

Student Caucus of Osgoode Hall Law School Minutes

November 21, 2018, Room 2009

Present: Christian, Akshay, Angela, Marcel, Ara, Adam, Riel, Chadd, Aashish, Rebecca, Danielle, Jordan

CALL TO ORDER

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

READING AND APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

COMMENTS FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Adam:

- Dean meeting updates
 - Accommodations – Dean Condon looking into exam pickup location issue

identified, exam rooms in library have glass walls which do not allow for much privacy, looking at York and other law school policies WRT security cameras in libraries, in terms of space during exam time can book Helliwell rooms, discussed lack of support for adjunct professors and lack of continued training, discussion will continue with Teaching and Learning Committee, potential for advisory committee to be created

- ExamSoft email distributed during OCI's, licensing opinion? None from Osgoode

per se but one from Ontario Deans, sections random with the exception of

Indigenous students who self declare, purposes of collegiality, other students

(mature students, scholarship recipients, etc.) distributed evenly, statistics not

available for other demographics, not made available when placing people in

sections, will discuss with BLSA, pushback on Friday afternoon grade release,

should be able to draft a contract with York to ensure released at an appropriate

time, indicated no guarantee that this would be done, impact on bursaries unclear

- Q (Angela): What is the timeline between when grades are sent to York and when they are released?

- A (Adam): No answer on this, Adam focusing on student mental health and lecture interruption

- Q (Aashish): Can some sort of correspondence occur where Osgoode informally requests that grades be released at 5 PM on Friday?

- Q (Danielle): Are there two upload processes for York and MyOsgoode? We can at least control the Osgoode portion of the upload. There is still the possibility that students will become informed but may mitigate issue.

- C (Adam): May be pushback from administration – withhold notice from students.

Can urge them not to be fussed by this.

- C (Christian): MyOsgoode synced with York system once a day. Unsure whether this applies to grades.

- C (Danielle): May be discrepancy between grades posted on York and MyOsgoode.

- Dean Rimon believes accommodations system functional. May misunderstand nature of Queens system (hub and spoke). Accommodations officer would not necessarily be a solution.

- Recordings – problems with adjusting volume and turning recording off. Problems primarily attributed to user error. Adam and Rebecca will work on an instructional infographic for professors.

- Bursaries

- Funding round complete. Disbursed \$3 million. Range from \$1,500 to \$15,000.

Expanded income contingent loan program to 7 students, first \$15,000 bursary, remainder deferred and later becomes a loan. Write off debt after 10 years if income has not exceeded a certain threshold. Majority of bursary funding comes from tuition set aside funds from York and the rest from donors. Matching students to donation criteria causes delay. Students assessed as having no financial need

usually not due to student error. Disbursement rankings largely based on shortfall calculation and Section C. Should encourage students to fill in Part C. Student Services changing wording, currently reads as only for certain students with particular circumstances. Have emergency loans available. No appeals process. Concerns about confidentiality – Section C only accessible to Student Services employees. Will stay on file but will not be accessed after reviewed.

- January dinner
 - Invitation will be sent.
- Election law proposal
 - Lawyer in Ottawa. Proposed weekend or Friday afternoon course. Career panel coupled with substantive material? Have agreed in principal – will be taught in either August or early September.
 - Q (Aashish): Why will the course be held so close to the next election? Would be better to hold before summer starts, provides students with an opportunity to get involved with campaigns and better understand the issues. Why can the session not be held during the school year?
 - A (Adam): The lawyer needs to prepare materials. The intensive was envisioned as a full day of instruction.

- R (Aashish): Need to manage expectations. Potential that we will not have enough interest from students.
- C (Lucas): Would reflect poorly on Osgoode if attendance is low.
- Q (Aashish): Inviting other Toronto schools?
- A (Adam): Mentioned inviting undergraduate students and clubs, Political Science students, content reads as general rather than specific to election law.
- C (Lucas): Most attendance would come from 1L students in September.
- C (Aashish): Problem sustained interest.
- R (Adam): Aashish will be in communications with lawyer over the winter break.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- Digital Innovation – Course selection accessibility problematic. Lecture recordings primarily user error.
- FRC – Concluded process for two positions. Decided on bringing recommendation for two candidates to FAC. Moving into appointment stage. If appointed, public announcements will be made. Third position may be made available. Still in deliberations. Waiting to hear back from two candidates WRT names being put forth for appointment. If they sign official officers in January, will move into debate RE making third offer. CRC appointment deliberation to take place in the near future.

