

# The Legal & Literary Society of Osgoode Hall Law School

## Minutes

13<sup>th</sup> of January 2025

1:33 PM -2:21 PM EST

Zoom & In Person

**Present:** Julie Choi, Kelly Bilenkis, Brandon Connor, Yuval Shilon, Reagan Cockburn, Joyce Gerges and Jasmine Bates, Karth Gautam, Ava Taborda, Shivaansh Khanna and Marwah Asrar.

**Absent:** Karel Peters, Tania Kengatharan, and Jamie Lynn Galley.

### **Call to Order (1:33pm)**

*Julie motioned to start the meeting, and Kelly seconded*

### **President's Items**

#### **1. Update Roundtable**

This item was skipped for time.

#### **2. Levy Referendum Update**

Reagan shared her screen to share the official referendum petition.

We got approval last week so now we can launch the petition.

Our CEO asked if we can sign the petition to see if it is working properly.

Kelly and our CEO had the same error message when we clicked the link. Julie is going to investigate the issue.

Everybody else on the executive was able to access the petition successfully.

Julie asked us for any comments or feedback on how to make the petition more palatable for the student body.

Obiter is going to do an overall piece on where our money is going, how our tuition is being utilized. They did a similar piece in 2015 for context.

To clarify – signing the petition doesn't mean you support the referendum yet. This petition is just to *have* the referendum.

Brandon had 2 questions about the poster. First, is there any way we can find out the specific date for the last increase so we can provide that info? And second, on page 4, where it says 60% increase in club funding – how did we get to that number?

Julie asked the York admin to give her the specific dates, and she thinks it was sometime in 2015. There was a levy increase prior to that too but it wasn't an L&L levy increase. She is going to press the admin to give us a specific date, but it has been so long that it's not well-documented. We know for a fact it's been at least nearly 10 years, but in reality it's more like about 20 years. A decade ago, L&L was giving the same amount of money to our clubs that we are giving today.

As for the second question, a 60% increase means the pool of money from which we are distributing will increase from \$15,000 to \$24,000. We are essentially increasing that pool of money that we have to draw from.

Brandon also raised a concern that he could see someone misunderstanding and thinking that each club will get an increase of 60% to their funding, rather than the amount of funds we have to distribute to clubs increasing.

Julie agreed to change the wording so it specifies that the increase is to total club funding.

We will also be prioritizing events that promote DEI and large events with over 75 amount of JD students. In practice, that number may change over the long-term because the L&L Executive changes every year.

There was an inquiry into whether we should cap each clubs budget relative to their membership, which was quickly struck down.

Julie asks the L&L executive to share the referendum petition to ensure we reach 100 signatures.

Shiv mentioned that raising the levy does seem to be controversial amongst the student body.

July explained again that, our year is fine with the current budget scenario but it is future years at Osgoode that will have their extracurricular life crippled. We can't force anybody to vote any specific way on the referendum. We feel like it's our job to inform

the students that our current budget is not sustainable, and that future years will feel real consequences if we don't raise it now.

### **3. Blue Mountain Update**

There's just over 40 spots left on the Blue Mountain trip.

Planning is also far along. Another email will go out to students this week to finalize any choices they may have wanted to add such as skiing/snowboarding/opt-in buses.

Our committee is working on getting more sponsorships so we can add goodies like breakfast boxes that we weren't able to add last year.

Sign-ups close tomorrow. We would like to get 10 more sign ups to meet the minimum spend so we aren't liable for anything.

"The Osgoode Alumni Association is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors who represent the diversity of experiences and professional interests of the School's graduates. The Board provides counsel to the Dean and promotes and supports the activities of the School and its students."

### **Secretary's Items**

#### **4. Approving the November 13<sup>th</sup> 2024 Meeting Minutes for posting.**

Nobody raised any issues. As per usual Kelly stated that the exec would have the next 24 hours to email any issues or changes they would like to see prior to official proving for posting.

#### **5. Approving the photo used in the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting Minutes.**

No issues – photo approved!!

### **VP Internal's Items**

#### **6. Period Project Revamp**

Are we hiring volunteers again to re-fill the baskets or should we keep that internal?

Julie suggested keeping it internal for now since that's easier. The budget for funding this project has been very uncertain.

Reagan is going to talk to Jamie about buying the supplies we need to facilitate the project.

#### **7. JCR Wednesdays and Bar Night Discussion**

Joyce asked for any feedback on how we can increase turnout, not only to JCR nights but also to our regular bar nights off-campus.

Reagan mentioned that she's heard feedback that we can promote the events earlier to give students more heads up.

Reagan also mentioned that the BLSA Conference is in Calgary this year from Feb 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> so she suggests that we refrain from hosting a bar night during that time. Almost their entire membership will be absent during that time.

After some discussion about timing, we settled on moving the Bar Night to February 6<sup>th</sup> (the week before).

Joyce mentioned that TMU and UofT want to do a joint mixer on the 30<sup>th</sup>. We would need to spend some money to join in, because each of their student execs is spending money to confirm the venue. We wouldn't charge for this event so there wouldn't be a way to make the money back.

### **2L Rep's Items**

#### **8. Venues for the 2L Gala**

Finding venues has proven a little difficult just because a lot of spaces aren't accessible.

She's asking anybody with ideas re venues from the exec to reach out to her.

Reagan asked whether we could use the venue from last year again? Yuval confirmed that it is still an option.

Yuval was also looking into doing it at the Maddy but unfortunately they are not an accessible venue.

Joyce asked about whether Richard's Upstairs venue is an option, and Yuval confirmed that Richard's is also not accessible.

Shiv suggested an arcade bar, which Yuval was very open to. She will be looking into arcades in her search.

***Motion: to adjourn the meeting***

***(Julie motioned/Kelly seconds) CARRIED***