

The Legal & Literary Society of Osgoode Hall Law School

Meeting Minutes

11 January, 2024

9-10 p.m. EST

Zoom

Present: Armon Gh, Reagan Cockburn, Yuval Shilon, Jessrusty Montemayor, Julie Choi, Shivaansh Khanna, Kaylie Ardolino, Tania Kengatharan, Kelly Tal Bilenkis and Robert Dziarmaga

Absent: Hillary Song

Call to Order (9:02 p.m.)

Julie motioned to start the meeting, and Armon seconded

President's Items

1. Updates Roundtable

In favour of time, this item was skipped.

2. All Clubs Meeting Update

Julie: This is happening next Monday at 12:30pm. Just a reminder if you're part of any club, you're an exec on any club, but one person from every club ratified under us at all is good. It's mandatory, each club needs one representative. They all have to be there – as well as myself, Tania, Jess, Hillary and Zamir will be there. I guess Zamir is not here because he's sick. I was hoping to make a graphic for this all clubs meeting so we can let the students at large know because it's kind of important. Also in the newsletter, all the club heads got an email about it, but I just want to triple make sure that they got the memo in case some of the clubs aren't checking their emails. Reagan you had your hand up?

Reagan: That was going to be my question, if some clubs have gotten an email about it, but you were going to answer that.

Julie: If a club has a general email then they've gotten an email. Actually, do you mind making a graphic for this? I would normally ask Zamir but since he's sick right now...

Reagan: Yeah, no problem. I can do that. When do you need it by, tomorrow?

Julie: I can send you some of the high-level info after this. It's just that the meeting is happening next Monday and also on the same day is when the club budgets are due and this is very important because if the clubs don't get their budgets in time we can't approve to give them money for the term. That's all in the all clubs meeting.

Reagan: Okay.

Julie: Also, a note on the budget. While we have a growing amount of clubs under us, the amount allocated to us from the school doesn't grow. So it's not like we're gatekeeping or withholding money for no reason, it's just that there's more people asking for money from the same pool of money that we've always had. There are other threshold criteria that we discuss and it's Tania, myself, Zamir, Hillary, and Jess who are on the committee to approve all the clubs' budgets. So it's not just one person going through and me like, I don't like this person, so I'm not gonna give this club money. It doesn't work like that. Tania is there to make sure we don't do stuff like that.

3. Period Project Volunteers

Julie: The next item is the period project volunteers. We're looking for 1 male-identifying student and 2 female-identifying students. We decided to keep this internal so we can give the honorarium to our L&L members if you volunteer to do this. It's a \$150 per person and we are looking for, Zamir says one male-identifying student and two female-identifying students. I'm hoping that this can be refilled collectively by the group like 2 to 3 times, or just checked at least twice a week. Grace has volunteered. Sure, Armon too, if I can have one more female-identifying volunteer, you get a \$160 and all the products are in the little office. I guess it would be more ideal if you live on campus.

Reagan and Yuval both raised a hand.

Yuval: Reagan do you want it? Get your ticket, girl.

Reagan: Honestly, you take it, I need to start saying no to things.

Yuval: Wait, is it like, because I don't know if I'll live on campus next term.

Julie: Wait – this is the next term we're talking about.

Yuval: It's just for one term?

Julie: Yeah, it's just for the term.

Yuval: Okay, then girl, convinced. I'm in.

Armon: I'm graduating in 3 months, like I'm not here next term either.

Julie: Okay, I mean, I don't really care who the three people go to – should we say Grace, Armon, and Tanya or Yuval – you guys decide.

Tania: Yuval go for it because I don't live on campus, I'm only there 3 days a week.

Yuval: Okay, cool. I can do it.

Julie: Okay, perfect. And I don't think Armon lives on campus, but I think for the men's washrooms as long as you are doing it once a week. I presume they're not going as quickly as the ladies.

Armon: I also have class Monday to Thursday, so I'm on campus 4 days a week.

Julie: I will let you 3 decide who feels what I guess it makes sense for, to do the male and all gender bathrooms and then for the girlies to do the woman washrooms because I assume they will go more quicker. And Shivaansh, if you feel really passionate about it and you want to do it, you can also have it.

Armon: Yeah it's fine with me either way.

Julie: Yeah if it's not urgent, Armon, if Shivaansh does it instead of you, just let me know and I'll let Zamir know accordingly.

Kelly: Who were the final volunteers for this? I'm just asking for the minutes.

Julie: The final volunteers for now are Grace, Armon and Yuval.

The final volunteers are Grace, Armon, and Yuval.

4. Trivia Night in the JCR

Julie: For the trivia, because Joyce already has a ski trip, and that's a pretty big thing on her plate this term. I was thinking maybe it'd be fun if some of the 1Ls wanted to spearhead it? Obviously it wouldn't just be like, the event would also include something

else but I have a slideshow of trivia questions that I used for our section last year that I can send to you. You guys can recycle it, add a couple more, whatever.

Yuval: Just general thoughts – do you guys upper years think like, 2Ls and especially 3Ls, are they actually going to show up?

Julie: Well it could just kind of replace one of the JCR nights. So it would hopefully actually encourage attendance at them. I'm not sure, like this year I know that JCR nights are going back to Wednesday nights for this term. But this can happen Wednesday or Thursday, it doesn't really matter. Like it could literally be on any night.

Yuval: Awesome.

