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GM minutes 1/15/2014

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General Business Agenda
Wednesday, January 15, 2014
6:00 PM

- I. Attendance
 - a. List Guests
 - b. Announce Absences
- II. Additions/Deletions to Agenda
- III. Additions/Deletions to Minutes
 - Minutes from Declaratory Judgment Panel Meeting from 12/4/2014
- IV. Open Forum
- V. Judicial Reports
- VI. SGATO Report
- VII. New Business
 - a. Voting on Winter ROP Revision(s)
 - b. Discussion of reconvening outreach committee
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

*University of South Florida Government
Supreme Court 2013-2014*

Bryan Buenaventura (BB): I call this general meeting to order. The day is Wednesday January 15th, 2014. The time is 6 o'clock pm. Present is myself Bryan Buenaventura, Daniel Shapiro (DS), Sammy Hamed (SH), Michael Kalmowicz (MK), Brandon Telchi (BT) our clerk, Fatima Somaribba (FS), and Alexis Sacasas (AS); appearing via telephone is Corey McCance (CM). Just for the record, can you please say here Corey?

CM: here

BB: thank you. Are there any motions to- are there any additions/deletions to the agenda?

MK: I have a motion to change the schedule of the agenda which would be moving new business in front of additions/deletions to the minutes.

DS: so moved

BB: are there any objections to that? Seeing none, the new business shall be moved to the next item on the agenda. So now we will move onto new business. Are there any objections into moving into new business? Seeing none, we are now in new business. And the first thing is: voting on winter ROPs. The ROPs were sent out by everyone. Does anyone have anything to say about them?

SH: we all should have read the ROPs by now so I would like to make a motion to approve the ROPs by acclimation.

DS: so moved

BB: are there any objections? Seeing none, these ROPs have been approved by acclimation and are now approved; thank you. Okay, I understand, Corey- never mind. Let the record reflect that Corey left electronically through his phone at 6:01pm. We'll now discuss the reconvening of the outreach committee. Does- what do you guys think? Should we reconvene it or should we work outreach through our, you know, just through the court?

DS: yeah, well we started this one last year and I was the chair and I thought it was very useful, so I think now it's also a very good way to teach new justices the ways of the courts and get you guys outreaching to students; so I definitely recommend reconvening the outreach committee.

BB: okay

SH: I agree.

AS: I concur.

MK: I agree.

BB: okay, so what's going to happen is court leadership will meet to establish the outreach committee. We will put the members- we will assign the members to the committee and then in our next general meeting once we email all of the names out of who we assigned to the committee so a public notice of

that, and then once in our next general meeting we can discuss who will be the chairman of that committee. I think though we have to hold off until- I think we have to hold off until after you guys are confirmed; I don't know- I think it's best if we wait until you guys are confirmed now that we have some sort of dates.

DS: yeah

AS: do you have one yet?

BB: as far as when we spoke to Aziz yesterday they're supposedly going to hold a special session, but I don't think he's reached his conclusion yet. We'll wait on that. Okay, so is there anything else that you guys wanted to add to reconvening the outreach committee?

DS: what's that? No, I think it's just a great idea and I look forward to doing it again.

BB: okay. I will now- we will now move in the next item of the agenda which would be additions/deletions to minutes.

MK: I motion

BB: there were minutes sent out from December 4, 2013, the agenda says December 4, 2014, which is wrong, but that's fine. The minutes were sent out nonetheless so is there a motion to approve those minutes?

SH: so moved

DS: so moved

BB: are there any objections? Seeing none, those minutes from December 4th, 2013 are approved. Is there a motion to move into open forum?

MK: so moved

BB: are there any objections? Seeing none, we are now in open forum.

MK: motion to move out of open forum into SGATO report.

DS: second

MK: or judicial reports sorry.

BB: okay, are there any objections? Seeing none, we are now in judicial reports. Does anyone- we can go ahead with judicial reports and I'll start off with yesterday I was at the ethics and integrity council meeting and they were very interested in hearing my report that I had for them for the honor court findings. It seems that most of the committee is a little hesitant with moving forward with the honor court idea because of the legality issues that go with it; a lot of it has- they're worried that if we call it an

honor court it would give the opportunity of real attorneys joining and then it's going to turn into an adversarial battle rather than an academic issue. So that's their concern. I think what they want to do is move- I think there should still be an improvement on how the grievance process should be done; there should definitely be more student representation, and I think we'll probably end up calling it the honor board. But we're not giving up yet, it's still going to be something that we're working on, and we're going to try and find out as much information as we can from other schools. And that's just what we'll have to keep doing in order to strive for this. I think this is what stopped the court from 2006 with moving forward when they were trying to establish an honor court; it's because of this. But I feel that we shouldn't just do the same; we should try to find more information before giving up on it. As far as that goes that's all I have to report. Daniel Shapiro do you have anything to report?

