

July 7, 2020

Dear Students,

As SBA President Kenneth Knight notes in his message below, he has shared with me a list of student questions and concerns regarding instruction for this fall as it has been impacted by COVID-19. First, in responding to your inquiries, I want to reiterate the importance of monitoring our law preparedness page on [the Path to Fall 2020](#). There, you will find many of the answers to your good questions. As you know, we update our site on a daily basis so that all of you have access to the same information we have, in real time.

[Please see this Memorandum](#) which provides answers to each of your questions, which I've included verbatim.

As to concerns over transparency of information, I refer you again to our law preparedness page on [the Path to Fall 2020](#) which contains a wealth of information and indeed all of the information we have at this time. I share your disappointment with the times we must endure and the impact of the pandemic on everyone's personal and professional lives. We will continue to do our very best to serve you as it is our unwavering mission to do so.

Let me address the bullet points in the message below concerning tuition. Every January, we post an estimate of tuition and other costs of attendance for the following academic year which historically have increased by 2-4% per year. Our actual tuition is not determined by the University's Board of Trustees until late spring. The College of Law is not notified of the Board's final determination until the University completes its budgeting process at about the time that tuition bills are sent to students by the University Bursar's office. This year, the tuition we estimated and shared with all of our students in January is in fact the tuition amount the Board has adopted for academic year 2020-2021, i.e., \$53,530. The College of Law has requested that the University adopt a more formal and timely approach to informing us of tuition-related decisions for greater transparency. However, College of Law students were not disadvantaged by virtue of the timing of information regarding tuition for this fall, given the information we shared in January.

My goal is to provide critical operations information as soon as we have it to support informed decision-making by students, staff and faculty. Again, please visit our law preparedness page on [the Path to Fall 2020](#). It is the best way to stay abreast of our constantly evolving plans to optimize our student experience all the while prioritizing the health and wellness of our students, faculty and staff.

The answers to the questions set forth in the attached Memorandum will be posted verbatim in our FAQ section along with another 115 questions and answers on the Path to Fall 2020. We'll

continue to answer your questions in our FAQ section to facilitate broad access to the information we provide.

Stay safe and healthy.

Best regards,

Craig M. Boise

Dean and Professor | College of Law

From: Kenneth Knight <kknigh02@syr.edu>

Date: Thursday, July 2, 2020 at 4:33 PM

To: Craig Boise <cmboise@law.syr.edu>

Cc: Sarah D Collins <sdcoll01@law.syr.edu>, Aaron W Cooper <acoope09@syr.edu>, Benjamin T Kaufman <btkaufma@syr.edu>

Subject: Student's Disapproval with Leadership and Decision Making - Please Respond

Good afternoon Dean Boise and the College of Law Administration,

We thank you for your communication and guidance to the student body during these troubling times. Please see attached a statement drafted by the Student Bar Association as a reflection of the overall student voice. This memorandum was drafted due to the following sequence of events which, as a result, has placed our student body in unfavorable circumstances:

- The University announced in a public statement [here](#), that tuition would be increased for the 2020-21 Academic Year. **Nowhere** in the article is there any mention of an increase to tuition for graduate students, or the College of Law explicitly.
- On June 24th, at your Zoom webinar “The Plan for Fall 2020,” concerns about tuition and COVID-19 were raised by the students in an effort to seek clarity for the [tuition breakdown](#) posted on the College of Law website and following recent announcements.
- Tuition payments are due to the University and expected on **July 17, 2020**. This increase in tuition has added an additional burden upon our student body and our College of Law community. We do not feel our College of Law leadership has provided the students proper notice of this detail.

As such, please read and review the following concerns of your College of Law student body. We outright object to the proposed increased tuition as a collective body. We demand an

explanation for the lack of transparency with the student body, as well as the College of Law faculty. Please address each point listed in a timely fashion so that there is no longer ambiguity.

The Student Bar Association as the collective voice of the student body delivers to you their concerns and perspective. If we are unable to seek a solution through these means, we will seek other parallel options.

Please confirm receipt of this email within 24 hours. Thank you and we look forward to your response.

Take care,

The Student Bar Association

Kenneth D. Knight

J.D. Candidate '21

Student Bar Association, Executive President