

## **Minutes**

**January 26, 2022**

**12:30 PM EST**

## **Zoom**

**Present: Alex Mulligan (Chair), Jordan Crocker, Nushrah Amod, Mario Lofranco, Danielle Landry, Jessica Li, Christina Tassopoulos, Courtney Cameron, Valentina Gavis, Kelly Bilenkis, Hillary Song, Imani Theodore, Armon Ghaeinizadeh**

## **Call to Order (12:32)**

*\*Land Acknowledgement by A. Mulligan\**

## **President's Items**

### Updates Roundtable

Jess: I will talk later

Jordan: skip me.

Nush: Jess is going to be taking this on. There is a lawyer at Cassels who has been working with a group in Afghanistan who have been deemed rebels and they have been trying to come back to Canada. They asked if we want to support an initiative where we would send letters to Parliament to draw attention. Jess will be taking it on because we want to reach out to MELSA. We can also pass off to other equity groups because the number of letters is important. I want to circulate it to all of you so we can decide if we want to support. Alex, Jess, and I support. Also, MHWW is aimed at being the first week of March. Doron Gold will be coming. We haven't heard from Drake yet about when she wants that to happen. But do we still want to ship out mental health packages but do we want to send out welcome packages instead?

Alex: Yes, I think that makes sense and that way we likely won't have to fund it.

Chloe: Just from o-week experience, even if there are welcome packages available for pick up on campus, many students will still want them shipped, just make sure we assign budget for those who want them shipped.

Nush: My concern with the shipping is that the Deans won't cover the shipping just because they want students to attend in person. Will ask you about shipping costs.

Kelly: maybe design the packages so that they can be shipped if needed.

Nush: Christina, Armon, Val, Danielle want to help with MHWW.

Courtney: I had an online pub night, not much attendance. Have still been discussing ski trip. I am not optimistic because we cannot put down deposit until ski trip is approved so the timeline is not the best. Just seeing what we can do.

Mario: I started the interim audit.

Christina: OWN will be taking on the WLAO.

Val: Discussing formal with the Deans. Will have to be a very quick turnaround. Around 150 students have taken grad photos so far. More dates have been added. Waiting for formal updates. Will be starting on yearbook creation soon. A google drive for people to add photos will be created.

Danielle: Want to do 2L formal at a hotel/bar. Received a list of bars and will want to see what is accessible. Still trying to figure out if it will be in person.

Kelly: want to meet with Alex for a 1L conference.

Hillary: not many updates. The survey results for the formal came in. A lot of pessimism about online formal.

Imani: Yeah, just planning formal.

Armon: students have been asking if masks are coming.

Chloe: Will discuss more about masks when Alex brings it up

Alex: we are governed by both the university and the province. So thinking of events coming up and return to campus, remember that we have to follow all these rules. For example, on January 31<sup>st</sup>, the limit for people indoors will be 10 people. On Feb 31<sup>st</sup>, indoor capacity will increase to 100% for event spaces. Just prepare yourself to see these changes coming into effect a bit delayed by York admin. Familiarize yourself with the reopening framework. In theory, formals in March could go ahead based on provincial guidelines but not sure about York.

### Campus Tours

Alex: we have been asked to organize tours. In the next couple of days, the tour guide application form will go out. No one here is expected to give a tour. It would be good if we had reps. O-week has a video of the tour route and that will be what is used. I'm thinking of submitting a dean's funding request to give the tour guides a \$5 gift card of some sort. Open to people in all years.

Jordan: What dates will the tours be?

Alex: we will figure that out after we hire the guides.

### Masks

Alex: The masks have been purchased, they are on their way. The mask issue has come out because York University will not provide masks to students, faculty, or staff and thus Osgoode must also follow that policy. A common critique of returning to campus is that high quality masks are not being given to students so this will address that criticism. It's then ended up on students to take on the admin failings. There are a number of distribution issues such as handing out the masks, depending on the packaging the masks. So the finer details of how they will distribute will come later this week. We do have enough masks for everyone to have one. I think we will have to track who we give masks to because we cannot start doubling up and tripling up on masks because we will run out.

Chloe: I think with masks there are a few things: Orientation week is involved in this because we provided everyone in O-week with an Osgoode mask. So the rationale for why O-week needs to dedicate funds was because we have a considerable surplus. Also, there were 250 1Ls, 100 upper years, 15-20 admin. So this was a lot of Osgoode students.

With regards to communication, Alex will be sending out an email regarding masks and really emphasizing that these decisions are not Osgoode's decisions. There will be a surplus of masks so that we can give to all faculty as well.

Imani: Is there a contingency plan in place for if a significant number of people get sick?

Chloe: If there is a covid-19 outbreak at school, the contingency plan is that recordings need to be made available based on the motions passed by student caucus. It will pretty much be ad hoc.

Alex: the university is very vague about how they will handle COVID cases. The YU better together website does not have any substantial information.

Chloe: Dean Drake only received info about return to campus only 2 hours before the rest of us did.

Jess: so my understanding is that these masks are only supposed to be used once. So how are we advertising them to be used? If they are only one-time use, does it make sense to give every student one mask or give multiple masks to those in greater need?

Alex: York U allegedly doesn't want to give masks out because they think that makes them legally liable if students get COVID 19. But we will make no representations about the effectiveness of masks. In hospital settings, they are using N95 masks multiple times so we will be giving instructions on best way to reuse them. In healthcare, they are not to be reused more than 5 times. We are not in health care settings. We will include info about their limited usage and safely reusing masks. In terms of equity concerns, at the end of the day we want to ensure that everyone has access to masks, so the idea is to hand them out to everyone.