Julie: And then for that week we just won't do a JCR, like a regular JCR night. There's no set date for this, it doesn't have to be any time soon. If the 1Ls want to collectively work on it, I don't think it would be hard to plan. You don't need to buy anything for it. I'll talk to Jess and see if we can spare, like \$200 for pizza, we can provide pizza and then people can buy their own drinks and we'll open up the JCR bar as per usual. If you guys wanna, maybe just show emoji hands, who wants to be involved in this 1L vs 2L vs 3L trivia night? And Kelly can write in the minutes.

Armon: Just to answer your question, from the 3Ls, I think we'd be down. We just need ample notice in terms of like, time, to come to it, but there's definitely a bunch of 3Ls who would show up and get very invested as long as they just have ample time to know what's going on.

Yuval: Beautiful. So I think I know that for the 1Ls, like because of the recruit, I know January is just like jam packed, like there's just no way. So it would have to go into February, I'm happy to be a part of it. And I know other people also raised their hand, so.

The final volunteers are all of the 1L reps (who raised their hands).

Reagan: Yeah, it sounds like a post-ELGC paper kind of vibe.

Julie: Yes.

Yuval: Yeah.

Julie: Sounds good. So far the emoji hands are the 4 1Ls, Kelly and Tania.

Kelly: Oh I didn't mean to raise my hand, I had something else I wanted to add. Can I have everyone who raised their hands put a message in the group chat?

Tania: I did not volunteer.

Julie: Oh okay, it's just the 1Ls then. It's fine.

Kelly: Alright.

Tania: I have to do wellness week, Julie.

Julie: Ohh okay, we got all the names down. I think that's all my agenda items. Kelly is it okay if we skip to the other motions that talk about money before we go to yours?

Kelly: Yeah, no problem.

1L Reps Items

5. 1L Formal Contract and Deposit Approval

Julie: Okay, Shivaansh, were you able to get the contract?

Shivaansh: I wasn't. So we were looking at the venue and talking to them for months, just pushing and pulling, so I'll just ask if people want to discuss what I've discussed in the quote we've gotten and I'll send the contract once they send it to me by email.

Julie: Okay, so actually Kelly for the record, the 1L motion will be passed at a later time via e-motion.

Kelly: Got it.

Julie: It's just a motion so they can pay the deposit for the venue. But I think Shivaansh can explain further, but it's just like a motion to pass it so they can pay a deposit for the venue.

Shivaansh: Yeah so we've been talking to them for months. They've come down in price a lot, thankfully-

Tania: Can we have context? I'm so sorry but I don't know what's going on...

Shivaansh: Oh, 1L formal.

Tania: Okay. Cool.

Shivaansh: So we were looking at a venue, talking to them for months and just pushing and pulling. They've come down in price to an amount where it's just within our budget. So now that we've negotiated that, you've told me already what I need to do next. Which, I sent them but a little too late today. But all I needed to do was send them my name, address, and all that stuff and just send them the deposit which we just need to motion for.

Julie: Don't they normally send you a contract?

Shivaansh: Sorry, yeah, that's what I mean. Like I will send them that information and they'll send me the contract and then I'll have to send them the deposit.

Julie: Okay, perfect. So I guess when the contract comes with the deposit, we can circulate that and pass the e-motion. And we'll move on to the 3L rep item.

Grace: Oh wait, just to confirm, is the contract under the L&L name or Shivaansh, yours?

Shivaansh: It's gonna be under the L&L organization name, but there has to be an individual person that is also named on the contract. So I'll just put my name since I've been - okay.

Grace: Perfect. Okay, just clarifying.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society approve of the contract attached and pay the deposit of \$15,000 for the 1L formal.

This motion passed as an e-motion at a later date.

3L Reps Items

6. Increase the budget for the 3L Formal

Julie: Alright, Armon, I'll let you take it away.

Armon: Great, thank you. Hi everyone. I can already see, yes, so before I get into the 3L formal - actually I'll just start with that. So I've had a lot of 3Ls reach out to me, just sort of with disappointment with the fact that, to date, the 3Ls have not received a single event where everybody could attend or a single formal at all. And just to provide context with how that works, the 1L formal was cancelled. Yes, it was, like, rescheduled to May or June, but effectively none of us were here for that, myself included and I organized it, which was a standing, like canapes - not a sit-down formal dinner for us, which just didn't happen. Our dean's gala was 45 minutes and not even all of the 1Ls, it was just like, section-specific because of the pandemic. In 2L, as you all know, it's an informal formal. We've yet to have a single formal event with our entire class. As the 3L formal is the final opportunity for us as a class to gather, there's a lot of desire and pressure for us to have some sort of compensation for the fact that we haven't had anything to date. And with how amazing the 1L orientation week was, with the dean's gala and the boat cruise and the

sponsors night and the variety show and the multiple drink tickets for like, everything, which has yet to have happened for a single event for the 3Ls. So I was reaching out to see where we could get a little bit more funding from so that we can make this possible. And when I was chatting with Julie, I know that last year there was a motion brought forward to take some money from the 1Ls and give it to the 3Ls accordingly given the pandemic – and I know that's not great and not fun and really not ideal at all. I can appreciate that. But at the same time, we haven't had anything, like literally anything as a student body and so if there was another pool of –

Multiple people raised their hands.

Armon: Oh my goodness, okay should I finish? You guys go ahead. I'll let you guys – go ahead.

Shivaansh: No, no, finish.

