**President**  
Isidro Barragan-Sanchez

**SBA Class Representatives**

**4L Reps**

Jacqueline Amador

Christopher Abuhamdeh

**3L Reps**

Andrew Shute

Kristine Sea

**2L Reps**

Noor Kaur

Jimmy Falaminiano, Jr.

**1L Reps**

Taylor Dawson

Ashely Rivera-Garcia

**Vice-President**  
Rebeca Delgado Mendez

**Treasurer**  
Jenna Sharma

**Secretary**  
Mariela Zamora-Hernandez

**SBA Board Meeting Minutes – [November 23, 2024]**

1. Call to Order – 9:37am in Room 201
2. Roll Call

Present: Isidro Barragan-Sanchez, Rebeca Delgado Mendez, Jenna Sharma, Mariela Zamora-Hernandez, Jacqueline Amador, Chris Abuhamdeh, Andrew Shute, Kristine Sea, Jimmy Falaminiano, Jr., Noor Kaur, Taylor Dawson, and Ashely

Absent: All Present

1. Approval of the Minutes: Motion to Approve October’s Minutes.

Proposed by Jenna Sharma and Second by Jimmy Falaminiano Jr.

Yay: Isidro Barragan-Sanchez, Rebeca Delgado Mendez, Jenna Sharma, Mariela Zamora-Hernandez, Jacqueline Amador, Chris Abuhamdeh, Andrew Shute, Kristine Sea, Jimmy Falaminiano, Jr. Taylor Dawson, and Ashely Rivera-Garcia

Opposed: None

Abstain: Noor Kaur

**Motion to pass October’s Minutes is Approved**

1. Old Business
   * + 1. **Barrister Ball Updates:** Chris and Rebeca as the chairs started the conversation with what we have already been approved via WhatsApp.

* ***Venue:*** The venue for this school year’s Barrister Ball will be the Buena Vista Ranch located in Madera passing Valley Children’s Hospital. The Venue cost $5,183. The venue includes security, kitchen access, and take down/set-up.
  + Isidro asked about the precautions we can take if the weather isn’t what we expected it be to the day of the event. He also asked if the venue could fit all the expected guest indoor if it rains outside. Rebecca says yes, including room for a dance floor, we should all fit within the indoor section of the venue.
  + Rebeca then asked the group if we should add fireplace for $100 to our venue packing. Chris and others agreed to add the fireplace. Rebeca informed the group that we would not have to provide wood or gas for the fireplace, the fireplace would be handled by the venue.
* ***Time:*** the venue is booked for 5 hours, but the question is what time we want to start/end the Barrister’s Ball. Rebeca suggested 5-11pm. Mariela and Jenna agreed. There wasn’t much more discussion on this point, and we moved on to the catering.
* ***Catering:*** As of the beginning of this discussion, the price is roughly $6,500. This price is the buffet style option, and it includes liens if we want them provided by the catering company. So far, we are leaning towards Classic catering (the rough estimate comes from the Classic catering website). We can look at other options for catering, but for the most part many of the member in the BB committee really like Classic Catering and have had great experiences with them. The price for catering is bound to change based on the number of people attending. After discussing how many guests we should have, we agreed anywhere between 220-250 guest which then brings the catering price to about $7,500 ($27.95 per person.)
* ***Liens:*** Taylor expressed some concern about where we are getting our liens. We had previously discussed that we can get them from the venue themselves or with the catering company. She made a great point that some catering companies take the liens with them after they are done with serving dinner and was concerned that they would be removed before our event ended. An addition concern she raised was that whether the liens provided by the catering company would fit the table dimensions provided by the venue. She expressed that we could ask the venue for the liens and then asking the catering company for a discount if we choose not to use the liens, which could save use some money on the catering. Chis did not think that this specific catering company would be removing the liens from the tables before the event ended. He then listed the colors available from the venue. Rebeca stated that we can also get from the venue, she was going to meet with the venue and catering companies in the next coming week and will ask both about the liens.
* ***Food Option:*** We then discussed whether we wanted to have a buffet style or plated style dinner. The previous stated price of $7,500 is for the buffet style option. If we choose to do the plated option, it would be about $32-34 dollars for the plated style. Taylor then made and additional about the price affecting the liens and stated that we could possibly ask the catering company to discount their cost from the total price. She mentioned that by doing so she was previously able to save a few hundred dollars when she rented out liens instead of using the ones provided by company for an event she had. Rebeca took note of that concern and again mentioned that she will bring it up at the meeting she has with the catering company and the venue. Based on the meeting, we can then decide where to get the liens from. Taylor and Rebecca also stated that we need to make sure that we have veggie options for those who do not eat meat.
* ***Bar:*** Taylor expressed concerns about the bar. Rebecca info the group that last year $600 was spent on the bartender and that included two helpers. Mariela then informed the group that the cost was only for the bartender, we had to supply all of the alcohol and maybe cups, Rebeca and Mariela couldn’t necessarily remember if we also purchased the cups. Isidro than asked if the venue had a bar area. Rebeca said that they have a bar area but that we have to provide the alcohol and the bartender.
* ***Theme:*** Evening under the Stars. The coting on the WhatsApp chat were as follow:
  + **Evening Under the Stars (**Majority/Winner) – 7 votes Rebeca, Ashely, Jenna, Andy, Chris, Jimmy, Taylor
  + Enchanted Garden – Mariela and Isidro
  + Law and Justice – None
  + Abstain – Jackie and Noor
* ***List of Recommendation:*** GT – Good Times Entertainment (can also get a photographer through this company) Please ask other students or if you have any other recommendation, please let Rebeca and Chris know.

