

ID:217

Student Caucus of Osgoode Hall Law School Minutes

January 9, 2019, Study Room on the Ground Floor

Regrets: Danielle, Marcel, Akshay, Christian

Present: Angela, Graham, Lucas, Jordan, Manuela, Vibhu, Adam, Ara, Rebecca, Simi

CALL TO ORDER (12:35)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

- New Office Hours Sign Up
- Talked about issues from last FC; Condon said planning to send a notice about the disruption, hasn't been sent yet. No recurrence yet. Condon also said might put York Security phone numbers in classrooms for profs; ongoing discussion, no commitment or decision yet.
- Licensing changes proposed: Adam wanted to get a sense of Condon's submissions; there is a unified letter from Ontario Dean's Association, not Os specific. One proposal, from Paul Mahar (sp?): Law schools and law society should partner on increased skills training, Full time faculty seem to prefer option 2, which is what LSO chose. Condon

seems to think radical changes unlikely; seems supported by feedback from students.

- Diversity week: L&L gets \$700 for mental health week but 0 for diversity week; Manuela had trouble getting sponsorships for this money last year when she was L&L Equality Officer. Osgoode to match what we get by sponsorship from external law firms; might happen by February.

- Concerns about indigenous law requirement in course selection: suggestion that we should have academic credit for OPIR hours in this issue, Condon said maybe fairness issue; ongoing process of discussion on increasing offerings for this requirement.

Something to keep an eye on; Adam worried about competition for spots and difficult choices in course lottery.

- Angela and Adam discussed with head of CDO: possible town hall for mature students, possibly a good tie-in with Alternative Careers Week.

- Alternative Careers Week: last week wasn't a week, name was different. Adam in favour of sticking to ACW title; recommends that it be focused on non-Bay Street jobs, unconventional jobs. Manuela says no info for students who don't want to do OCI path; should be intvu prep sessions not based around Bay Street/full service firm intvus. If you don't go to OCI meetups etc, less chance for skills development. Vibz said wants more information on in-house counsel positions (eg. corporate/IP/human resources counsel),

never get that kind of info otherwise. Adam offered has 2 contacts: a pal at Unilever, separate pal elsewhere; to follow-up. Noah said will provide a connect to some kind of Ombudsman office at diff university. Simi said there's an Osgoode grad who started their firm at Osgoode Hall library, now is based at Yonge & Eg; sole proprietorship perspective is a valuable perspective we haven't had before. To be followed up on. Angela: great time to make change, engage the CDO more, sense that CDO is open to looking at improving things. In Angela's 1L, Student Caucus got CDO to take charge of one day in ACW; possible to have a sponsorship/co-running setup with the CDO. Lucas said challenge with that is attendance: Feb had a bad turnout, bad time of year. Angela said that year the debrief discussed not doing something daily for a week. Adam said maybe best to just have 3 days; write off Friday presumptuously. Simi asking if possible to have ACW in first semester, to have ACW compete with buzz of OCI, would secure engagement from students and they would have alternatives from OCI. Adam: might be a good idea to split this into more targeted events: fall best for 2Ls, winter best for 3Ls? Consider tailor the events to increase engagement. Lucas: 1Ls are very enthusiastic, especially in their first term, easy to have them attend. Simi: not a lot of 1L jobs either; use ACW to have recruiters willing to hire 1L summers attend? Big draw for students. Angela: is it ACW or Alternate Careers Program; different times lead to different needs. Lucas: makes it really

important that CDO step in and take charge too. Angela and Adam to touch base with CDO; hopefully something to report on this by next meeting.

Minutes from last week: approved, 0 abstentions

ITEM FROM NOAH: ACCOMMODATION TUSSLE

N has head injury, concussed 3 years ago. In May 2018/Aug, very honest about that; disclosed to

Ben Berger, intake worker at Queen's. Promised an award-winning accommodation program.

First meeting with Mya, N's partner doing most of talking; speech and language pathologist

attended by phone. Went over all accommodation requirements; from that meeting came 6

contacts; 3 contacts in mental health and accessibility outside Os; discussion with York's mental

health supervisor, who enforced something for N which was assured in Aug. (e.g. recovery time)

N does not suspect ill intent. One of his deficits is computing-related; 6-7 emails per person per

item is too much; majority of time taken up with negotiating basic things (e.g. Dean's scribe notes

"not listed" in N's letter of accom; N escalates to York U, whose rep misstates the accoms

needed, needs to be rewritten). In Dec, issue came up: Legal Process exam was not part of exam

period, was within class hours. N didn't submit or write a test within a week of this test, would

need more time; raised he hadn't received dean's scribe notes 2 days before exam, only given

then. Let N write the LP test a week late, when take home exam for torts was given; having written LP test, N needed recovery time as accom; asked for verification that his 100% accom for his torts test was still valid; NOT given leeway, apparently the accommodation is accounted as part of take home time. End result: compromise, test was taken on a Wed afternoon; day short of the accom N requires. N got them a copy at 3.30pm; said his read through time was compromised, made some typos, he corrected typos and sent in at 4.02pm, they didn't accept; N says this would be within the extra day of accom he was entitled to. N jumping between Mya Rimon on Osgoode side and someone from York side; 7 people dealing with what should be one persons job. N concerned that so many accommodation decisions farmed out to different people that makes it seem like he's always chasing favours instead of getting what he is entitled to. N also says that meeting times with York U takes 3 weeks to 1.5 months to get. Has meeting with Mya on Friday to go over his accoms for this upcoming term; this is something he suggested since his past note-taking is not something the school would adhere to. Computational difficulties with retention and interacting with new interfaces, emails people etc additionally complicates the process, increases burden on N.