- Dean Search – Ad released. Meeting in January to review pool of applicants.
- Clinical Education – Joint subcommittee with APPC has an approved TOR. Reviewing faculty governance and administrative structures for clinical education, programs, self assessment and evaluation. Looking at developing a 5 year plan for clinical education. Discussing resources. Consider impact on tuition. Worthwhile to have a discussion about what the implications will be at a later date. No clear definition of clinical education. Moratorium on new programs extended to 2020. Two programs in queue seeking approval. Looking at other options such as directed reading and seminar instruction.
- Experiential Education Funding – Problem of determining where funding will be distributed. Redesigning form to provide for greater clarity.

1L TOWN HALL UPDATES

- Akshay – Positive feedback. Major issues – Professor using old Dufraimont syllabus. Particular concerns with sexual assault content. Professor invited guest lecturer and spent the majority of the time speaking. Orientation week too long. Not interested beyond a certain point. Appreciated alternative events.
- C (Rebecca): Professors will not be penalized for borrowing material. Sexual assault has had a disproportionate impact on women, professor may have been looking to address power imbalance and create a space for women. Point of advocacy could be creating

space for men survivors and others. Likely did not properly articulate reasoning and logic behind structuring class in that way. Should preface in that way in the future.

- C (Danielle): Sexual assault law regressive. Channel commentary into curriculum review.
- Marcel – Complaints about Indigenous requirement. How the module works and lack of options. Format class only? Potentially OPIR opportunities. More options in classes or class not solely focused on Indigenous issues. Library feedback. Instead of using a key card, could have requirement that you show card throughout the year. Stricter access to JCR. Mic in the center of the classroom for lecture recordings when students ask questions. Location of minutes and budget publication.
- Christian – Positive feedback. Only section without zero downside midterms. Only feedback essay from ELGC. Issue with YFS health care. Majority complaints about ELGC and Legal Process. Elections Law intensive should be offered later in the year.
- Jordan – Echoes above concerns.

ENVIRONMENTALISM AT OSGOODE UPDATE

- Two new compost bins. Contacted about signage above recycling and garbage bins. Maintenance will allow for City of Toronto posters to be posted.
- C (Adam): Food waste at Osgoode events. Encouraging students to take food to JCR after events. Harm in having facilities staff put food in JCR?

SENATE UPDATE

- Meeting tomorrow.
- Inviting John Wu to provide a report.
- Seeking clarity on cannabis policy.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Anti-Oppression Training
- L&L Discretionary Fund and Fundraiser
- Access to Osgoode Proposal
 - Changed proposal, seeking Student Caucus support for recording device.
 - Want to go through a limited scope trial run. One device for one section, have person manage recorder, compare results. Also bring to prospective option. For people who have unavoidable reasons to come to class. At the end of the year potentially have a survey. See what students' reasons were for not being able to attend class.
 - Motion (Riel): Buy a recording device using SC budget line. Carried. Marcel and Ryan will work together on project.
 - Flow chart on how to ask for accommodations will be provided by the end of this week. Concern snow removal.

NEW BUSINESS

- Aashish

- Class Board – Bill C 75 going into third reading. Reclassifies summary offences. If

you are a student at a legal clinic in a criminal law division you are unable to work

on any criminal law files. If no changes are made, no criminal law clinical division

because students cannot appear. Some lobbying done at federal level.

- Adam

- Promote course evaluations and emphasize the consequences of not doing them.

- Encourage your peers to work on CVs over the holidays.

- Q (Akshay): Where can you access course evaluations?

- A (Adam): Course evaluation archive

- Jordan

- Tenure and promotions meeting to discuss professor file. No course evaluations.

Taught during strike.

ADJOURNMENT

2:17 PM