Armon: Yeah, so, I've had many people coming forward that say TTC accessibility is really important for them. And people are in a lot of debt right now that they're at the end of their law school career, so they can't afford very much and it is traditionally a sit-down dinner for the 3Ls, and the 1L formal to my understanding has been not sit down, like we planned a cocktail formal for us when we didn't even get that in the end. And so it's just our last opportunity to do anything. And if there's somewhere else in the funding that we'd be able to take the money from, I would love for that to happen. But as you know, Dean Farrow normally gives us 5k and apparently he's not even going to be able to give us that. He's told us that he's going to like, look and see what he can do, but we're not getting the Dean's funding confirmed yet and I do have meetings with them as well, but I'm just trying to advocate for the 3Ls. As I know, all of you are about to advocate for the 1Ls in terms of making sure that we have a fulsome experience given the fact that we haven't had any opportunity to build a community and we're leaving.

Shivaansh: So my question, just for background context, is how much money do the 3Ls have to start with?

Armon: So to my understanding, it's \$17,500, I think. Mindful of the fact that everything is 30 to 40k not including like, DJs, that is just for a meal and a space that can accommodate that many people in Downtown Toronto. And even the Dean's Gala formal that I had for O-Week, we got 6k from the Dean in addition to a 30k budget for that in addition to sponsorship and everything else which made all of that possible.

Shivaansh: And were you unable to get any sponsors this year?

Armon: So right now. No, so I've tried to reach out and we're going to send out more emails. I reached out directly, some of my team didn't send emails yet, we're going to continue to send them out but the issue with sponsorship for 3Ls is that we all have jobs or like, presumably we all have jobs – the idea behind sponsorships for 1Ls is that it's a recruitment idea, in the sense that the firm wants to get their name out there and get more money into pockets and that's why you saw, like Davies did all the awards and like, Torkin Maines (sp?) did the photo booth and everything for the Dean's Gala. But that's not really a thing when most of us have secured articling positions and so there's not really that kind of incentive for sponsorship or that sort of support for the 3Ls at all.

Shivaansh: Then one last question for me. When did you start talking to venues?

Armon: I started in August, and September of last year and I followed up with venues when I got back. But I had gotten preliminary quotes then and we're also talking to Liberty Grand as well, too, and I have a rough –

Shivaansh: Yeah, no, I know. Marlene told me that you just talked to her for the first time on Monday this week.

Armon: No. So, Nas talked to her last semester and put a hold on for the 14th –

Shivaansh: No, she told me you just put a hold 2 days ago. That's what Marlene said to me when I was talking to her literally yesterday.

Armon: No. The hold's, when I called in she said that the graduating class already had a hold, which I thought was you guys for last semester, and then she's like, no it was Nas who put on a hold last semester for March 14th.

Shivaanash: Okay.

Reagan raised her hand.

Armon: Reagan?

Reagan: I guess my first question is, if you have 17.5k, the 1Ls have a promise of 12.5k, you have nearly 5k more than us. Why do you need our money when you already have more than we do?

Armon: Because you've already had exponential events, and we haven't and this is our last opportunity and the 1L formal doesn't need to be a sit-down dinner. It can just be a formal like we've had and like the Dean's gala was. And if the 1Ls are like, comfortable paying more per ticket, like I know this isn't comfortable. I'm just doing my job, expressing what the students have said, because we've gotten nothing. Can you imagine going through all of 1L and 2L and not having a dean's gala, not having a 1L formal, not having any of these opportunities?

Reagan: Okay.

Shivaansh: So there wasn't a 2L gala last year?

Reagan: I guess there was a 2L gala last year.

Armon: No, the 2L informal formal happened. The 1L, or I mean, the 1L formal i.e. the dean's gala, like we didn't have an O-Week, we were all wearing masks.

Kelly: Yeah, to clarify – 2Ls don't get a formal. It's the 1Ls and 3Ls that do.

Reagan: But if you've known this since you stepped into this position, in August or September, why are you now only like in January reaching out asking for our funding? We've known that we had 12.5k from L&L since early November from Julie, why are you only now reaching out once we have secured venues, been in conversations with photographers, been talking to photo booths, have reached out to 60+ law firms, 12+ non-legal sources to get funding, like we've been working on this gala the entire semester, all of last semester where it sort of seems like you've only just started to talk about funding, specifically since you've been back. And I just don't think that's fair to us. We understand COVID's a thing, it happened, but that's not, respectfully, the responsibility of the 4 of us to then take on the burden of. I just don't think that's fair and I frankly think it's a little bit disrespectful too. You make a lot of arguments about cost of living, you're acting like costs, like there's – we 1Ls aren't just coming straight out of undergrad with only undergraduate debt, we have mature students that have families that may not be able to pay as much for a gala. I know myself, personally, I am in a lot of debt already coming into law school. So the arguments that you're making that 3Ls are in more debt than 1Ls, I frankly think is just baseless and untrue. So I'm struggling to understand what other valid points you have to make as to why your role and the things that you're supposed to be doing to get more money are now falling on us when we've been doing all this work for 4 months.

Armon: Okay, so I'm going to say that I don't appreciate your tone and the aggression coming towards me right now.

Shivaansh: Okay, sorry, I'm going to pause right there because she's a racialized woman and she's been talking very calmly and you saying that she has a tone or she has something, don't make that, yeah, but don't roll your eyes, she's a racialized woman you have to acknowledge that you saying that she has a tone or she's been aggressive is super micro-aggressive.

Armon: I'm also racialized. We're –

Shivaansh: – and disrespectful and I'm not going to stand for that and you can cover your face and roll your eyes but that's just straight-up rude, I'm sorry, I don't like that happening.

Julie: Okay, just guys, to remind you, all of this is on the record. So let's try to keep it neutral and as civil as possible. Thank you for everyone that contributed so far, and Jess has clarified in the chat that the 3Ls actually get 19.5k, so it's 17.5k from L&L and then they have around 2k in their bank account and this is the same for the 1Ls. The 1Ls get 10k from L&L and then they have around like 2k something in your bank account. I'll let Grace and Robert finish and I have a couple of things to add also.