**Motion**: Motion to approve $4,500 to put down on deposits. (That includes Catering, photographer, DJ, photobooth) Proposed by Rebeca and Second by Andrew.

Approve: All but Jackie and Noor

Opposed: None

Abstain: Noor and Jackie

**Motion to Approve $4,500 for deposits for the Barrister’s Ball is Approved.**

*(PRIOR IN CHAT Motion) Motion to Approve $1,500 to secure the deposit for the Venue*

***APPROVED through the WhatsApp voting poll. All voted to approve.***

Next BB Topic

* Price for the tickets – Chris says that we are working on prices. We can get final ticket price for the event after we have all the number down for the expenses we are expected to make. He then mentioned that students would get a discount but only students would get that discount. Alumni, Donors, and others would pay full price. Something that happened last year was that we weren’t’ clear on the plus one discount and students were purchasing plus one tickets instead of student tickets. This year we would like to clarify that the plus one is for non-students. Rebeca and Chris than also discussed something that was talked about with the DEI committee, about having a questionnaire about hardship to provide a limited number of tickets free of charge to students that are facing financial hardship and can’t afford to make the expense of purchasing a ticket. A few members than asked, who would take up the price of the tickets or if we had donors for those tickets lined up. Rebeca informed the group that the SBA would take up those cost, the tickets that we would be donating are limited and will be for those who truly need them.
* Email from the Board of Trustees: Jenna was asked by the Board of Trustees if we would be okay with them honoring Dean Pearson for her 40 years of service at the BB instead of them holding a separate event. A few members had concerns with how the email was phrased and what exactly the Board of Trustees’ plan entitles. The group had no problem with Dean Pearson being presented and receiving an award during the award portion of the event, but the email needs some clarifications about the table/fundraising aspect of the Board of Trustee’s plan. We have concerns about the SBA losing profits from what we are expecting to make in order to fund the scholarship that the Board of Trustees is planning on creating in Dean Pearson’s honor. Rebeca will follow up with the Board of Trustees and will send an email for clarifications.
* ***Photobooth:*** Rebeca informed the group that as of now, the best option she could find for a photo both was for $400 for 5 hours but that did not include prints of the photos. She also mentioned that we could also possibly add props but the photobooth doesn’t include a background. Kristine suggested that we use the stand we have from the B2SN and just do our own background. Taylor then suggested that we get the photobooth as an added package with the DJ, as many DJs offer this as an add on to their service. Rebeca stated that we could do that, for now we could also book the person she has in mind and then if it cheaper to add it with the DJ, we could get it with the DJ and just loss the $50 deposit (like what we did last year).
* ***Timeline:*** Isidro then asked what the timeline for the event is looking like. As of now, Rebeca has a Catering meeting next week and will update/create a pool by Wednesday. Rebeca would like to have everything done by the end of December so that we can start selling tickets at the start of the next semester.
* ***Budget:*** Taylor expressed her concerns about the budget. Mariela stated that we have in previous discussions stated that we are expected to spend anywhere between $15-22K. Rebeca clarified that while the budget is high, we start making that money back quickly when we start selling the tickets and selling tables to the sponsors/donors. Isidro stated that we can do a general budget and vote to increase it as we need to along the way.

Motion: Budget to set the spending for the Barrister’s Ball at $20K. Proposed by Rebeca, Seconded by Jimmy.

