

**ID:206**

Student Caucus of Osgoode Hall Law School

Minutes

September 19, 2018, Room 2009

**CALL TO ORDER**

In attendance: Aashish, Manuela, Graham, Riel, Angela, Marcel, Rebecca, Ara, Jordan, Christian,

Akshay

Regrets: Danielle

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

**READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Motion to approve carries.

**COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE**

- Adam
  - Introductions for new reps (Jordan, Christian, Akshay, Marcel)
  - Internal communication platforms
- Slack communication, channel being set up, all members will have access, communication will take place on here during faculty council meetings, making motions, something warrants further discussion, can have separate

channels (policy initiatives)

- Questions from new reps?
  - Q (Ara): 2L Rep, how do people know that they can come to me?
  - A (Adam and Rebecca): class announcements, releasing bulletins, hosting fireside chats, Obiter columns on passion projects, any other ideas we are happy to support you, whiteboard for the office
- Q (Angela): Is our goal to have a column in every edition?
  - A (Adam): Connor would like that, we will try to make this work, want to get a whiteboard in the office where deadlines will be listed
- Q (Aashish): when are the committees starting to roll in?
  - A (Graham): Admissions has a new Chair, will contact you, can always email Chair, some still figuring out scheduling, waiting on having all the spots filled, haven't put 1Ls on committees, 1L Reps use Section Facebook groups, class announcements, in person conversations
- A (Adam): We are expected to be vocal advocates, taking initiative, attend office hours, will host town halls, table in Gowlings
- Q (Marcel): Are there archives of past initiatives?
- A (Adam): Obiter, course evaluations, Reading Break for 1Ls

- Q (Marcel): Is the goal for lecture recordings to make them so that professors cannot opt out?
- A (Adam): Can opt out for pedagogical reasons, do not have to give reasons, one professor noted that recordings have a detrimental effect on attendance, not an analogous context, Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning will look at this
- Q (Angela): What is the protocol for adding agenda items?
- A (Rebecca): Agenda will go out 3 days in advance, call out will go out prior to that
  - L&L / Student Caucus synergy meeting
- Has to take place before November 1, opportunity to share what each side of the government is doing
- Tentative date: October 31, will do an earlier call for agenda items, one agenda will be put out
  - 1L platform ideas
- Christian: Law Society proposed changes, tuition and accessibility
- Jordan: Tuition, financial transparency, targeting specific aspects of where the money is going, library hours, extend on Saturday modestly,

accountability for syllabi, lecture recordings, accessibility and reliability,

poor quality

- C (Manuela): Recordings not be uploaded to Moodle although they

are being done

- C (Aashish): Professor refused to continue recording, tried making

this work, not working in general (Estates and Immigration)

- C (Adam): Confusion about who is responsible for this, splintering

duties, on Digital Innovation, will ensure that this comes up, have

not met yet and do not have anything on the agenda yet

- Marcel: Lecture recording, ELGC, professor opted out and was saying

questionable things in class, financial transparency with online account

statements, broken down into what we can opt of, debate what we should

be able to opt out of but cannot right now, more timely and representative

information on joint programs, mental health and wellness

- C (Aashish): PSC does work on mental health

- Akshay: Dissatisfaction with faculty, do not have a collective method of

getting through to professors, LP and syllabus, students don't know what

L&L and SC do, want to let people know what we do, do not understand

how to read financial statement, not showing cumulative amounts

■ C (Adam): We can put something in closed session on the agenda, ask

guests to leave the room, may be able to stay and not repeat the

information

○ LSSO update: Tuition survey & LSO Dialogue on Licensing (please skim this site before the meeting if you have time)

■ Survey on tuition, 106 Q's, may be looking into putting together a shorter

survey, Adam voiced objections on length, may have a presentation from

them

■ C (Manuela): Survey going to all Ontario law schools, U of T trying to gauge

people who wanted to go to law school but were prohibited because of

tuition, both VP's also go to Osgoode

● Graham

○ 1Ls must sit on one committee, some of them are already underway

○ Update on committee assignments:

■ Clinical education (2)

● The Clinical Education Committee monitors all clinical programs of the

Faculty, and develops proposals for new clinical programs for approval by

the Academic Policy and Planning Committee.

- Digital innovation (2)

- The Digital Innovation Committee makes recommendations to Faculty

Council or to other committees of Faculty Council on issues within its or

their jurisdiction relating to innovation and information technology that

relate to academic policy, would substantially benefit from faculty or

student input, or are referred to it or on which advice is sought by another

committee;

- Oversees the process of and makes recommendations to Faculty Council

with regard to strategic planning for innovation and information

technology;

- Comments on decisions of the Administration relating to innovation and

information technology;

- Makes recommendations to the Administration on issues relating to

innovation and information technology; and

- Develops and implements a plan for broader ongoing faculty and student

input into issues relating to innovation and information technology, and

recommend similar initiatives to the Administration.

- Library (1)

- The Library Committee concerns itself with Law Library policy as it affects the academic life of the Law School, and the University. In so doing, it will respond to submissions from groups or individuals or will independently investigate problems, in order that it may advise on matters which have a bearing on academic affairs; collaborates with the Law Library in the review and evaluation of rules for the use of the Law Library; receives the preliminary budget figure for the Law Library in the Law School Budget and the rationale for such a figure, so as to participate in the discussion leading to the establishment of the Law Library Budget.