Grace: Hi guys, I thought it would be helpful because I did plan, or help Armon and Daniella, we all planned together the O-Week Budget. And also, I have another question. First of all, I totally understand both sides of this argument. I think it's really hard. I do think it's important to recognize that, you know, the fees that we have collected for L&L come from the students every year and I don't think it's fair to, you know, try and move around the money on the basis of past years when that's not within the control of the students who just came in. In terms of the Dean's Gala, I think it was closer to 25k. All in all, at the end of the day, that was thanks to Armon doing honestly really great negotiating work. But again, like, it is really, really hard to find, especially at this time

of year, venues that are going to be within the budgets of everybody. I'm curious how much money are you trying to move around Armon? For a venue, and does, like as Shivaansh was saying earlier about the venue, you said it was a really tight budget, is there any wiggle room? Between the contract that you've already negotiated and Armon, do you have quotes and a contract ready to go and like, a plan for what to do with this money? I just want to clarify, like are we working on estimates or are we working on, like this is what we want to do and we have specifics already nailed down?

Armon: So we have specifics nailed down. We have 7 contracts in my inbox right now for 7 different venues, and I've narrowed it down to 2 and I'm still trying to get them to go even further down than I already have. Significantly with those top 2 choices. We do have a preliminary budget and I am trying my best to make it happen as smoothly as possible and it's \$2,500 that I was looking at because from the 12.5 and the 17.5, I felt like 10 and 20 was a reasonable and justifiable proposition. This work did happen in April and August and September, even before I had this position, our initial venue was Castloma, which is who I had discussions with last summer, which we can't do because of space requirements, but I have invoices and contracts. Right now the 2 choices are Liberty Grand and Shangri-La, because of the fact that I've gotten a really, really, really great deal with them that's about on the same brand as Liberty in terms of cost. So those are the 2 venues because I've been looking tirelessly, although some people have made it try to sound like I just show up and want people's money and I'm not doing the labour...

Grace: I'm just going to interrupt you just because I don't think it's productive to the conversation and it's on the record-

Armon: Yeah. Yes, please, go ahead.

Grace: Further, what is your, both, honestly for the 1Ls and for Armon? Do you guys have a ticket price for this and have you guys considered, because if it's only \$2,500, that's an extra \$10 per ticket, so I'm just confused. I was like, what are the concerns...

Armon: So I'm trying to keep my ticket price, like I'm trying to do early bird pricing so it's cheaper and incentivizes students to buy tickets early. I'm trying to keep it under \$100 for a three-course dinner with at least one drink ticket. And so we're looking at \$90 a ticket. Right now, for early bird pricing, we're still figuring that out and talking as a committee because I have an entire committee that I'm also relaying messages with and we're trying to make the numbers work and figure it all out. But that's the ticket price we're looking at right now and then it will jump a week later to ensure that we try to get more money. Accordingly, as well.

Julie: Please, so sorry, I'm just gonna jump right in. Armon, that's already \$40,000 that we're looking at in between the - actually, no around \$42,000 between the money L&L is giving you and the tickets, if everyone buys at the early bird, at the \$90...So is there an itemized list on what the extra \$2,500 from the 1Ls would get you because, like -

Armon: Yeah, I'm gonna...let it go. Which . Sorry, I also recognize that Grace and Robert's hands are both still up as well, there is an itemized list, I'm also mindful of the fact that I, aside from Robert, am the only 3L to advocate for the 3Ls in this call...so I'm not going to, it's fine, I'm not going to push to...I was hoping that we could be able to be mindful of what was happening and try to help and compensate to some degree but if it's not happening then it's not happening, like that's okay. I don't have the wherewithal to like, really go for it...I'd appreciate anything. And I don't want it to come from the 1L budget either, I was hoping there would be somewhere else for it to come from. But from our discussions, because the budget is so tight everywhere, which everyone is experiencing, the options were clubs or the 1L formal. And so, as a result, that was the question being proposed because we know there is really tight money everywhere and the 1Ls have had these opportunities that we haven't. So that's where that was coming from initially. But there is a full itemized breakdown budget for cost for everything, for everywhere.

Grace: I just wanted to finish. I really appreciate your info, Armon. I actually wanted to know, 1Ls as well, what is your ticket price? I don't know if you put it in the chat, I can't really read the chat right now...it's not loading.

Shivaansh: No, worries, so...

Julie: It's 100 and 120.

Shivaansh: Yeah so what we discussed is 100 for early bird and 120 for, normal price when early bird ends. We also surveyed around and people were really unhappy if we tried to price it above 100 which is why we were considering other venues which were significantly cheaper but by negotiating, I was able to get Eglinton to come down to a price that we can barely afford with a 100 dollar ticket price and we also do have to cut some of the food and cut some of the drinks because we cannot go over that 100 because people would be really unhappy...But we still want to be able to have the event.

Robert had his hand up.

Julie: Robert?

Robert: Hi, apologies for arriving late and also apologies if what I'm about to say is not super helpful because I arrived late and didn't hear everything...But I have 2 points – the first is on funding from the Dean which I assume is funding from the school. The school, Osgoode and York, are both on a big budget crunch. And as an example, at the faculty council meeting, Farrow said they are looking at literally everything which included not providing bagels and coffee at the faculty council. The second point is about the different debt loads between first-year students and third-year students. And that is a position that the school takes, that third-year students have a higher debt load because they reserve winter bursaries predominantly for third-year students who are graduating with higher debt loads. And it's based on data they collect, from the bursary applications that we all submit. That's all I wanted to say.

