

ID:276

Student Caucus of Osgoode Hall Law School

Minutes

Wednesday, March 27, Study Room on the Ground Floor (0014K)

Present: Adam, Riel, Jordan, Akshay, Marcel, Christian, Angela, Aashish, Graham

Regrets: Chadd, Ara, Simi, Lucas, Vibhu, Danielle, Manuela

CALL TO ORDER (1:06pm)

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT — Adam

Mentioned that we should be closer with Obiter/OIASA

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

THAT the Caucus Minutes of March 13, 2019 be approved. (Crocker/Lise Hishon) CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Lecture Recordings doing better in Land Use Planning. Should notify to plan accordingly in future.

Recordings = make things easier for Profs. Proposed checklist at desk at front. Potential for Marcel to take up issue next year.

Microphone. May have to restart the entire computer and IT should help. Log off might be enough and isn't automatic after battery changes.

Declining participation in events. 2Ls providing advice and a lot of doom and gloom. It's already nerve-wracking so watch the messaging at these events. Aashish = more messaging done and tell 3Ls to balance messaging. Good idea to send out email to communicate it to Clubs leaders too that have events during Orientation. Aashish = issue connected with lecture recordings? Adam = Dufraimont looking at ways to bring people to campus with events.

COURSE EVALUATION IMPORTANCE (Jordan)

That Student Caucus sends out an email to students as a reminder to fill out the Course Evaluations and provide a link to the evaluation site. (Crocker/Yenssen) *CARRIED*

Jordan = Tenure and Promotions Committee take into consideration student feedback because Teaching is a key pillar for evaluation. We need to make sure students fill these out course evals so Committee has knowledge of teaching. "Teaching" is one of the three pillars that profs are evaluated on, as are "Professional Contribution and Standing" and "Service to the University." A Candidate, at least for promotions, are evaluated in these three categories using measures of "Excellence," "High Competency," or "Competent" or "Not Demonstrated." According to York's policy on Tenure and Promotions, under section B.4, a Candidate NEEDS either: an excellence in a category and then competency in the other two categories, OR high competency in all three. So, for example, if a candidate for promotion is deemed to only be "highly competent" in Service and Professional Contribution, but only "competent" in teaching, they are not promoted.

Having sat on the Committee, Excellency is very rarely awarded and only for truly exceptional standards, so there is actually a lot of pressure on profs to have good marks across the board, including teaching. Course evals are crucial to the determination of this metric. Under section III (1) of the Osgoode Policy on Promotions, course evaluations are used "where... a Candidate has come to receive consistently above average scores, it is unlikely that the teaching portion of the file will warrant less than a ranking of Excellence or High Competence."

CLINICAL EDUCATION PLANNING UPDATE (Angela)

Caps being added or not to clinics and intensives next year (already has a cap on seminar) but still is possible to take multiple intensives and clinics. Flagged for next year.

Angela happy to send feedback to the Chair. No more meetings.

ADVISORY SUPPORT FOR CDO OVER THE SUMMER (Angela)

The CDO would like to redesign some programs and would like more student input. Throw everything up in the air and need student feedback. We have created that advisory group last meeting, but could there be a connection over the summer?

Aashish = Perhaps bump one person onto the advisory committee now.

Adam = would degree of engagement rise to the same as a Committee on Faculty Council? Probably not — perhaps just worth touching base in the year. Recommend sit on this advisory and then sit on a Committee that doesn't meet too often. Should have Chair and one other person, but not necessarily required. It's a good link for the Deans/CDO.

Adam to email when new exec is in. Off to Vice-Chair and Chair next year. Loop back with Leanne.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS (Angela)

Clinical education accommodations. Something is not working. What can we do around this? Angela/Adam idea = perhaps leverage York services better, but the problem is the power structure. Difficult to deal w/admin yourself. Lots of deferrals from York to Osgoode. Concerns that Oz is now asking people to plan 6 months ahead.

Caucus could follow up with Condon and if she has done anything around having a dedicated person in the office. If not = then we should follow up w/York disability office. Students need someone objective and fix the gap b/w intention and actions.

