

Minutes

February 9, 2022

12:30 PM EST

Hybrid

Present: Alex Mulligan (Chair), Jordan Crocker, Nushrah Amod, Danielle Landry, Jessica Li, Christina Tassopoulos, Courtney Cameron, Valentina Galvis, Hillary Song, Mario Lofranco,

Regrets: Imani Theodore, Kelly Tal Bilenkis, Armon Ghaeinizadeh

Call to Order (12:39)

Land Acknowledgement by A. Mulligan

President's Items

Updates Roundtable

Jordan: not too many updates. Business round table is moving. Nush, Alex, and myself will be meeting with most of the business groups next Friday hopefully. We can't really force them to do it. All the budget stuff except one last thing. There is a new event form process.

Val: things are moving generally well with formal planning. Prof Drake is having a busy week so just waiting. Need the committee to be helping me because there is a lot of stuff to plan. When we talked last week with Mario, apparently the budget is 20,000 but I would like a hard price because the food and lighting is expensive. I got an email from the president of the extended time students and they aren't getting emails but I know that is likely not our control.

Alex: when it comes to the extended time program, this is a perennial issue that has been flagged with admin before but I will raise it again. Not sure what the solution is, I know MBA students have that issue as well. When it comes to budget, L&L funding = 20,000, I got verbal confirmation from Dean Condon that the funding from 2020 would be similar to the funding from this year. I would say submit your dean's funding requests because I don't think they will commit to funding in writing until they have a request.

Courtney: I will skip my updates.

Nush: no substantial updates. Just want to start a conversation re the Law Students for Safe learning. Do we want to sign off on it as a team? We would have to bring a motion and vote on it. I believe we should sign as an exec because it is a grassroots org.

Alex: we will bring it up in new business.

Jess: the website has been an issue these past few weeks. Basically, I spent a lot of time figuring out the issue but it goes back to last year. Rachael made a motion to transfer our host server and it was supposed to have transferred but that was not done properly and this whole time we were still with GoDaddy but also paying Black Sun. But GoDaddy's contract ended in January which is why the website shut down. I paid for a month subscription for us to figure things out. I contacted Rachael to ask why we wanted to transfer in the first place. We will still transfer.

Alex: so what were we paying Black Sun for?

Jess: we don't know because we were never using their services. I need a motion from L&L for the \$125 required to transfer.

Jordan: We have extra funds out of the clubs budget also.

Jess: I was reached out to by the Canadian International Council Calgary. They are hosting a talk tomorrow 6pm regarding the situation happening in Russia. They extended the invite to us.

Hillary: not many updates from my section. Regarding formal, we have almost secured a venue. We are renting TIFF spaces and Imani is working with them right now. Also, I will be taking on some of the work that Kelly was doing. We will start sending out applications for a formal committee.

Alex: Regarding Kelly, I am in contact with family members. Jess and I are in discussion figuring out what to do.

Christina: no updates

Danielle: What is an informal formal?

Alex: It is a ticketed pub night. No funding from L&L. The 1Ls did a poll with their class regarding if they would be willing to come to in-person events. So make a form and Christina can send it out.

Alex: My updates: Chloe and I are going to send out the mental health satisfaction survey. I have reformatted a lot. There is a new section at the end regarding return to campus to avoid primacy effects. I will ask the year reps to push it hard on the social media channels. Last year it got just under 200 responses. It proved to be an invaluable tool last year. Re return to campus: the official line from Osgoode is that you don't have to come to campus but they behave differently. Return to campus has been a little rough behind the scenes but running smoothly.

Masks

Alex: we have distributed just shy of 500 masks (but duplicated so 1000). I am wondering why we purchased masks when the deans purchased masks a week later. Still not sure where the change came from because the policy that faculties cannot provide masks still exists. So Osgoode did pay for those masks (1500 of them). This was never communicated to Chloe and I. It is good but just frustrating. Val raised a concern. One of her friends had a reaction to the N99 mask. I checked the masks and they are not made of any other material than the N95 and they are free from a substance that health Canada recommends not including in masks and also not sprayed with anti-viral chemicals. It is unclear what could cause an allergy. The N99s are tight-fitting, which is how they are supposed to be. Just keep an ear out for other similar complaints. Mask distribution has been a very good success and people are very happy and thankful. Regarding tours, we were asked to do campus tours. They have been running. This is the first day people actually wanted to do a tour. Thank you to those who handed out agendas. We have very few left.