Jess had his hand up.

Julie: Jess?

Jess: I was just gonna say, so the 1L ticket price is already pretty high. A hundred dollars, I think last year it was \$75. So I wouldn't want to take away money from the 1L formal to be honest. And so, you make a good point about sponsorship money. And we take that into consideration. I guess what we can, and I mean me, Julie, the rest of L&L, if there is leftover money...we can try to push that towards the 3L formal but that's difficult to know right now without making the club budgets and different things like, we have other events happening. So in a month or so when we have more information on that, we could try and see if there's any leftover money. But personally, I don't think we should try to shift around money from the 1Ls to 3Ls. So I don't know if that's an okay compromise for you and I know it's not concrete money right now, but maybe we can see if there ends up being money we can shift to the 3Ls...

Armon: Thank you

Julie: Rob, is that a lingering...?

Rob still had his hand up.

Robert: Sorry, I'm on my phone. I don't, I'm struggling to...my hand is down for now.

Kelly had her hand up.

Julie: Alright, Kelly.

Kelly: I feel like what really underpins Armon's request is the fact that money has been reallocated from the 1Ls just last year to provide some additional money to the 3Ls, who got a lot less when they were in the same position as the 1Ls so that they could fully take advantage of one of if not *the* only event they are going to get in person with all of them together. I know that this request is really rubbing everyone the wrong way, and I can understand why because everyone seems to be under the impression that the current 3L class has not suffered from the pandemic at all, but it's really not personal, the current 3L class has not gotten a *single* in-person event that has felt normal, and not been significantly affected by the pandemic in some way. And I truly do believe that they're going to be the last class to be affected in this way – it just doesn't seem fair to me that other years affected by the pandemic have received some kind of funding to compensate within the 2 years, but people seem to be fine with, I don't know, martyring the current 3L class and pretending like the pandemic didn't also impact their law school experience in a significant way. I also feel like it's worth mentioning that, you only get 2 formals in law school, it's the 1L formal and the 3L formal, and the 3L's 1L formal was at The Drake Hotel, and didn't have any food whatsoever, and half the class didn't even attend it because it was forced to reschedule because of a Covid breakout...when every other formal that year, the 3L, albeit the 2L's don't do a formal so it was at a different time anyway, but they went forward and then the 1L formal got cancelled essentially and then it got postponed months ahead, so I really just want everyone to consider that the 3L class has not had a formal whatsoever at this point. They've never had an event like this where they can all celebrate together. And I feel like that's just something that's really important to keep in mind.

Julie: Thank you, Kelly. Also, before we address the hands, can I respond to that? I just want to provide a little more context regarding the deal last year where they allocated the money from the 1Ls to the 3Ls. So at a very high level, it's not the norm, or

the precedent, but I guess neither is COVID – like that was not the norm or precedent. But when that was passed, all of the stakeholders, AKA all the 1Ls where the funding was taken from, 3 out of 4 1Ls weren't there in the meeting and then it was passed anyway. And another different fact to note is that their 1L gala just straight up didn't happen. So L&L didn't spend a single dollar on that year's 1L gala. This year, so this year's graduating class...although it was extremely shitty that their gala was originally scheduled for March and then got postponed until after exams, so it happened in May, we paid off an invoice of 25k. And I'm not sure, Kelly, if you went to the event, if you didn't see food, but we paid for food. We paid for the food. It's in the invoice. Obviously I didn't, I wasn't around at the time, so I didn't go in person to see what was there and what wasn't there. I don't know if any other, if Rob or, I know Armon didn't go, but maybe if Rob went there he could tell me, but the money was effectively spent and the Dean's Gala also was not ideal – it happened in chunks, so instead of having everyone in the room at the same time, it was by sections or like, by a certain number of people at a time, time slots, also not ideal, but the money was effectively spent so it's like, when we're looking at the budget for this year, it's not that we had this large chunk of money rolled over, like from the class of 2024, because we didn't spend the money in the past. We did spend the money. So that's why it's hard, because when we are giving someone any money, whether it's \$2500 or \$1000, it comes at the detriment of another group of students. So in this case, it's either the 1Ls or it would come at the detriment of the clubs. And I think at this point, with the 1L ticket pricing being, yeah I think the food – it was like slider stations and things like that...but if we take \$2,500 from the 1Ls and effectively they can't have a formal or they maybe can't have a sit-down dinner at all, and then if we take it from the clubs, that's going to be another big outcroar in itself and I don't know if I feel comfortable taking away money from the club budget, which includes all the equity clubs as well. And at the benefit of what, like what is the \$2,500 actually paying for, like is it paying for extra drinks for the 3L formal or is it paying for extra food, or subsidizing ticket costs? No matter how you phrase it, I feel like it's hard to say, oh we're going to take away money from the clubs to fund extra food or drinks. And like, Armon and Kelly, you both made really great points and I sympathize with you. It's just that if we want to move money or reallocate, it comes at the huge detriment of a group of students and I just feel like I need the benefit that it is creating to justify the detriment and with the current budget that we're working with, at least from my perspective, it's hard to like, that ratio doesn't math in my brain. I'll let the rest of the hands make your comments. Rob?

Kaylie: Oh.

Robert: I think Kaylie had her physical hand up before I put my Zoom hand up.

Julie: Okay.