DS: yeah I was just looking through some ROPs, preparing for the second round of changes that we have; which we'll deal with the recent revisions- or the upcoming revisions to title V, and then looking through title VII in preparation for the election so...

BB: okay. Sammy do you have anything to report?

SH: sure. I attended the memorial- the student memorial committee yesterday with Justice Shapiro. I'm the vice-chair of that now so I'm pretty excited to spearhead that initiative with our other branches, and yeah... that's all I have to report.

DS: just to clarify, Evan Brown is the chair.

BB: okay. Mr. Kalmowicz do you have anything to report?

MK: yeah, I actually, in regards to honor court, I have another idea that we could possibly not implement, but look into. Other schools, and other courts in the state of Florida, some courts have judicial oversight, and that's the thing- if we can't get honor court another initiative we can take, if you guys want to, we can discuss further into it in the semester obviously this is something that is going to take a year to get it into conversation so it's just, you know, I've been doing research and it is a possibility for doing that since there is foundation laid out for other campuses.

BB: okay, then I would recommend you try to get as much information as you can and present it next time.

MK: will do and that will be it for my report.

BB: okay, Fatima do you have anything to report?

FS: after our last meeting I've been following up with Ms. Bowen about taking a tour around- with PATS again, so you know, I have further questions about the process and everything with her so that will probably be happening next week. And I'm also trying to prepare for the JEC meeting so...

BB: okay, and Alexis do you have anything to report?

AS: yes, today I actually went on the ride-along, and learned a lot. She answered the questions that you gave to me yesterday; the one being when would be a good time for the attorney and solicitor general to come. She said to email her a couple of dates and she would work around our schedule so whenever is convenient for them, as long as it's after I believe the 27th she's fine. The other question was about the parking forum that you want to have in the MSC, she said that she's willing to help us with whatever we need. She's open, she's free, she'll probably be the one that will come in and help, and she'll bring whatever you need; just let her know the date. Also I thought was pretty cool, and this could go a long way with the outreach program (I talked to Shapiro and Sammy about it): they started a twitter account, I don't know if it was this year or last year, it was in the baby stages, and basically it is to alert people when parking is full; so you know how we're trying to get the technology here, it's kind of a stalemate right now, it's taking a long time, so instead they came up with a twitter account and the parking enforcers would go around and have tweets about parking in the MSC lot is full. So that's kind of a cool thing that maybe we can start back up or maybe take out of their hands. Another thing I thought was pretty- oh, Marie Bowen also told me about how she thinks it would be a cool idea to have our clerk basically bring in that board that we have there and get like a tripod or a stand for it, bring it in to our appeals and basically have our clerk present the next guest who's coming in and he's going to be talking about this part of our parking, just to give you guys an idea, because for our new justices it's kind of- we're kind of going in there with a blank slate because we don't really know what the B12 or all of these different parking lots are so it would kind of be a good thing to look at; and it would give our clerk a little bit more work, but I think he would be okay with it. And I think it would be a cool idea; it was feedback from her.

BB: okay good. That's good. We have done that in the past where we had the board, the only thing is we just haven't gotten a stiff board update from them. They gave us a recent one but it's a paper one, and we just need to get a stiff one.

AS: she said whatever we need just get her an email. She was really helpful so...

BB: okay, is there a motion to move out of judicial reports and move into SGATO reports?

DS: so moved

BB: are there any objections? Seeing none, we are now in SGATO report. There is nobody from SGATO so is there a motion to move onto announcements?

DS: so moved

BB: are there any objections? Seeing none, we are now in announcements. Does anyone have anything to announce?

SH: oh yes I do. Next week, I think the 22nd, is Katherine's birthday, we should get her something from the court.

BB: card would be nice

SH: yeah, a card so we'll talk about that afterwards.

MK: if we put in like \$15 we can get her a gift card

AS: or some nice flowers

SH: yeah, we can talk about it after the meeting, it's not business.

BB: I'd like to announce that I went to senate yesterday and told all of the senators to educate their constituents about the attorney general/solicitor general, so you know, since they are the voice of the students they should be able to do that. We'll hopefully be able to talk about that more in the outreach committee whenever we develop it; but other than that, is there a motion to move out of announcement and into adjournment?

SH: so moved

BB: are there any objections? Seeing none, we are now adjourned at 6:12pm.