

The following questions were compiled as a result of the SBA Ombudsman's interactive tabling and suggestion box. Keep an eye out for new surveys from the Ombudsman every month during the Spring trimester!

SBA Recommendations

1. More transparency in SBA

The SBA is constantly trying to find ways to be more transparent. If you have any specific instances where more transparency would be appreciated, or other ways the SBA could be more transparent, please submit those suggestions to the SBA, either on our TWEN page or at SBA@law.cwsl.edu.

2. Keep up the free food

We will! There is also always free food at SBA General Meetings!

3. Have a jersey day

This would be a good idea as a CWSL spirit day or fundraising event.

4. Sell cheap coffee

Unfortunately, this would conflict with Donna's Coffee Cart contract; however, Donna has not raised her prices in years (even when her products have) and there is always a chance for free coffee at CWSL events such as Coffee with the Deans!

5. Provide students with school apparel

You're in luck! CWSL students are currently in the process of designing new CWSL apparel. Stay tuned for more information.

Recommendations to Physical Facilities

1. Bring back the auction

SBA decided to host a different Halloween fundraiser this year to encourage more family-friendly events at CWSL and increase CWSL's participation in the community. If you have questions about the PILF Spring Auction, please contact PILF President Leah Gonzales at leah.w.gonzales@gmail.com.

2. Reopen bookstore

Regrettably, CWSL cannot reopen the Bookstore since it was losing too much money. The law school has a committee that is investigating bookstore options. The bookstore space has been redesigned into the Experiential Learning Center (ELC). The ELC will provide small classrooms and conference rooms for clinics, the STEPPS program, other courses, as well as other uses, such as student organization meetings.

3. New water fountains or 10-gallon water dispensers

If you haven't already checked out the new water-bottle refill station in the basement of the 350 building, I suggest you do! There is also talk about the possibility of putting another refill station in the Library.

4. Open a student store

The CWSL student store is now online at eFollett. Students can buy books and CWSL apparel from the online bookstore.

5. Sinks in the ladies restroom run too long

SBA will speak with Facilities to ensure the faucets are not broken.

6. Establish a school parking lot*

Parking at CWSL has been a topic for a while and has been included on many meeting agendas with school Faculty and Staff. Unfortunately, the cost of building a parking structure or even renting sufficient spaces is cost prohibitive. To do so would require a tuition increase that would be unacceptable. We continue to explore options to ease the parting pressure.

7. Establish a reading room and lab in 350 building*

CWSL had both a reading room and computer lab in the 350 building; however, both of those were not being utilized as often as the school had hoped, so the school redesigned the spaces to ensure the spaces were being used as efficiently as possible. For the time being, the prior SideBar deli space is open for eating and studying during normal business hours. Also, the fourth floor of the 350 building is dedicated student space with study rooms, sofas, pool table and lockers.

8. Purchase water fountains that can fill water bottles

Done and done!

9. Establish a school cafeteria (provide sushi)

With the Sidebar Deli closing, SBA and the school want to know any suggestions students have on how to fill that space. The SBA will forward this suggestion to the school, but keep in mind that food options are limited in the Sidebar Deli space since there is no hood. A survey will be sent to students during the spring trimester.

10. Run air conditioner less

Again, SBA will forward this suggestion to Facilities.

School Recommendations

1. Increase the number of allowed absences per class

The number of absences allowed per class is an ABA Rule; CWSL cannot change this policy. See Academic Policy 4.01.

2. Lower tuition*

Law schools face increasing economic pressures due to shrinking enrollments. CWSL sets tuition each year based upon an analysis of the ABA accredited law school market within California. It is not possible to provide a legal education that complies with ABA accreditation standards for less money. We are conscious of the rising cost of legal education and do our best to minimize its impact on students.

3. Let us eat in the library*

CWSL has a new Dean of Library Services who is open to considering changing eating policy in the library to allow students to eat on the first floor. Until that change is official, remember students can eat in study rooms.

4. Discounted parking for commuting students

Please see the answer to #6 above.

5. Diversify faculty more*

CWSL strives to diversify its faculty and staff. The California Western Diversity Committee, comprised of faculty, staff and two student representatives, has worked with the Faculty Appointment Committees for a number of years to hire faculty of color. Unfortunately, while offers have been made by the law school to diverse faculty candidates, for various personal reasons, the offers have not been accepted so far. We will continue to recruit diverse faculty and staff. If you are interested in being part of any of CWSL's hiring or ad hoc committees, please contact Assistant Dean Susan Finster in Student and Diversity Services.

6. Bring 350 building computer lab back

Please see the answer to #7 above.

Questions:

1. Why are we spending 40K on Barrister's Ball? Perhaps we can use 35K on the ball and use the remaining 5K for student organizations.

Barrister's Ball is not a requirement at CWSL. If students want to nix Barrister's Ball all together, students can vote to stop hosting the event. The CWSL student body can vote on this as a whole when the new SBA Board is elected.

Concerns:

1. Student Exec. Board members should not be voting for funds during the budget hearing. It's a clear example of conflict of interest.

There is a proposed recommendation in the SBA Bylaws that requires any Board of Representatives member not be on the Executive Board of another student organization.

Positive Feedback:

1. Thank you SBA, love you.

Thank you so much for the kudos! We love you too 😊

2. Keep up the good work

Thank you for the positive feedback! SBA strives to help students create a positive experience here at CWSL. If you have any other suggestions/comments/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the SBA at SBA@law.cwsl.edu, or SBAombuds@law.cwsl.edu if you would like to remain anonymous. Thank you!

* These responses are based on conversations with Dean Schaumann and Assistant Dean Finster.