

# The Legal & Literary Society of Osgoode Hall Law School

## Meeting Minutes

24 January, 2024

12:34-1:43 p.m. EST

Zoom

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

**Absent:** nobody!

### **Call to Order (12:34 pm)**

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

### President's Items

#### 1. Updates Roundtable

##### 1L reps updates:

1L reps had their motion passed by email to approve the budget for the formal.

1L reps also found a new photobooth that will be cheaper than the one used previously, \$650 for 4 hours with a 50% deposit required to reserve the date.

They will pass the motion to approve the contract for the photo booth by email.

The 1Ls will be using the same DJ we used last year for their formal, she will cost \$500 for 4 hours.

They also spoke to Grace (2L rep) about using a different photographer for the photo booth, but their basic package was all booked out and the only available option was at a higher price range than they wanted to spend for photos (they were trying to upsell some unnecessary features for the package).

The 1Ls want to have the ticket sale information out ASAP so they can start planning the organizing details.

##### 3L Rep Updates:

The 3L-exclusive pub night is happening tomorrow and we are confirming the venue for the 3L formal this week. We will send the contract with an email motion for approval.

We weren't able to provide the contract at this meeting because we're still ironing some details out with the venue.

We also plan to send an email to the listserv out as soon as possible to start selling tickets.

Finally, we've sent an email reminder out for everyone to get their grad photos taken.

There was a discussion on organizing a group photo for the yearbook;

Someone suggested taking a group photo of the L&L team for inclusion in the section on Legal Literary Society in the yearbook.

We considered using a photo from a previous event, but noted that 1L representatives were not present, making it not representative.

There was a proposal to schedule a day or time for the entire team to take a new group photo.

We speculated combining the photo session with a small social event, possibly involving cocktails, if a larger social gathering is not feasible.

Mention of budget constraints for the social event, emphasizing the need for a cost-effective gathering.

Discussion on securing a venue and finalizing a date for the group photo and potential social event.

Armon mentioned he put two committees in place since last semester to organize the 3L formal and the publication of the yearbook.

For the 1Ls benefit, he explained that last year L&L decided to end the contract with our previous advertising company, which was previously responsible for securing ads for the yearbook, due to their high commission fees.

We decided to move towards handling advertisement outreach internally to retain full revenue from sponsorships.

Update on achieving financial targets for the yearbook through direct sponsorship efforts, making the yearbook financially self-sufficient without relying on external advertising agencies.

Discussion on the addition of a digital yearbook as a selling point for future sponsorships.

We acknowledged the successful negotiation with a sponsor, increasing their ad size and contribution.

### **VP Internals' Updates:**

Updates are that she hasn't been feeling well, so she apologizes if there have been some delays in facilitating access to the summary bank and making JCR bookings.

The Winter all-clubs meeting is coming up soon. The budget should be coming out to all of the clubs in the next week or so.

As of today, she has gotten through all of the requests for the summary bank and JCR use.

She suggests that if you hear someone complaining they haven't received a response, indicate to them that they should follow up with her because she believes all requests have been addressed.

She is going to find a time for the period project volunteers to meet with her next week to get started on that project.

Hillary also commented on the drama from the previous meeting – she thanked everyone for all of the work that they've been doing but also emphasized that we should focus on creating a more welcoming and better working environment for all of us. She welcomed any of our members to reach out to her if they wanted to discuss anything that happened.

### **2L Rep's updates:**

The 2L informal formal is tentatively scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Also, we are re-branding – try to call it a semi-formal instead (because it is a semi-formal...).

We could also use some people on the team to help with set up. Julie will be helping put together the charcuterie board. We were hoping that one of the 1Ls could be on the door.

Shivaansh volunteered to help at the event.

4 people on the team have smart serves so we should be able to find someone who can bartend at the event internally.

Yuval mentioned that Jamie, who works at the JCR, would probably be up for the job if it's a paid position as well.

Julie mentioned that normally we default to hiring the JCR bartenders, but this is unprecedented (that we have so many people on the exec with smart serves).

There was some discussion about Mock Trial which is happening on the Thursday and Friday of March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, to ensure that our events aren't stepping on their dates.

Robert didn't have any Caucus updates.

### **3L Reps Items**

#### **3L Formal Contract Approval**

When the contract comes out, there is a confidentiality clause because it was a term necessary for the negotiations we have undertaken with the venue.