Kaylie: Okay, yeah, I was just gonna say I'm so sympathetic to you guys in 3L for not having your normal 1L experience and I completely get that you want to make this event as stellar as possible so you guys can have a good takeoff but the only part that I'm struggling with, and I understand that maybe some money was reallocated last year, is that prices of everything have gone up a lot. So when we look at the difference of money that you guys already have versus us, I kind of, and all the quotes that we've gotten from our venues to have a sit-down event with drinks and a DJ, I kind of struggle to see how you guys wouldn't be able to put together a really amazing event already with the money that you have and maybe I'm just missing some of the nuances of the event that would make it more expensive, but that's kind of maybe just a gap in my knowledge of what you guys are trying to put together that would be significantly different from ours, but just based on some venues that we've spoken to, like Liberty, we've both spoken to them and other ones that are equally as grand as Liberty, I would think you guys would still be able to put together a really amazing event without our \$2,000 because if we take our 2,000 we're not going to be able to put on the kind of event that we want. So I just, although I'm really sympathetic, I just struggle to see...why you should take it away from the 1Ls.

Julie: Thank you. Rob?

Robert: Hi, I want some clarification. So this is my current understanding. There's 19.5k for the 3Ls, is that correct? 17 and a half plus the 2 from the bank. And how much, Armon, are you asking for?

Julie: 2,500.

Robert: 2,500 additional. So when you came into this meeting, what was the amount you wanted to go home with?

Julie: 2,500.

Robert: 22,000. Okay. I just wanted to know the numbers that are going around. Thank you.

Tania's hand was up.

Julie: Tania?

Tania: So I just wanted to. And I, well, actually before that, first of all, I feel like we didn't even get to talk to the 1Ls about their formal in a meeting and we haven't had a meeting in a long time, so, congratulations 1Ls first of all because Liberty Grand is a beautiful venue and it's amazing that you secured that. I had an event there when I worked at the TTC and it was super gorgeous and super wonderful, so kudos – I feel like that's also frustrating, right? That, that's being brushed by. So I just wanted to acknowledge that you guys are all doing hard work and the same thing with Armon, planning is not fun so that makes sense why this is so contentious. And I think I feel a bit confused because I'm just wondering if the issue is that the 3Ls don't want to pay an extra \$10 per head, like is that what we're fighting over? Is increasing, like – I'm not trying to be rude or anything. I'm just struggling to understand what the difference is that \$10 makes in a ticket price because 90 is already high, if it's going to be a financial strain to someone, it's probably going to be a financial strain. Either way, whether it's 80 or 100. I'm also wondering if we could do a bursary system, like we have 10 tickets on reserve that we could, if you're a low-income student and you really want to come, can we work something out? \$2,000 seems like a lot of money but I feel like sometimes we get sponsorships for a lot more than that. So I'm just, I totally agree with everything Kelly and Armon said, like it sucks. I'm just wondering, do we have to take that from the 1Ls, like is there literally nowhere else we can pull this from or can we just raise the ticket prices a little bit? Like what am I missing? I'm happy to write something, like on behalf of the equity officer we're having 2 really cool events and we want to do... I think it's great to have bursaries either way because a hundred dollars is really expensive. \$120 is super expensive, regardless, if you're a 1L and you have all that or 2L and you have or, sorry a 3L, so yeah, the way Julie said exactly that, like we can definitely – I'm happy to help someone. Alternatively, I just don't think there's anywhere to push the ticket price up from 100 or 120 because that just seems so absurdly high to me. Especially because, aside from debt, a lot of the time 1Ls don't have clothes, like you still don't have your suit wardrobe. You still don't have, all these expenses that I had when I went to formal, like I didn't have the dress, I didn't have all these additional things, so just something to be mindful of. I don't think there's a point in comparing, it's apples to oranges, it's like, oh, the 3Ls have this much debt, the 1Ls have – we don't know anybody's personal circumstances. So can we just have bursaries for everyone? Like maybe 20 seats available. That was a thought.

Armon had his hand up.

Julie: Armon?

Armon: Yeah, so I just wanted to explain that it was to try to keep the ticket prices down for that purpose. In terms of doing a full thing that would be even more but trying to keep it under a hundred was the goal, but I just wanted to stress that this is not an attack on the 1Ls and I want to personally apologize if it feels like that in any capacity – it's not personal, it's just like, what's been coming at me and me trying to just advocate for them because I wish I had one-tenth of the experience you guys had and there's still space for you guys to continue to have iconic events. And I have complete faith in all of you that you're going to throw an amazing 1L formal regardless, like no matter what happens it's going to be beautiful and you have the 2L informal formal, and the 3L law prom, to have phenomenal events and I know you're all brilliant, capable students that are able to do that. I was just trying to advocate for the 3L students as this is the last year that we can have this argument, and because we feel like we haven't had anything, that's where this was coming from. If there was another contingency fund of money that wasn't the 1L formal, and that L&L had for like, emergencies, to be able to fund things, I wouldn't be asking for it from the 1Ls it's just because this is the only option. And this is what happened last year, as like a precedent and I'm mindful of the fact that, yes, there were fewer 1Ls to advocate there. It's just me and Robert advocating now as well too, and like the reverse situation...but I'm gonna let it go. Like, I've let it go, it's fine. I know, please by all means, speak everyone. . I just want to be totally clear that it's not an attack on the 1Ls, it's not at all a personal thing, it's literally just all of us doing our jobs and in our capacities trying to advocate for the student bodies that we're representing. And despite some of their other comments about me not being on top of it or not starting early enough, like this was all started before I even had this position, in terms of where I wanted it to be (and my dream venue was not possible to begin with). Like the work has been done. All of us work really hard. All of us do all of this and I completely respect and appreciate that. This is me trying to do my job to advocate for us because this is our very last chance. Like this is our last opportunity, whereas historically, to my understanding, when I was in 1L, the 1L formal was typically a standing affair, so that law prom was a seated thing. Again, last year apparently was seated and these things change. That's fine. I'm letting it go. Keep the funding. It's fine. I will figure it out. Don't worry about it. It was not a personal thing at all. I want there to be less tension and animosity in the air going forward, this really wasn't a thing on the 1Ls at all. It's just that this is the only place that money, to my understanding, could be made available from. And as there was a little precedent set last year, that's where this came from and from a request from the student body. That's it. We're all good. I'm gonna figure it out regardless and it's going to be great either way.

