

ID:211

Student Caucus of Osgoode Hall Law School Minutes

October 17, 2018, Room 2009

In attendance: Rebecca, Jordan, Marcel, Angela, Lucas, Danielle, Adam, Graham, Christian, Riel, Manuela, Simi,

Aashish, Akshay, Ara

Regrets: Vibhu, Chadd

CALL TO ORDER — 12:31pm by the Chair

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES (Crocker/Sandhu) CARRIED

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

- Ongoing member commitments

Adam:

– Bulletin board — student artwork or photography to be eye-catching

Rebecca — graphic for call-out to be sent THURS or FRI.

– Grad photo sittings (3L) — don't have to pay, everyone encouraged to attend for those on

Student Caucus. No need to book, just walk in. Black & white preferred.

– 1L reps to submit Section number and names and bio for website.

– Adam and Manuela = meeting with Dean Condon: student through 12 meetings trying to get

accommodations. Condon had said designated staffer at York might be a good first step, but issue

with law specific problems. Might need to keep pushing. Hopefully ease frustrations for students

having to constantly explain issue.

Manuela = Disability Collective and Survivor Network have been talking about having an Accommodations Officer. Mental Health and Sexual Violence. SN met with Ellen Schlesinger.

Would know situations better, better for confidentiality b/c Mya has such a public role.

Graham = Many don't seek accommodation for hand written exams because we type, but ExamSoft unreliable. Long process. Should be building in systems for worst-case scenarios.

Should have a pause on the clock, but then exams finished at different times. Anticipate failure.

PPC.

Aashish = Push for permanent policy regardless of ExamSoft failure. Perhaps least resistance this way.

Check-in/Adam: Senate meeting coming up.

SENATE UPDATE

Lucas: Senate synopsis. Had meet and greet, applications for Committees. Ernst and Young

financial audit = align York policies. York wants to tailor committee. Review will probably

recommend funding cut, so need to align strategic plan. Sossin in charge of efforts — O~~~~ode

interests probably well represented. Please find full synopsis at

<https://secretariat.info.yorku.ca/files/senate-synopsis-20180927.pdf>

Aashish: What about issue of free speech measures?

Lucas = To follow up. From the synopsis of the Senate meeting: "In response to the government's

mandating of a free speech policy by January 1, 2019, Osgoode Professor Lorne

Sossin has agreed to lead an initiative that will engage the community and governing bodies that will be announced in the coming weeks."

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE (CONT'D)

Adam = check in with office hours.

Rebecca = Going well. Visibility even if not approached. Go to social media. Improve reach to students. Make sure to smile and put table close to the door. Have talked about diversity

mandate. Good for teaching moments.

Adam = Also had questions on diversity policy.

Graham = Write the names down — follow up for next year if they're interested. Even if Committees are full this year

Marcel = Complaints about Moot Court spurring sound. Has been a stable of Osgoode.

Adam to check in w/ OEO .

Adam = talked with Mya about security cameras on topic of stolen laptops in library. There are cameras in Gowlings, not necessarily in library. Waiting on response from OEO. Plans on sending

email just about warning students leaving things in library.

Marcel = the Faculty concerns were around cameras seeing into bathrooms, but seems logistically like cameras could be there because not in view of bathroom.

Adam = Trial Advocacy Course — Problem w/ getting classroom. Non Osgoode students using spaces with lack of respect, not always studying but playing video games and dancing. Library rooms by non-Osgoode students. Volume level is getting disruptive. Also using classrooms for studying. Littering. Osgoode space limited. New Student Centre might have increased visibility and private rooms in the Centre are not for students. Excludes them. YFS/SCLD/SC — joint meeting to discuss space issues. Tensions.

Danielle = Inside Osgoode/Outside Osgoode — how to differentiate. Understand constraints, but Osgoode is part of larger community. Concerning when we start visually dilleniating people. Suggests Osgoode don't participate in other spaces, but we do. Faculty Council was messy afterwards too. Be careful of perpetrating outsider/insider dichotomy. Also difficult to tell other groups how to run their spaces. Osgoode is dirty too — lack of staff. Need funding to maintain the space at Osgoode. Priority for library, but investigate how to know who is

an Osgoode student or not. Need to make sure courses are adequately supported. Careful not to

lock all the time — sometimes it is nice to use an empty classroom

Aashish = careful of policy proving one is an Osgoode student. It is something to be

aware of when students are using the library who are not Osgoode, but don't want identification

checks. Investigate Student Centre bookings.

Manuela = Student Centre = mock trial wants to book spaces. Need affiliation, need to see internal coordinator, get a welcome packages, security deposits. Many hoops to jump through.

Marcel = Prejudice issues. Osgoode has in-between states. Signs not allowing non-Osgoode students, but people can still walk in. So either exclusive or allowing some other types of students.

Graham = tuition does not entitle us to the building. Law firms and ON government pay for the building. Tuition to faculty salary. Use sparingly b/c weakens argument.

Christian = seems like many seats in library are open. Spares, but may not be a huge issue (unless classes are being delayed).

Rebecca = who would be responsible for policing constraints. Human Rights complaints issue. Precedence. Could be opening up to liability that is not worth embarking upon.

Lucas = Difference between Osgoode evening and day hours. Less occupied and still

open until 10pm. Course Coordinators could be frustrated. Might be an information problem, maybe paper on door. As of right now, rooms are being utilized, but problem with cleanliness.

Timing issue. What about library where only Oz students are allowed? Sticker on the card.

Aashish = York U cards — we have access to York libraries. Problem w/ extending study space = pressure from York community. Oz is part of York. Upstairs limited, but not the downstairs. Issues with restricting. Might need card system for upstairs, but not a great solution b/c waste of librarians time.

