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Description automatically generatedUniversity of Denver Sturm College of Law**

**STUDENT BAR ASSOCIATION: SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA**

Wednesdays from 4:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. in room 155  
<https://udenver.zoom.us/j/87203666817>

1. SBA Business
   1. Morgan’s vote request for succulent pot painting materials (sent via email)
   2. Amber’s updates – Massages pricing (for H&W) and wellness week updates (H&W doing succulent pot paintings)
   3. Review of plan for meeting with Dean Wiersema
2. Dean Wiersema, 02/22/2023
   1. Updates from Dean Wiersema:
      1. Nothing can be done about the café issues – Risk Management said that food would not be possible
   2. Café
      1. Ice Machine? – Somewhere for students to get ice for water bottles – Dean Wiersema will look into this
   3. Faculty Handbook
      1. Has there been any progress on its implementation? – Next draft to be shared with faculty in the coming days (this is the third draft)
         1. Handbook covers:
            1. Protections, policies, and institutional commitments of the law school (academic freedom for faculty, commitment to pay equity, references to university policies and law school internal commitments)

Not intended to be a strategic/planning document, meant to be an articulation of current policies

References to Title IX and university policies – Wiersema will check that this includes sexual harassment policy

* + - * 1. Expectations for faculty when it comes to teaching, scholarship, & other responsibilities
        2. Articulation of resources that are available for faculty (library, scholarship resources, teaching credit, etc.)

Intended to be transparent, giving all faculty the same opportunities (resources for faculty)

* + - * 1. Requirements and academic policies (what must be in syllabus, policies/requirements for exams, grading curve, etc.)

Not intended to be new policies, just things that faculty have already agreed to

Provision allows associate dean to propose new policies/procedures (faculty has not responded to draft that includes this)

* + - 1. When adopted, will likely be published online – hopefully handbook will be finalized soon (perhaps next AY)
         1. Faculty may request to vote – would likely need to be a simple majority
      2. Does it address:
         1. Sexual Harassment protocol

DU Law cannot have an independent policy from the university’s broader policy – subject to Office of Equal Opportunity & Title IX and other policies adopted by the university

DU Law cannot do its own investigation or make its own determinations – just required to report

BUT even if OEO does not find a violation, DU Law is still given an opportunity to respond/do something regarding complaints (DU Law does respond by not rehiring (if not tenured) or by speaking with the faculty member if necessary/referring to HR)

Made more complicated by tenure

* + - * 1. Typos on exams/professors being required to have their exams proofread?

Wiersema will check the document to determine whether this can be added – requirement for faculty to review exams, proofread, etc.

Wiersema has been including this in emails and faculty meetings – since then, there has been an increase in faculty requests for proofreading of exams

Professors not required to give written exam feedback, but language in current draft says that faculty members should make themselves available to provide feedback on exams after grades are released

This is new to the current draft, faculty has not yet responded to the provision

There is also some language about no more handwritten exams – faculty has not yet responded to this either

* 1. Bar Results
     1. What is the admin doing to increase passage rate?
        1. School is working on integrating bar prep and practice throughout all 3 years of law school
           1. Moving some of the information from orientation into the first few weeks of the semester (giving students bar prep resources and support early in the semester)

Faculty working with students earlier and throughout law school

* + - * 1. Conversations with bar prep companies to determine if school should enter into a contract with one of them – current question with this is where the money would come from (donors, small fee for students every semester, etc.)

Giving more access to already-existing resources

* + - * 1. Law school has added more sections of Legal Analysis Strategies to decrease class size (not above 30 students)

Part of this was done through new professors who have recently taken the bar, but have not taught before

If this goes well, will likely be continued in future semesters

* + - * 1. There are requests out to donors that are interested in helping to fund students for the gap between law school and taking the bar
    1. How can students help with this?
       1. Meeting to be set up by Alexz for Camille, Alexz, and Dean Wiersema – to discuss potential SBA scholarship
       2. Are there programs that students are not making use of?
    2. Assistance for students who didn’t pass?
    3. DEI efforts?
  1. Mental Health
     1. Full-time therapist
        1. 15-minute sessions are insufficient
  2. Class offerings
     1. Part-time clinics/classes
        1. A lot of part-time students are in full-time courses
        2. Part-time offerings are affected by what can be taught on weekends (especially limiting during the summer)
        3. Class offerings are in part determined by student responses to the class survey sent out by Dean Wiersema
        4. Efforts are being made to move more classes online – especially for part-time classes
           1. Some asynchronous, some synchronous
        5. Clinics for part-time students – Dean Wiersema will look into the issue with part-time students taking clinic classes
     2. What can we as SBA do to improve course offerings?
        1. Response rate to survey:
           1. 2/3 for part-time
           2. Overall (fulltime and parttime) – about 263 responses
        2. SBA may be able to help get additional responses to this in the future
  3. Faculty Meeting
     1. Can SBA members attend a faculty meeting?
        1. Dean Wiersema will look into it – we cannot attend because they are confidential, but SBA may be able to come to meetings to briefly express student concerns (if SBA would like to do this, Dean Wiersema can help us figure out what to address and how to address it)