Julie: Also, I promise you that Jess and I will come back to you after we've gone through the clubs budget.

Armon: I appreciate it.

Julie: And also I was thinking, I think we reserve a couple \$100 for our L&L exec's winter social. So maybe we could pass a motion, if everyone on the exec wants to forfeit, I mean it's not much, it would only be a couple \$100, but we could reallocate that money towards the 3Ls' fundraising. If our team wanted to do that. But it's, again, that amount is modest, so I don't think it's going to make or break your event.

Armon: Okay.

Julie: But we will do everything we can, it's just, like, you know.

Armon: No, that's alright. I was just wondering, what is the budget for the 1L formal because I'm still like, in negotiations with Liberty and they haven't really come down more for me than I would have liked...I mean, we'll see it in the contract when we're motioning to approve it anyway. But, what's the price for like, the budget for the space? Because that's what I'm trying to negotiate down with them as well to which, I've come down significantly. I know it's in the thirties.

Julie: So you guys are both going to the same venue? Can you try to get them to bring it down even lower because we're giving them 2 businesses in one month?

Armon: I've tried.

Yuval: Armon, have you asked them? Like, if they can take it down more if it's the both of us?

Shivaansh: Yeah, that's why the –

Armon: I did and I did a site visit with them earlier this week. Where I was like, girl, it's March. No one wants to be here. Can you please give us more of a discount? Like it doesn't make sense. And like, you're in the middle of nowhere...no offence, I was trying to humble her a little bit.

Yuval: Yeah.

Armon: Sure, Robert, join the committee. You're more than welcome to join us. But like, Liberty Village, and I feel for you guys. That's a bougie venue. It's beautiful. But it's in the middle of nowhere and the AV fees...it's ridiculous.

Yuval: Yeah, we're not doing anything with AV because it's ridiculous.

Armon: It's stupid and I hear that and that's why I'm negotiating with other venues too. And like, despite the idea that I don't care and I'm just trying to take people's – I have, I can send you 8 different quotes from 8 different venues that are in my inbox, but I was just wondering, what is your guys' final number? I don't know where you guys found that or how, but I'm still in the mid to high thirties, like very high thirties for Liberty.

Shivaansh: I can open up the exact number for you right now. Just give me one sec.

Armon: Amazing, Thank you. Cause whatever you guys are doing, maybe I can look into that and then jazz it up in other capacities.

Julie: Wait, is it possible if we like move the formal numbers talk to after this meeting or just amongst you?

Yuval: Yeah, I just wanted to say one last thing. Like, I know we're dropping it so, no worries.

Shivaansh: Yeah, sure.

Yuval: And again, I completely agree with Kaylie and Tania and everybody that spoke, that I think there's a big – like we completely understand your issue. You know what I mean? It's not that. And I think, the picture we were trying to paint is not at all, you know, that you didn't do enough work or anything like that. It's just, as I, you know, I just started, I've been a part of L&L for what, like 4 months. We really just put so much work towards it and I feel like there wasn't much conversation between us, rather like, you and I had such a chill conversation about just, you know, formal this and that and we were sharing stuff with one another and then randomly I come to this meeting or whatever and I see in the agenda that there's a motion trying to take

money from us after, just so much work, honestly, so so much work and personal time spent over the break where Shivaansh and I went around to see venues just, there was so much stuff that we did and I felt like, you know, if like, thank God we were all here, but in the case that we weren't or something like that, and something like last year would have happened again, that just doesn't feel...you know what I mean? I feel like not all the other things have been exhausted before trying to take this kind of step and it also could have been approached a bit differently, which is why I think there's general frustration. Again, it's, I don't think it's anything, personally towards *you*, and I think you're just trying to do, I know that you're just trying to do your job and for sure you have so many stressors, I can only imagine being like you are during COVID. I was your year during COVID in my undergrad. So we were just consistently not in the best position. So anyway, I think that's where it was coming from and I just wanted to clear that out. It was just not a personal thing. It was just a bit of a shock, to see that. So I just wanted to clarify that with you.

Armon: Absolutely. And one other update in the L&L meeting minutes – that's not about the 3L formal budget, but I had it in my agenda items. In case people ask, a lot of the 3Ls have also been like, hey can we have a social, like a mix and mingle just for us because we haven't had anything...

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society re-allocate \$2,500.00 to the 3L Formal from the 1L formal in light of prior pandemic restrictions, and our inability to experience a meaningful formal or collective activity to date.

(Armon withdrew the motion) Motion was abandoned

7. 3L Pub Night

Armon: So I'm planning a pub night so if any 3Ls ask you for like, the 3L mix and mingle, it's gonna happen on the 25th. And if there are people that still have photo questions, there's going to be an email blast going about grad photos . If anyone still wants to join the yearbook committee that's underway too, we have a cover, we have it all locked in and they can still join the yearbook committee if they want – all of that's also happening. Those are all the agenda items from the 3L rep.

Julie: So, I'm just clarifying, do you still want to bring forward the motion...? .

Armon: No, it's fine.

Julie: So the 1L reps motion will be postponed until we get the contract, so the Secretary's motion, finally, sorry Kelly.