Simi = Oz quiet/clean. Practically = JD/MBA have issues too. Loudness in the library is something we can take a stand on. More spaces in Helliwell — need to talk about and book.

Different priorities w/ undergrads. Focus on volume, not the types of people

Akshay = maybe limit upstairs. We are entitled to services as law students. If impacting our resources becomes an issue. Frustrating when you have a classroom booked but someone using it. There should be awareness so people wouldn't have these problems. If impinging on something for law students, that's when it becomes a problem.

Christian = study rooms get booked, but not used. Leave partially through. Option to cancel? Shorter durations and then be renewed.

Simi = personal procedure to amend agenda. Update on mental health and awareness.

Angela = plan? Adam = Slack conversation and to bring up w/ Lisa and maybe bring to

Libraries Committee.

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS WEEK UPDATE

- Simi

OEO cleaned up Prayer Room. November 12 – 16 = Mental Health and Awareness Week. Recap.

Monday = meeting w/ Ellen. Alternative study rooms. Exercise Class

Wednesday = bouncy castle. Cotton candy

THURS = tabling w/groups concerned w/ wellness concerns. 1L challenge.

UPPER YEAR LAW CAMP FUNDING UPDATE

- Aashish

Law Camp. Met w/ Bhatia. Things on hold just to see what it will look like. Who might be

interested? Funding = budget 13K – 15K per camp. 30K between both. Challenge. Bhatia voiced

concerns about the upper-year ad-hoc nature of the camp. Will meet again in a month.

Ellen = Peer Support Network = issue of January slam. Ellen shares concerns. Might need general

email to students about support. Provide programs that could support 1Ls. To identify criteria

that makes people the most stressed and give to Adam.

Graham = clinic applications are being opened in November. ELCG/1L recruit/clinics/starting

intensives. Can't control recruit. Can push on how grades released. Talk to Kierstead and ELGC

profs about timing of assignments. Thanks to Vahini for pushing the clinic applications. Need to

get the message out to 1Ls.

Adam = echos clinic change as helping students. Echos warning. Get CVs and letters. No warning

ENVIRONMENTALISM AT OSGOOD

- Riel

Suggestions: compost bins. May have none now. Need one in the Bistro at the very least. Adam spoke to OEO about this, but it never got back to him. Riel to email or visit in-person. If possible, get one in JCR and upstairs.

Recycling system = there should be signage above the bins to make it more clear what can go into bins or not. Riel can make signs and laminate. Also, bins should be paper, garbage, plastics and glass . Different system. Get proper opening on the bottle/can bin.

Angela = pizza boxes? How to dispose of them?

Riel = unclear how bins are disposed.

Graham = procedure might be to just leave them off to the side.

Adam = Probably the procedure, but an eyesore. Make sure to get OEO permission to put signs up.

Riel — waste audit might be something to push for in partnership with other student groups.. Could be motivating for students.

Manuela = to reach out to previous students who might have been involved in the

initiative last year.

Riel = send out an email afterwards and maybe put promotion on for recycling coffee mugs, etc.

LICENSING SURVEY DEBRIEF

- Adam and Angela

Angela = big question after analysis: What to we want to do with the information? What does LSSO want? Do we want a separate report?

Manuela = to contact Alex and Renee or get the letter that was sent last year to work with framework. Under impression this was to be one submission from all law schools.

Adam = might need a separate submission if other schools are different.

Angela = Own submission = provides all the information as much as possible, but becomes part of bigger picture w/ other schools.

Adam = Other schools had different surveys. UofT did not have a feedback option.

Angela = LSSO would appreciate the comments. Holistic process. Worth to pass on the comments vs just having numbers. Some comments also have different reasons for supporting the same options. Qualitative is important.

Graham = thank you Angela. Could provide framework and just provide comments. Reflect diversity of opinions. Data is rich and LSSO would probably appreciate.

Angela = to make cover letter introducing what has been done. Unanimous assent.

Manuela = Law Deans are also submitting. No stance. Giving pros and cons.

Graham = New students should be 'grandfathered.' Don't want changes mid-stream. It is a concern and might be worth putting in cover letter. Unanimous assent.

Adam = will check w/ Heather and get back to Angela about cover letter.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Clinical Education Committee (Oct 3rd) — Angela

- Clinic timeline changed.

- Might have a cap on how many programs students can apply to, but for now status quo because there are some shifts coming up. Reason: APPC/Clinical Ed. Join Committee on how programs are managed. Difference between the programs. Ara representing.

- Question: how should programs be administered? (New programs with little oversight).

Lost momentum due to strike, but picked up again.

- Moratorium on new clinic education programs, but should it be lifted and consider new possible programs to present and approve? Final decision in November. Feedback from SC.

- Two points = open them up, or clinical education needs to get organized before taking more programs.

- Danielle = lack of support from Oz. Stakeholder concern about lack of resources.

Programs could compete with each other.

- Angela = financial sustainability is on the table. Programs are having

trouble with resourcing.

- Graham = Clinics = pedagogical tool. Educational opportunity. There needs to be a

space for advocating for that.

- SC = perspectives on moratorium.

- THAT Student Caucus supports the continuation of the moratorium on adding new

clinical education programs (Yenssen/Veenendaal) CARRIED

- Amendment: Reeder: Empower Angela to make adjustments to this view based on any

new information. CARRIED

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

No reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- More accountability from ExamSoft.

- Manuela = Town Halls. Getting budget for food. Think about Town Halls for 1Ls

- Danielle = Dean's Search. Consistent themes. Committee was receptive. Overlapping c^f

concerns with staff. Coherent and consistent themes for Dean Condon. Feels heard.

ADJOURNMENT (Morales/Amoah) CARRIED