

DA: April 9, 2010
TO: Beth Hansen
Board Liaison, Solo and Small CSO Interest Group
CC: Fred Thrasher
Deputy Director, NALP
Holly Brajcich
Chair-Elect, *Solo and Small CSO Section (!)*
FR: Margann Bennett
Chair, Solo and Small CSO Interest Group
RE: Report of the Solo and Small CSO Interest Group

This report describes the activities of the Solo and Small CSO Interest Group for the period from February 1, 2009 – April 15, 2010.

Federal Government Recruitment Initiative:

Holly Brajcich and Dena Bauman reported that we are ready to begin the next phase of our federal government outreach project. Last fall and winter they worked on drafting a letter of introduction to federal employers, which was approved by NALP, thanks to our NALP liaison Beth Hansen. Then, Holly circulated a large list of federal agencies for our group to review and rank by priority. That's now been done and is ready to circulate.

Holly also received some feedback on the list of questions we asked group members to review. The original plan had been to have group members determine the appropriate contacts, then send letters introducing the consortium and our proposal. After consideration, it was determined the most efficient way to proceed is to identify the correct government contact, ask for a couple of minutes then and there, and then follow a "script" that combines the content of the introduction letter and the questions gathering contact information.

Holly and Dena are soliciting a few more group members to work on the committee so that this time consuming project is not a burden on any one office. Considering the time commitment of participating group members, the collected information will be available only to the law schools whose professionals have put in the work on the project.

Shared Resource Pool:

Group members continue to promote the pool. We agreed on a recent group teleconference to keep the SRP as an ongoing project of the group (now Section!).

Interest Group Membership and Continuation Leadership:

The NALP Board recently decided to make the Interest Group an official Section. Members of the group were excited to hear the news and enthusiastic about NALP's support of the group. Increasing membership will be a continuing goal of the group. Holly Brajcich has been appointed chairperson of the section for 2010-11, and she is currently identifying volunteers to serve as work group leaders.

April 1, 2010 Teleconference

The group seemed in the mood to chat and vent a little. Our agenda included, with my notes:

1. *Employment Stats – The good, the bad, and Your Dean’s Response!* We discovered that not everyone on the call knows the formulas used by US News and discussed that this might be a good topic for an Annual Meeting presentation in 2011. Particularly that there can be differences when calculating different numbers depending on if you are reporting to NALP, ABA, US News, etc. Several people were not aware of the “Ratings Malpractice” issue that occurs when reporting at-graduation numbers to the US News that are less than the US News calculation for unreported numbers. No one advocated for particular “strategies” but everyone agreed that we should have more information on the issue. We also discussed the pro/cons of using Symplicity for gathering employment information and agreed that a “Tips & Tricks” or “Best Practices” training would be helpful from peers rather than from Symplicity.
2. *Programming for May 2010 Graduates – Denial isn’t Just a River in Egypt!* There was consensus that morale is down for the May 2010 class. Efforts to increase programming for May graduates have been met with varying success.
3. *Expanding our Group Membership – The More the Merrier!* We discussed that this will be a continuing goal of the new Section, and I encouraged everyone to reach out to their peers to remind them of our group. A few of our callers indicated this was their first contact with the group and stated how excited they are to have the group as a resource.
4. *Shared Resource Pool – Have you Taken a Dip?* I reminded everyone of this resource and asked them to contribute. The group agreed that we should continue to keep the SRP as an ongoing project of our section so that it doesn’t fall by the wayside.
5. *Ongoing Section Leadership – Charge!* I announced that Holly Brajcich will take over at Chair after the Annual Meeting. Cinnamon Baker indicated an interest in getting more formally involved in the Section. She also indicated that she would like to work on a program related to reporting employment stats (as described briefly above) for the 2011 Annual Conference.
6. *Puerto Rico Here we Come!* Everyone who is attending is excited about the conference. I announced the Section meeting time/room and encouraged everyone to attend.