Approve: All

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

**Motion Approved to set the Budget for the Barrister’s Ball at $20,000**.

\*PICTURE BREAK SOMETIME IN BETWEEN THESE TWO TOPICS\*

* + - 1. Updates from the Apparel Committee

Jimmy and Kristine presented updates about the apparel. Kristine has been keeping up with our vendor. He has been busy and not as responsive as we have in the beginning. She will do an additional follow-up with him tomorrow. He had previously stated that this is his busiest time of the year. Kristine has sent out to the SBA Board with a catalog. Taylor likes the catalog and is excited to purchase items. Noor also loves the catalog, says that it looks like something that other school offer. Kristine asked the group about the what the price sounds best for the wine glass. She suggests $14-15.

Additional Comments:

* Andy suggests we sell than set.
* Mariela commented that $14-15 is a lot of money.
* Taylor stated that here parents would pay that price.
* Kristine than suggested that we price it around $10-12 each and maybe 2 for $20.
* Isidro asks if we are buying a set amount and then only selling that or are we buying what is requested.
* Jimmy wrote on the board for pint cups - $12 and 2 $20 and wine glasses $10 – 2 for $18. The minimum we can order is 144 for each glass for $4.65/piece.
* Taylor has concerns about the catalog ending after one order placement with the vendor.
* Kristine is limited to what the vendor can do.
* Taylor and Isidro prefer that we purchase a bigger quantity.
* Mariela doesn’t believe the suggested 100 quantity is reasonable and Rebeca also mentioned that it would be too expensive to do 100 of each. Mariela suggests that we need to reach out to the whole student body not just what we the board members and representatives want. Isidro says that it is a good suggestion that we voice the opinions of the students because that is our job as representatives.
* Taylor says that we shouldn’t reinvent the well. That we shouldn’t have to make new designs every year and just sell that.

**Motion**: Rebeca moves to have the apparel committee to send out an order form to the students so that we only order once. Rebeca and seconded by Jenna.

***Comments:*** Andy – do the order form and then order a bulk order added to the purchase order. Kristine stated that we don’t have enough money to do bulk orders. If we do the order form and add more after the order form. Kristine says there is only so much that we can do, the prices and the time are estimates and we cannot guarantee that they will be ready by the end of the holidays.

Additional Comments:

* Noor says that we can wait. We need prices or else the people will back out from wanting to purchase. Isidro says that having them here will spark the student’s interest and will make them want to buy.
* Jimmy said we had agreed that the mark up would be about 15-20% mark up.
* Isidro and Kristine clarify that the more expensive items
* Noor says that she disagrees with the motion.
* Taylor moves to amend to send out the order form for all items and then order add additional quantity for the zip up and crewneck. Second by no one, the Amendment to the motion dies.
* Mariela suggests we do a poll and that the class representatives should go out and ask their class what they feel they would like, maybe asks generally about sizes as well. As part of being a class rep your role as representatives is to get an idea of what your class wants and speak on their behalf not just vote based on the rep’s own opinion. Having been a rep for two years, she understands that we might want one thing and want to vote one way, but we need to put our entire class first and get a general idea of what the majority of your class would like and vote in that way. To do so we should have the reps ask around within the next few days, even though we are on a time crunch to have decision made asap.

**Motion to Amend**: Noor moves to amend the motion to state that we bulk order the zip up and crewneck and then require the other more expensive items to be ordered through the form, a form will still be sent out for all other items.

***Comments:*** Kristine can’t do an order form until she has a price for the vendor. While she has been on it with the vendor, the vendor is experiencing their busiest time of the season because of the holidays. Realistically we probably won’t be getting the final product until the start of the new semester, but we can start placing the orders now.

Additional Comments:

* Isidro – says we should order in bulk the crewneck and the zip up and get that going. We will get our money back.
* Kristine – once we have the estimated price, we will update the catalog and make a decision.

Second by Taylor

Abstain – Jackie and Chris, and Rebeca

Last additional comments before the final vote – How much money do we have to spend?

* Rebeca says we only have $5K to use. We can’t just drop a ton of money we don’t have and only buy in bulk instead of using order forms.
* Isidro suggests the money we spend is nothing we won’t be making back, and the money will be made back as many students are wanting and waiting to purchase school apparel.
* Kristine – if we do the order form, we have the money coming from the order form.

***Reconsidering the motion:*** Before the motion was officially approved, it was suggested that we wait until we get the prices and then we send out the order forms.