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

***Motion: THAT The Legal and Literary Society approves the attached contract and a deposit of \$12,000 (TBC) for the 3L Gala on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at the Shangri-La Hotel Toronto.***

***This motion has passed as an e-motion.***

### 3. Approving the January 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 Meeting Minutes for posting.

There was a concern raised by a 1L rep on removing any details from the minutes from last week, out of transparency concerns and having the student body misconceive how the conversation happened.

*(Secretary's note: this is my motion, so I will write this next part in the first person)*

I said I was prepared to get more requests for edits or redactions than I actually did get. What I received was a couple of requests to remove non-substantive content in people's speech (things like "um" or "like") which I have no issue with.

I opened the floor to the exec as to whether anything additional should be redacted from last week's minutes.

We agreed to give people some time to think it over and decide if there were any further changes they wanted to impose.

**Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society approve of the minutes taken on January 11th to be posted.**

***This motion was delayed to be passed later as an e-motion, after re-drafting the minutes.***

### 4. Motion to update our minutes-taking practice to be more aligned with the Student Caucus.

I explained why I took the minutes in the way that I did – I first started reading the meeting minutes when I was in 1L in 2021, and at that time the minutes I was reading were from 2020 and our current year, 2021, and the minutes from these meetings looked like a transcript, probably because the meetings were being held on Zoom because of the pandemic and there was a literal transcript to utilize.

However, the purpose of the minutes is to keep us accountable to the school, both financially and in terms of our conduct, and they don't need to be a literal transcript to accomplish those goals.

It's also unrealistic to expect the secretary to produce a transcript for what often amounts to be long and detailed meetings.

So moving forward, I am proposing that we update our minutes-taking practice to be more aligned with the way that the Student Caucus currently takes minutes, which is a bullet-point summary of what was said.

A question was posed to the group – if this motion passes, do we want it to be applied retroactively to the previous meeting, applied instantly moving forward (so this meeting's minutes will be written in this fashion) or onto our next meeting after this one?

Shivaansh supported the motion to update the minutes-taking practice and expressed support for applying the motion instantly but not retroactively. He stated that he has had other students approaching him about the prior meeting, and considering there seem to be some rumours about this meeting, and he wants the meeting minutes to be released as is to put those rumours to rest.

Grace also supported the motion and spoke about the benefits of having a recording/a transcript of the meeting. She mentioned that we could do better to promote the fact that our meetings are open to the public and make the Zoom link more easily-accessible, especially if we will be using "Robert's Rules" moving forward. She also suggested we could post the agenda publicly in advance, and that she could provide support for that initiative if necessary.

Tanya spoke about how the negative reaction our team had to one specific comment that was made in the last meeting was never properly addressed, and that we should do something as a team to move past it properly rather than ignore it. She emphasized the importance of our team being able to work together. It's difficult to have a conversation about the minutes without first addressing that tension. She lent her support to the motion, and to apply it moving forward. Finally, she asked for some additional time to let the dust settle before we approve the minutes to be posted from the meeting in question.

Julie mentioned that there is no mandate on when we need to post the minutes by, so we can take a few days to make a decision.

Reagan supported the motion and spoke about how she had also been approached by several people asking about particulars from the meeting, and she had also directed them to read the meeting minutes. She supported posting the minutes as is and applying the change moving forward.

Shivaansh echoed Reagan's sentiments about how supportive the upper years have been and that he has a lot of respect for them.

Before we ended, I asked whether we wanted to have a conversation between the 1Ls and the upper years now while we're all on Zoom, or to at least put a date on it so it's not just a speculative exercise into a conversation that we *should* have but that never ends up happening.

I confirmed that the meeting minutes from last week will stay the way they are from now, but I would also give the team a couple of weeks to think about whether there are any further edits they want to apply.

The group agreed to set a date for a group bonding session after the 1L recruit ends (when everyone has more time).

Julie mentioned that our Constitution states we abide by the Roberts rule, so we don't technically need to pass a motion to change it. I clarified that I phrased it as a motion because it would be updating the current minutes-taking practice since I was only continuing the tradition that the secretary before me had started.

Shivaansh mentioned that he didn't want to wait a couple of weeks before uploading the minutes from the prior meeting.

Importantly, he thinks that the prior week's meetings should be uploaded simultaneously with the meeting minutes for this meeting.

**No motion is necessary – the minutes taking practice will be updated moving forward.**

***Motion: to adjourn the meeting (1:43pm)***

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