Secretary's Items

8. New Listserv

Kelly: Okay, I'll try to keep this nice and short. I just think it's kinda crazy that we don't have a listserv for the clubs' emails yet, it would make my job a lot easier regarding soliciting posts for the newsletter. TBH I'm not even sure how I would go about getting the ball rolling on this – but I wanted to make sure I have the executive's support to go ahead and do this before I start looking into it. I do realize that Hillary has a list of the various clubs emails, the only thing I'm unsure about right now is the technical process of setting up a listserv. And I'd appreciate any help with directing me on who to make that inquiry to – does L&L have a webmaster? I'm aware that Caucus does, but I wasn't sure if that's just the same person for us. If it is, then I can send an email to Kirti this week to get started on that.

Julie: Thank you. So Kelly brings forward the motion that the legal and literary society creates a new listserv containing all of the clubs up to date, official emails. Can I get a seconder?

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society create a new listserv containing all of the clubs' up-to-date official emails.

(Kelly motioned/Armon seconds) CARRIED

9. Ski Trip Stuff

Joyce: Hey! So I'll start with the smaller thing – something we already talked about. We have our pub night, the first one of the year is on January 18th, and that's supposed to be a welcome back theme. And then...I took into account what y'all said about the themes, so February 15th is our next pub night. I don't know what we're going to do, I'm thinking something around Valentine's Day, or something like post-Valentine's Day. If anyone has any ideas...please help. And then, for the ski trip. We've paid our deposit, I think – right?

Julie: Yeah, TBD. I'm like, here's my credit card information...please take it. And the venue has not gotten back to me. But it's still happening.

Joyce: Yeah. Okay. That...and we're finalizing rooms. We've stopped accepting payments or any new sign-ups as of yesterday at 5pm. And – yeah. We're just figuring out room assignments. Emails will be going out shortly, just to confirm with everyone who has signed up about opt-ins. And then the committee is just finalizing the small stuff, like the venue where we'll have our pub night on the actual retreat and buses, but yeah, I would love to see you all there. Even if you didn't get to sign up, we're going to be doing like, day passes. So it would be nice to see everyone there, if you can.

Kaylie had her hand up.

Julie: Yeah, Kaylie?

Kaylie: I've just gotten two questions from people in my section about the ski trip. One person was curious, that they didn't sign up for one of those opt-ins, like for the bus or something, are they still able to do so and if so, who should they contact about arranging that? That's my first question. And then the second question was just, what hotel is L&L's block of suites in?

Julie: Joyce – do you know the answer to the second question?

Joyce: No, I was going to say, I thought we didn't know....unless they told you?

Julie: Yeah, I can't remember. I think there's only 1 or 2 buildings that have the 2 bedroom suites, so I think that narrows it down to like...but I can't tell you which one. It's somewhere in the village. It's part of the blue mountain village resort.

Kaylie: Yeah, it's just a few people were asking me, they didn't sign up for Blue Mountain, but they were hoping that maybe them and outside friends from Osgoode could just book a room separately but in the same vicinity? But I didn't know what that vicinity it was, to tell them.

Julie: We're going to release some more information, like for example if people wanna come for the day or people want to just come for the pub night, or like, if people are coming and then they're staying elsewhere, how do they join the Osgoode folks for just the pub night, things like that, we'll release all of this probably in the coming days. Yeah, Armon?

Armon had his hand up.

Armon: I just wanted to add that, if you haven't taken your yearbook photo slash, not yearbook photo, like I know you're not graduating, it's just me and Robert, but you need to sign up for the grad photos and you need to go take a grad photo because it's going to be in the L&L composite and you all get a free copy of it. So please sign up. There's literally only 2 days left in January and 1 date left in February and the rest are overflow dates for the grad class who actually needs grad photos. So please get on that.

Julie: Yeah, I think we've all done it. Except for Grace, apparently.

Grace: Really called out here.

Armon: Has everyone done it? Amazing. No, that's okay, Grace you're iconic. I love you.

Julie: Okay.

Armon: But I would like there to be an email blast going to the 3Ls, and I'll resend you the link personally, Grace I got you. . But yeah, please make sure you take your pick so that we have photos and it's not like a smiley face emoji on our composite. Thank you.

Julie: Armon, can you send it to the entire exec because Jess hasn't done it either and –

Robert: Has Hillary done it? Hillary was away last time.

Julie: Yeah. No, but if you don't do it, I don't know if this is like, a good thing or a bad thing. Your name will still appear on the composite. Yes, it will. But you will have a blank black box above your name, which I think is more embarrassing than just not having it at all. So just get your picture taken. It'll be better than a black blank box. The one last thing is, I know no one's gonna do it, but, excluding the 1Ls, everyone was given a transition doc when we started our positions on May 1st.

Tania: Some of us were not.

Julie: Okay well, can you remind Hillary to send it to you, and also, please everyone. Update your transition stuff from the fall term because things are changing every term, even in my role, there are a lot of new initiatives and things that have changed. So we just wanna document those, for our incoming members. They can refer to that...okay, that is it.

Armon: Also, for the minutes – we've officially included the student caucus in our composite as well. So they're gonna be in there as well too and if you're a graduating student, so Hillary, I'm sure Robert and myself do not pay the sitting fee for \$25 I've confirmed I got Robert his refund so do not pay it if they try to make you pay anything, you should refuse. Thank you so much.

Julie: Okay, 10 o'clock on the dot, I motion to adjourn the meeting. Can I have a seconder?

Motion: to adjourn the meeting

(Julie motioned/Shivaansh seconds) CARRIED