* Taylor reiterated that she believes that the supplies will sell regardless of an order form, buying in bulk would be better if the goal is to make profit. She is excited to purchase the times and know that her family is also really excited to start ordering and wearing the merch.
* Kristine has no doubt that we will for sure be making a big profit from the merch drops but tis i a matter of her needing numbers to then take to the vendor so that she can get a more concrete total.
* Refunds: Noor asked about our refund policy and says we should make an exception to the students that don’t make it to the next semester. Many members expressed that it is up to the student whether they purchase an item and if they have been informed that there is a “no refund” policy than that is on the student who proceeded to purchase the item anyway. Mariela and Noor expressed that we should be a bit more sympathetic to those who don’t pass. Mariela herself has expressed how sad it is to not pass and how she wouldn’t have liked to be reminded of not passing. Ultimately, it appears that a majority of group would prefer to have a very clear “no refund policy” across the board for all those who have chosen to purchase an item.
* Mariela than commented that it looks like we aren’t getting anywhere, and we are just talking in circles, and over each other, the best thing to do is wait like Kristine suggested to see how much we can expect the vendor to quote us and then we can make a more informed discussion.

**Motion to amend:** Motion to amend the motion to have the SBA reconsider this motion until we get the prices from the vendor. *Proposed by* Mariela, *Second by* Jenna.

All in favor– Jimmy, Mariela, Rebecca, Jenna, Kristine, Andy, Taylor

Opposed: None

Abstain – Isidro, Jackie, Ashely, Chris, and Noor.

**Motion to reconsider the motion until we get the prices form the vendor is Approved.**

1. New Business

Committee Updates

* **Breakroom:** Jacquline noticed that a whole box of coffee pods is missing or that it has been missed place. She asked if anyone from our group moved them. She is not suggesting that anyone stole it, she is just concerned that it is no longer where it was last placed. The group than asked around and it appears no one from the SBA has moved it. One thing we do know is that it has been moved, and we need to look for it. Taylor then asked how often the items are restocked. Mariela and Jackie clarified that the items are restocked once a month when we our official clean-up days. Jacquline has been great about keeping up with the restocking.
* **Grievance Committee:** Rebeca and the grievance committee have received a grievance. The grievance committee, per protocol, have reviewed the grievance and have deceived to forward it to the Deans of Students and Dean of Academic so that they may address it.
* **Social Media Committee:** Rebeca will be sending out a form for the SBA to fill out so that we can start sharing pictures on our social media page. She asks that we please fill out the form.
* Community Service and Coffee Break will be addressed in the WhatsApp group chat.

1. **1L Class Reports**: The 1L Representatives have expressed that the 1L class does not like the emails sent being sent to the 1Ls. They don’t’ like being told that they aren’t going to make it to the next semester or that they should redraw from the program while they still have the chance. They mentioned that many students have been told by a professor that they should take a leave of absence. Another 1L student has also been told to take a leave of absence and in that time to take additional writing classes before coming back. That among other comments have been made by Professors and the 1Ls feel very discouraged that their professors are being so negative to them, and they already feel as if they have failed before even getting the chance to try. Some students in the 1L class have also been told by a professor that they are the worst 1L class SJCL has seen. The only thing that the SBA can really say to address such negative comments is by informing the 1L representatives that if they felt that the comments were inappropriate, they can go ahead and file a grievance. The class reps will let their class know about the grievance process. Rebeca then inquired whether there was anything the 1L Reps can think off that the SBA can specifically address some of these issues. Some members commented that maybe these students aren’t used to this tough love/straight-forward feedback approach from professor as this is not the same as when we were in undergrad but we can recognize that being constantly remaindered and told you aren’t going to pass is not something that is helping them as they prepare for finals and it is also detrimental to their mental health. Taylor and Ashely agree that the grievance process can be the best route to handle these issues. Ashely and Taylor additional request that the SBA do what they can to get Professor Wentworth to continue teaching next semester and that she isn’t cut from teaching Legal Methods. Andrew and Isidor informed the 1L Reps that there is only some much that the SBA can do but that the 1Ls can address this last concern with the Dean of Academics. A different comment brought by Ashely was whether we can get service animal during finals. Rebeca believes this is a great idea, but she and another member mentioned that due to our insurance/liability concerns, we were not able to do so when it was proposed to the school a few years ago. Finally, the 1Ls last concern is regarding the vending machine options available, they suggest that we included healthier choices in the vending machine. Mariela replied by stating that there isn’t much we can do about the options available in the vending machine. Andrew then suggested that the members could contact the vending machine company and ask about other options but mentioned that it might be hard to make big changes to the option as this is a smaller school with only one vending machine.
2. 2L Class Report: Nothing to report
3. 3L Class Report: Nothing to report
4. 4L Class Report: Nothing to report
5. Open Forum: No comments
6. **Adjournment – 11:55 am**