Chloe: when they give hospital guidelines, a big thing for med practitioners is cross-contamination between patients. The concern is that the patient can transmit, not about the air respirators. With regards to equity, I sympathize with your point but the issue with equity groups is that I would be uncomfortable in determining the validity of people's equity concerns. Students can't decide who should be getting masks.

Jess: could we set up a survey to ask if people can be get an N95 mask for themselves then decide not to take one from L&L.

Chloe: we will emphasize that we have limited supply. But Alex can decide that if we have the disclaimer that if you can get one, give to other people.

Alex: not every student is going to take a mask. We will indicate the limited supply and the language should be along the lines that we will provide one per student but given the difficulty that some people face in acquiring a mask, then please leave them for others, or something along those lines. The point about professors that you raised stands and so when we figure out the distribution scheme, we will bring that up.

Nush: just wanted to comment on the equity standpoint. It might be wise to narrow down the equity groups that might have immediate issues with obtaining masks and then once you send the email, then do another push to other groups. But us providing masks to everyone because the university isn't makes sense.

Imani: are professors going to have to wear masks during class?

Alex: no, professors are exempt from having to wear masks when lecturing.

Chloe: we considered raising this at faculty council. I am not sure I can get enough consensus to force teachers to wear masks. Hopefully making masks available to profs will incentivize them. If not, we need to ensure there is sufficient distance between where the profs are standing and the first row.

## **VP Internal Items**

### LegalCite Promotion

Jess: Just a quick thank you to Alex and Chloe. I was contacted by this company called LegalCite which is a legal citation software that provides easy citations and are offering the program to students for free. But it is only available for PC users. But then I was wondering if we should be promoting a legal citation software if that's something we actually need to learn. Just wanted your thoughts.

Nush: is this even allowed? Because it is a tool to aid for a fundamental learning point.

Jess: the guy said other law schools are using it (U of Alberta).

Alex: yeah, I'm not sure but I'm also concerned this is an academic integrity issue

Chloe: I think I suggest that if we bring it to the study body to see if there is a parallel for Mac users and we don't need the backlash. A second step would be to bring it up at a digital innovation meeting. OR pending that conversation, I might be able to reach out to Professor Kierstead and flag this as a tool but that would be dependent on us finding a program available for all. Even if none of this works, I see this as something that maybe SC and L&L could host as an open session about legal citations. I don't think it challenges any academic integrity issue.

Jess: the only thing about fining an equivalent for Mac is that they are offering this for free and I'm not sure that other companies would be. But I will reach out and see but I like your other ideas.

Chloe: I wondered if an alternative would be to raise it with the Osgoode library to install on the computers and then everyone would have access.

### Council swag!

Jess: Last year we spent 69\$ each for the sweater with embroidery. A jacket would be \$76 plus tax each. Wanted to get everyone's thoughts about if we wanted a jacket or stick with sweaters. The more we get, the cheaper they will be.

Chloe: I will help if the distributor gives you issues.

Jess: I will look into it more. Just want a sense of what everyone's budget is

Mario: can we use L&L money?

Alex: I will think about that but I have concerns about us using student funds for our personal clothes especially because we didn't let BLSA fund their sweaters.

## **VP External Items**

### Winter Clubs Budget

***Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society go in Camera for this portion of the meeting.***

(Crocker/Ghaeinizadeh) CARRIED

***Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society goes out of camera.***

(Crocker/Tassopoulos) CARRIED

***MOTION: THAT the Legal and Literary Society approves and ratifies the Winter Clubs Budget allocations***

(Crocker/Amod) CARRIED.

### Bylaws

Jordan: for context, every year L&L gives out awards to staff and students and clubs. In May we changed the numbers to accommodate the graduating class. We never changed it back and it may have just been for an extenuating circumstance

Alex: yeah, this is just a return to baseline.

***MOTION: THAT the Legal and Literary Society amends By-Law XI: Legal and Literary Society Honour Awards to its pre-16 May 2021 version and rescinds the motions amending the By-Law at the 16 May 2021 meeting.***

(Crocker/Landry) CARRIED.

## **Treasurer Items**

### Gift Card for Bookkeeper

Mario: our bookkeeper lost both her parents in the past month and she lives alone. Maybe we can get her a gift card or gift because she has been very helpful. Just wanted to put a motion to get her a gift card for Uber Eats

Chloe: would students be upset about us using student funds to fund someone else's personal tragedy?

Jordan: we do pay this individual as a bookkeeper already. Maybe we could just pay her \$100 dollars more.

Mario: I will defend her if people have problems with it. We fund gift cards for guest speakers all the time.

Alex: We do not need to disclose the identity nor justify it on compassionate grounds.

Chloe: Maybe we can just pay this person more for their services, and just motion to increase the salary to this person.

Alex: the issue is that we pay this individual \$5,000 per two weeks and so we want to just provide a gift and we don't need to amend her contracts and salary. We have money because she has been an invaluable resource and has suffered a terrible tragedy and thus this is simply a gift.

***MOTION: That the L&L allocates \$100 gift card to our Bookkeeper.***

(Lofranco/Crocker) CARRIED.

## **Section A Rep Items**

### Online Trivia Night – Funding

Kelly: normal online event. Don't have a day or theme yet because I want to do a poll with my section. Wanted to ask for \$150.

Alex: I do not see a problem. We will vote provisionally and double check with Mario.

***Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society allocates \$150 to Section A trivia night.***

**(Bilenkis/Crocker) CARRIED.**

### **Other Business**

Alex: keep the mask stuff on the DL until more info is released.

***Motion: THAT the meeting be adjourned***

**(Mulligan/Landry) CARRIED.**

***Adjournment (2:21 pm)***

### **Consent Agenda**

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 12 January, 2022 was deemed approved.