Adam = Equity Officer. Difficult to talk w/a Dean if they are your Prof and the person dealing w/ accommodation. Distance required. Would be a tall order given budget cuts. Student campaign to get alumni to donate an Equity Officer position. Incentivize Oz.

Short term = Bennet Center.

Aashish = loop in Disability Collective. Ali, Curtis and Faith

Leave issue w/Adam as first step when meeting w/Condon. Step 2 = Get in touch w/Disability Collective.

Graham = made notes for next Exec.

ENVIRONMENTALISM INITIATIVES (Riel)

Riel = Four new compost bins in Oz. Please ensure they keep the bins here. Keep emailing OEO. Extra posters in SC offices in case any fall down. Usually ones on brick. Graham can give better tape for brick. Next year = waste audit. Connected w/Tanya from York. Riel to pass along that information. Green space in Gowlings.

RECOGNITION FOR BISTRO WORKERS (Riel and Angela)

Angela = perhaps to institutionalize and bring to Faculty Council. Adam = brought it up w/Condon. Open to the idea of a thank you and interested. Might have to push for.

Also look at expenditures at meetings. Lots of food gets wasted.

Graham = how are staff defined? Different from admin staff? Is staff award a product of collective agreement? Room to open to all staff and broaden recognition of staff.

Aashish = not admin staff are not York employees. Contracted out. Problem = would have to give to Bistro as group award, but would individuals get it?

Graham = Clarify. How are staff awards granted? Product of staff union or admin?

Aashish = L&L also gives out an award as a thank you. Could be Bistro this year.

Riel = Gift Card idea this year. Graham summary from last meeting = L&L award more promising. Concerns over how to use leftover budget. General feeling = student club budget we should be giving it back to students and use for funding for marginalized students. Maybe should be giving to L&L.

Adam = probably money best to L&L. Perhaps looking at fundraising something. Goal posts seem to have moved. Looks like we're not doing much.

Riel = great idea for L&L award. Different from gift card. Could do fundraiser, but better to be backed by SC. There are four workers. Even if \$20/each that would be great.

Aashish = should we help with that initiative?

Angela = If we sponsor, could lose leverage w/admin. Perhaps not our role to fundraise for staff.

Riel = Clubs give gifts. Could be a statement that we care.

Adam = OLU seems like the best place. Not so much under our mandate.

Bobby = recognition > money, might prove to be more beneficial. More respectful. Start using their names/show we care.

Manuela = headshots for staff at Bistro? Rebecca = help w/posters?

Riel = assuming they're interested of course. Good idea. The point is to recognize. Introduce during O-week.

Adam = talk w/Condon. Student resources will be strained next year, we should be fiscally conservative and we should push admin to do this.

Riel = disagree. Not clear it will happen. Right now we could do fundraise or gift cards.

Graham = something uncomfortable with fundraising. Gift cards seems more like employer tactic. Ongoing worker appreciation different from guest speakers.

Christian = basing this on a Western example. Here crowdsourcing is just for money. Different tones than at Western.

Aashish = we want to include them more in the community. Put in for Staff recognition award. O-week recognition. Perhaps next year should have these conversations about other people who are here. Janitors put in a lot of work.

Adam – Call the Question/Point of order. Mandate = this looks like L&L. Out of our wheelhouse. Discussion for next year's Chair and President of L&L.

Riel = L&L can take

Aashish = will move on with Award w/ L&L.

BYLAW UPDATES

That we accept the amendments to the Bylaws as proposed in the Bylaws that was circulated to Student Caucus last week (Yenssen/Crocker) *CARRIED*

Add questions at the end of Exec speeches. Alternate wording = speeches at 2 minutes by alphabetical order by last name. Combined total of 5 minutes for each position. Officers can have some leeway w/granting of time.

Another edit for Senate = allows joint program associated with Osgoode Hall Law School to run.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Aashish notes for next Exec

Graham = Aboriginal Law requirement issue sorted. Quality Resolution APPC = OFA not happy.

FACULTY COUNCIL UPDATE

Adam = To put a Google Doc out for last speech.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

ADJOURNMENT