

Co-op Committee Minutes

December 1, 2009

Attendees: Caitlin Noble, Caitlin Palm, Zoe Root, Sara Sayess, Gerald Slater, Jeffrey Smith, Aaron Swinderman

I. Symplicity Update

Jerry Slater reported that he forwarded Symplicity a detailed memorandum regarding the co-op program's requirements for using simplicity for all co-op operations, including the application process. He hopes to hear back soon regarding their questions and possible alterations to the existing product.

II. Co-op Administrative Updates

Jerry Slater reported on the creation of a Co-op Committee WEBoard page (accessed through the Co-op WEBoard homepage) where meeting minutes and a schedule of upcoming meetings will be posted for public viewing. He also reminded the group of the upcoming December 15th collection for spring and January 11th collection for summer. Revised hiring lists will be posted periodically.

III. Non-Communication Rule Review

Jerry Slater restated the rationale for the non-communication rule. He stated that from a student perspective, the non-communication rule enables the law school to provide equal access for all students to a pool of co-op employers necessary to permit each students to satisfy the requirement that s/he complete four co-ops in order to graduate. From an employer perspective, it enables employers to receive all co-op applications at one time, and to restrict student inquiries and contacts to those students the employer specifically identifies. Jeff Smith added that the rule positively affects the atmosphere at the school; ensuring that students are evaluated based on their resume and performance, reducing tensions among students between those with connections and those without.

Student representatives noted frequently mentioned concerns about the rule, including that the rule may hamper natural communication and networking efforts and that it is not understood and/or clearly defined. Jerry Slater suggested that student committee members solicit input from students in general and SBA representative regarding these issues, and that committee members review the hypothetical scenarios set forth at the end of the Co-op Handbook regarding the rule's application. The committee agreed to do so and to discuss student comments and review these hypothetical scenarios at the next scheduled meeting.

IV. Future Schedule

The next committee meeting will be Tuesday, January 12th from Noon – 1:30 in DK40. Jerry Slater agreed to look into possible changes to that date to the conflict with Daynard Fellow Community Lecture, but noted that all other proposed times conflicted with other programs. At that meeting, the committee will finalize any recommendations for adjustments to the non-communication rule and begin its review of the 3-day acceptance rule.