Re return to campus: the rule is that you cannot drink anything other than water in class. Not sure where that rule is coming from. The rule is also that profs can take their masks off. Someone was yelled at for eating in a class. The rules make no sense. The two eating spaces are empty and people are eating wherever. You will hear people talk about social distancing requirements. In class rooms, there is no distancing requirements. The classrooms are not large enough.

On campus events are prohibited until March 1st. Off campus events are no longer sanctioned by York and they have no say. Clubs can do whatever they want off campus as long as it complies with provincial regulations. We have asked clubs to follow the recent TUUS forms as a template for off campus events. I expect many clubs will not fill them out. We said they need to provide the forms with us to get funding but that may change depending on how it goes. If clubs are on campus and have to host a meeting, they will have to book a room in Helliwell.

Regarding the Law Students for Safe Learning letter: it has been well-circulated. It got over 400 signatures within the first 12 hours. Chloe and I have been in loose contact with the authors of the letter. Because it is a collective, there is not necessarily a strong leadership hierarchy. We are at a tipping point regarding student advocacy on campus. The concerns and demands of the letter are valid and thus far have not been taken seriously by admin. There was an article written last night about the McGill strike and they won and the Osgoode demands are very similar to McGill's demands. Neither side really wants to talk to us beyond their strict talking points. There is talk of strike options and walkouts. There was a walkout on Monday. The alternative participation option was a 750-word paper for every class you cannot attend. The deans used academic freedom as justification. I have been approached about how to start a strike process. The threshold is low: only 10% of student body is needed. My personal opinion is: if a strike referendum is organized by the collective, I will not oppose a strike. If the collective thinks that is the best course of action, I will not oppose. That is to say, we are doing everything to avoid a strike. I will be asking the Deans about compassionate grounds. We forwarded an email to the Deans from Schulich that their exams will be online and they said they are contacting their Schulich equivalents to determine how that is working.

Nush: maybe that's because the MBA program has so many international students, the deans will say that's the reason. Just to flag for your advocacy.

Alex: it has always been that York is mandating in-person exams. I suspect the Dean's will have some argument.

M. Lofranco joined at 1:34

Nush: my Schulich profs actually asked before we went to campus if people were going to be attending and they allowed zooming in to class.

Mario: Osgoode is saying you don't have to Zoom into class. Why are Schulich rules conflicting with Osgoode's?

Alex: my question is the same as yours. The Deans are in meetings today to try and figure that out.

Jess: the hybrid classes at Schulich are not good. I don't want people to think Schulich has it all together.

Alex: I will give everyone an update regarding how that meeting goes.

L & L Events

Alex: We can host off-campus events. Formals/pub nights are good.

VP External Items

OVCLS

Jordan: The OVCLS said they submitted a budget but they did not. This is to say that \$20 bucks is not a big deal so I thought we could bring a motion.

Motion: *THAT the Legal and Literary Society approve the Osgoode Venture Capital Law Society's \$20 budget allocation for the Winter 2022 term*

(Crocker/Mario) CARRIED.

Social Convenor Items

10-Person Pub Nights

Courtney: Right now, the max party size at a restaurant is 10. I just wanted your opinion regarding if people would be interested in a 10-person parties at different bars.

Val: it depends on the venue, sometimes you can do larger parties.

Courtney: either way, it would have to be smaller pub nights

Val: I think that is a lot of work for people to potentially not show. I think people probably just go out on their own.

Courtney: yeah for pub nights I had a lot of people sign up and then not come. So I would worry the same thing would happen.

Alex: yeah your time might be better spent helping the 1Ls. I know u feel like you aren't doing anything but please don't feel like that. The 1Ls would appreciate your time, and Val as well. Danielle and I were speaking about venues, maybe you can help her as well.

Courtney: in the meantime, I have started trying to plan things for after March 1st.

Other Business

Nush: do we have any objections to signing the letter?

Motion: *THAT the Legal and Literary Society sign the Law Students for Safe Learning letter as a collective group in solidarity.*

(Amod/Li) CARRIED.

Jess: I have been holding off on sharing any posts from that collective. After we vote, am I free to share the posts?

Alex: Let's now vote on Jess's proposal re website since Mario is here.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society approves \$125 to Blacksun for the proper migration of the L&L website to their servers, with an option to use \$250 at the discretion of the Vice-President Internal depending on the amount of time used to migrate the site.

(Li/Duggal) CARRIED.

Motion: *THAT the meeting be adjourned.*

(Tassopoulos/Song) CARRIED.

Adjournment (2:00 pm)

Consent Agenda

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 26 January, 2022 was deemed approved.