

March 26, 2020

Dear Fellow Students,

I hope that your return to the College of Law this week has gone at least as well as could be expected, if not better.

I wanted to take the time to be as transparent with you and offer as much information and resources as we begin this “virtual university.”

As your SBA President, I spoke with multiple faculty and staff members last week and I was able to Zoom into multiple meetings with administration this week to help and observe discussions impacting all of us this Spring Semester. This included topics ranging from student life, grading policies, student organizations, and upcoming elections.

SBA members, taking into account the concern students expressed, wrote a memorandum that represented the views of the concerned students (which did not represent the views of all SBA members or of all students) and that was submitted to faculty prior to the vote Dean Boise mentioned earlier this week concerning grading. All of your feedback on these topics has been extremely helpful in informing me how to best advocate on your behalf to faculty and administration! You can continue to submit your questions, issues, or concerns [here](#).

Tomorrow afternoon, I’ll attend another meeting that will focus on (and eventually lead to a formal announcement of) the details and implications of this semester’s grading policy change.

Although Dean Boise has already noted that the faculty has voted on and approved on the grading policy, the exact details still need to be worked out. Many of you have already reached out to me with questions, and I am hoping after tomorrow there will be a clearer answer for you all. We can expect an announcement next week, along with a plan for the administration of final exams. Please stay tuned.

In the meantime, I write with an invitation and with important information:

Camaraderie with Collins

Director of Student Affairs Sarah Collins is launching her new weekly program, ***Camaraderie with Collins***. Each week, Director Collins will convene a conversation with students that have special guest and touch on various topics. The first episode, featuring special guest Dean Boise, will take place on April 1 at 9:00 a.m. EST on Zoom. An invitation with the link to participate will be sent out soon. Please tune in and join us with the Levy Atrium as our backdrop.

College of Law Offices Are Open

As a reminder, ALL College of Law offices are open for business. We may not be in a position to walk in to physical offices, but the entire College of Law team of faculty and staff is working hard and eager to hear from us. Use this handy [Department Points of Entry Directory](#) or refer to the [Full Directory](#) for contact information. For reference, this includes Career Services, Student Affairs, Office of Advancement, Law Library, and other essential offices.

Career Services

As always, students can make appointments by calling the main phone number (315.443.1941). Although it might not be picked up right away, your call will be returned. Or students can email the office's email account at career@law.syr.edu or directly email individual counselors ([Stacey Wiley](#), [Kelly Capozzi](#), and [Sam Kasmarek](#)).

You can also easily make your own appointments in Symplicity under "Counseling Appointment" on your profile screen. Please indicate what type of appointment you would like regardless of what method used to schedule it.

Financial Assistance

COVID-19 is not only disruptive to our studies, it is causing financial hardships or distress for many in the world, and that may well include some of us. Financial Aid Director Kristin Shea is available to consult with you and explore potential avenues for assistance. Please email the [Office of Financial Aid](#) if you have any questions or concerns concerning your loans or any other financial preoccupations.

Further, if you have been dealt with financial loss or burden due to COVID-19, please send an email to SBA@law.syr.edu. SBA wants to ensure we can help our students the best way we can.

Accommodations

We've all pivoted to online learning, which can lead to increased needs for some students. If you feel your pre-approved disability-related accommodations have changed, or you would like to register for disability-related accommodations to ensure your ability to continue your studies online, please register with the Office of Disability Services, by completing [this form](#). If you have any questions relating to disability accommodations, please contact Disability Access Counselor [Annette Jenner-Matthews](#).

It has been an honor to serve you all as the SBA President. This year has been challenging for us all, and never would I have imagined that our last months together would be spent online instead of in the halls I've shared with you for the past three years.

Thank you for your confidence in me during this time and for understanding of the frustrations that come along with this global health crisis. I will continue to serve you with pride, and I welcome all of your ideas and suggestions on how to continue to best represent the student body throughout this semester. Expect information concerning SBA elections soon.

Stay healthy, stay safe, and most importantly stay indoors.

Warm regards,

Omar Mosqueda

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Executive President, Student Bar Association