- The Library Advisory Committee also receives the preliminary allocations within the Law Library Budget from the Law Librarian for communication and advice and submits reports for the information of Faculty Council. In order to perform this function effectively, it will receive for information and review the Law Librarian's Annual Report to the Dean, or such similar reports as may be available and facilitates effective communication between user groups and the Law Library, and the Law Library and Faculty Council.

- Teaching and Learning (3)

- The Standing Committee on Teaching and Learning develops, promotes and enhances the best practices in legal education within the educational program at the law school; reviews policies, procedures and programs within the law school so as to ensure that they are aligned with the goal of promoting an enriching educational experience for our students; and designs and implements an annual Osgoode Course Design Institute (OCDI) for full-time and adjunct faculty at the law school, as well as for a limited number of graduate students with a particular interest in an academic career.

- Two main items: lecture recordings, how to incorporate anti-racism training for faculty

- Tenure and Promotions Adjudicating (1)

- The Tenure and Promotions Adjudicating Committee is responsible for adjudication of tenure and promotion files in accordance with the York University Tenure and Promotions Policy, Criteria and Procedures.

- OPIR (1)

- Need to take notes, send to VC email, will tell you when something is to be

omitted from notes, when more than one student should be SC member

taking the notes, prioritize getting SC member on subcommittee, maximize

democratic mandate

- Faculty Council meetings

- First Monday of every month, lunch provided, 12:30-2:30, Slack discussion,

sit together, all welcome to speak, try to ensure that we are coming from a

place of unity, speaking through the Chair or picking who should speak

beforehand, next meeting October 15

- Rebecca

- Health Plan and Course Evaluation Surveys

- Keep open for another week, put in L&L newsletter

- Considering switching to YUGSA plan

- C (Danielle): look at details of the plan, pros and cons to each in terms of

the benefits available

- Advocacy Bootcamp October 3rd

## STUDENT PRIORITIES FOR COMMITTEES

### DRAFT OPENING STATEMENT FOR FACULTY COUNCIL

- Need for increased transparency in decision making, trying to strike a balance with

scolding for the way the strike was handled and being forward thinking, not lingering on the past too much, addressing some of the issues that came up in the dean search, contract faculty, pedagogy and access to lecture recordings, diversity of students and access to course materials

- A shift in terms of administration way of handling wellness issues
  - Administration scheduling things terribly in January. Administration has a habit in overdoing how they handle January
- Elgc paper, OCI recruit, grades release, clinics, etc.
  - Period of high stress that could be spaced out and become more manageable
  - Needs to be more of a focus on wellness that students are focused on but admin is not
- Grades release is something we need to talk about with admin in terms of how it is handled for 1Ls

#### LSSO DIALOGUE

- Manuela
  - 2 big things: Tuition discussion: Survey is going out and will inform next steps, may be a petition to the Law Society of Ontario
- Reports and dialogue will start in January

- Articling changes: Deadline for comments has been extended, 40 page document to go through and provide input on from SC and L&L
- Angela: do we have a plan to seek input?
- Manuela: want to get as much feedback as possible, typically a student caucus matter but something we can all decide together
- Angela: would be beneficial to submit something, should give student opportunity to provide input; previous student caucus never asked despite making a submission, we need to ask students. Survey, tabling, town hall
- Manuela: Totally agree, this is a big deal
- SALSA did a letter writing activity to students and alumni last year
- Angela: Oct 21 deadline so need to get feedback soon to have time to draft submission
- Aashish: Complex discussion and important to not get confirmation bias
- Aashish: 4 options in simple form with comment form on each
- Manuela to get simple descriptions with comment boxes, indicate what year they are in, if they have a preference, get to Rebecca to send out to students
- Oct 17th Caucus meeting to draft report, close survey 1 week before

#### REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- APPC

- The major issue was discussed to strike a subcommittee to manage the Anishinaabe law camp. It has been a lot of administrative work being transferred over the years. SC: If we are going to institutionalize this, we also need to institutionalize funding
- Aashish: There are 2 law camps, 1L and upper year. The upper year camp is not properly institutionalized. The basic way Osgoode is running the upper year is run is if there is enough interest in the camp from upper years they start organizing it. They need to contact people quickly and get funding. Institutionalizing the upper year camp is the upper year camp needs to stop being treated like it does not exist, it is one of the best experiences at Osgoode. The idea they aren't able to figure out how they are going to run the upper year camp is a travesty and goes against what the school has said they will do with indigenization of the curriculum. Everyone in the upper year circle is ready to write me a letter talking about how important the camp is.

- Graham: Gave Prof Boisselle to push the associate dean to recognize the work faculty is doing and have a lighter load for them and funding is another piece and whether students get credits
- Associate dean is looking into whether we need to finish one academic year

before starting another, not currently in the year book

- Penalties kind of got shot down
- Simi: With the completion of the year how are they considering strike?
- Graham: Student would be considered to be finished their year even if they were repealing their grades

#### REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### ADJOURNMENT