Mya really clear always go to her and not the profs to get these accom requests approved.

Adam: process seems unstructured, things seem to be decided ad hoc. Possibly after N's meeting with Mya, a breakdown.debrief that Adam can bring to the Dean to establish set procedures.

N: LP issue, to lay out academic integrity issues (e.g. don't book flights this date, that date) and then for school to shift a classroom test into exam period seems to be incorrect.

Graham: tension in our accommodations; no flexibility. Brought up in Academic Standing comm that something isn't working. Ad hoc nature allows for Osgoode to be flexible; usually benefits students to have that flexibility, would caution against too much structure. The burden of self-advocacy on students who need accom is astronomically high. Possible solution: point person not at Osgoode, but a person in York Accessibility Centre who is specifically in charge of Osgoode requests. Would understand the system better; someone York Central who understands Osgoode might be preferred to someone making those decisions in-house.

Adam: Manuela and I brought up with Condon, said would bring up to Bennett centre. Manuela says should follow up with Dean Condon. Differences in evaluations and procedures between Osgoode and other York faculties.

Simi: sadly, this has happened to other students this year; should it be SC or faculty/someone else's role to shoulder the burden of this advocacy? Secondly, for N to have to pick up o..

precedent/school policy and bring to Mya's attention (e.g. the academic integrity issue); the admin should know already. (N: I think they did know, they probably thought nobody would raise.)

N: not a single acknowledgement of a screw-up the entire time. Having Maureen from York overrule Osgoode people not pleasant for N.

Simi: students should feel like they can demand Osgoode live up to their diversity claims.

N: Berger did give fair warning that it would be isolating; could have just said more that it requires

that much more coordination and planning. Would be an easy heads up to give; can manage expectations.

Graham: Accessibility office is restructuring, sadly very messy right now. Not to minimize the chronic nature of those problems. Reminded N he has rights to appeal his grades, has support from Student Caucus to rely on if he needs help drafting appeal.

Adam: No meeting with the dean yet, trying to schedule a meeting with Condon.

1L curriculum review update: Graham

Worked through survey results, faculty comments, workshop sessions and comparisons with other law school programs. On Monday had a meeting about this as a committee; no authority to

make decisions on reform, but can make recommendations that other committees can take on.

ELGC and LP have problem areas; working group to be assembled to work through those credits,

many diverse ideas on what can be done. Faculty from those courses seem to be on board (for the most part)

Other broad consensus: too much fit into 1L, too much in one year. If we had to shift anything to upper year, what would we push? Civil Procedure might be good to push to later years.
Concern

that not having Admin Law as requirement makes it possible to not fulfil LSO requirements.

Another major weakness: no major international/comparative law in 1L, which they should be getting from 1L

Lucas: not having required courses in upper years gives flexibility and allows for improved freedom of choice in courses.

Graham: committee doesn't want to do that but has to realize overburdening 1Ls and not meeting

basic LSO requirements. Kierstead open to running intensive at start of 1L on legal skills instead of ELGC at the start; ELGC could run through the year, and another intensive could be in first weeks of winter term.

SIMI: WHAT CAN WE DO AS SC: WHAT DO WE WANT AND HOW CAN WE ADVOCATE FOR IT?

What's the succession plan; how do we start and continue it? Conversations that are happening now have already happened 8, 10 years ago.

TUITION LEVELS AND CLINICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS (Angela)

FACULTY HIRING PRIORITIES FOR NEXT YEAR (Angela)

EXAM SCHEDULE AND FINAL PAPER DUE DATE (Angela)

Angela: Came out of a convo had with student at last week of class last term; U of T gives students a week off between papers and exams, and the papers due at end of exam period, not at start. Might be worthwhile to see how other law schools do end of year scheduling

PRIORITIES FOR STUDENT CAUCUS THIS TERM (Angela)

VIBZ: double barrel support: provide students with how to appeal/demand accountability from faculty, but then we also have a registry to keep track of raised issues.

SIMI: has to be easily digestible, FAQs answered, visually accessible. LUCAS: If you made the doc, anyone who looks at it should be able to understand. Maybe get docs reviewed by 1Ls?

SIMI: should be accessible to even less than 1L capabilities; high schoolers should understand.

SIMI: second point is on advocacy, there should be someone in charge, admin or student.

Students should know who to go to

Angela: let's make a list of what needs to be done and then we can follow on that list.

Adam: lets have that list done by next meeting, then we can prioritize and come up with plan of action.

Angela: last thing about lecture recordings, indiv employment relationship, profs have decided to

opt out of open access for pedagogical reasons. Angela went to lecture, went to 2 instructors on

break, ask about pedagogical reasons for opt out; person said "we want people to come to class,

we want discussion... attended Osgoode at start of 'audiovisual phenomenon' it ruined class",

said if doesn't want to come to class, can just read textbook. Not actually better for student learning.

LAW SOCIETY LICENSING PROCESS DECISION (Angela)

Angela: should we do follow up communications with students to let them know what's decided?

Manuela: Can send a courtesy update email. Angela agrees to draft email. If Rebecca's email working, SC email can send, otherwise L&L can send out the email blast.

ADVERTISING STUDENT CAUCUS OFFICE HOURS (Angela)

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- 1L Review Committee

SENATE UPDATE

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT