyond burgers but it will be an additional charge? Answer is yes.
- There will be reimbursement form for if they buy items.

1:20- 1:23

#### Team Building

- People wanna bond. Group therapy or we go hang out?
- People want both.
- End of semester is approaching. Time issues?
  - o Maybe we just zoom so it's shorter.
  - o Or we move it to beginning of next semester or winter break.
  - o Others do not want zoom. Hard to connect. Effort to create an hour where everyone meets.

1:23 – Reports

GSGA canvas page for graduate students

Some have not been able to access it

More option for mental health options

Jady will send this to me and then send it out

George – Interviews are happening, want to keep people in loop in case they would like to attend

Meeting Adjourned