

Minutes

October 26, 2022

12:30 PM EST

Zoom

Present: Courtney Cameron (Chair), Jessica Li, Damiana Pavone, Christina Tassopoulos, Jaylene Olson, Ayesha Khann, Julie Choi, Max Pivetta, Quinn Stevenson, Shahbaz Khan, Zamir Fakirani, and Melissa Paglialunga

Regrets: Danielle Landry, Hillary Song, and Rose Wong

Call to Order (12:35pm)

The JCR Bar Manager

The JCR

Max: I'm Max and I am the manager of JCR Bar. Prior to the pandemic, L&L would organize a weekly event in the JCR (across from the Bistro). They would sell cheap drinks and give a space for people to hang out on Wednesdays. Because we are getting back into it now, we have needed to get approval from Admin, and I wanted to touch base since L&L has jurisdiction over the JCR. We wanted to hear about your thoughts and ideas for JCR.

Ayesha: One of the things I have been planning is a Wine & Cheese Night at the JCR. I am planning it for November 16th. I contacted firms for sponsorships and Lax O'Sullivan is kindly sponsoring it; they are giving us \$1000. In addition, the charcuterie company that worked with MLSA are willing to work within that budget. They are going to do vegan and vegetarian options in that budget. \$700 to charcuterie and \$300 towards alcohol. We are looking into the cost of boxed wine. We are waiting to hear from catering about whether can do open or fully packaged boards as it effects the price. We don't need to submit another TUSS form. Lax O'Sullivan is also sending small gift cards for a coffee for all attendees, and they want to put promotional flyers on all the tables. Because of this, the event has to take place outside the blackout period – it will be in compliance with all the LSO rules.

Ayesha: Another event I was thinking of doing was a Holiday Hot Chocolate Bar in the JCR. I touched base with Danielle and reviewed the minutes from last meeting. I read the comments about us doing a lot of things around alcohol and a holiday hot chocolate bar would be a great way to be more inclusive. We can get hot chocolate from York catering; we can get vegan hot chocolate and toppings, etc. As for the date of this event, the last day to host in-person events is November 18th so I wanted to check in with Jess about the possibility of a later date. wanted to contact firms to see if they want to pitch in. We also have money from the JCR sales.

Ayesha: One last event I was thinking of it a Bachelor Viewing Party, which I am contemplating doing next week. In-firms are coming up and I am not sure if people are down to sit in the JCR and watch the Bachelor. I am looking into whether we have access to a popcorn machine. I was thinking rose and popcorn.

Max: The main thing to calibrate with timing of events is still wrangling Admin on start time. In terms of starting, we are starting at 4pm this week, but we want to start earlier. Pre-COVID, JCR Wednesdays would start earlier at around 2:30pm. We can keep music down. Ideally, we could run them from 3/4pm until 7/8pm. In terms of dates, we should start to avoid having large events in the JCR on the weeks where there is a pub night the same week.

Christina: Is it Admin who wants it to start earlier?

Ayesha: We asked to start at 3pm and end at 9pm but then changed it to 8pm. Admin is saying we should run them from 4-8pm. The previous bar manager said JCR Wednesdays would start as early as 2:30pm.

Courtney: For some insight, I talked to Professor Drake this morning and she is hesitant to extend the hours earlier than 4pm.

Christina: A lot of people on Wednesday were saying that they would want to go after LAN, but I also understand that it is late.

Ayesha: Max and Chloe can keep that in mind, but it is also hard on them because they get home quite late (around 1am).

Julie: Some people voiced how early it closes and were wondering why it closes at 8pm. I haven't been personally but a few people in my section were wondering if it can stay open later.

Ayesha: Did they mention a specific time they want it to run until?

Julie: No, they were more so wondering why the timing was reduced.

Jess: I have a comment that is unrelated to timing and more so events. A bunch of clubs are interested in collaborating with the JCR. Are there any thoughts on what we are allowing and what we are not?

Ayesha: For people who want to use the JCR as an event space, I always say yes and forward the inquiry to Max to see if they need bar service. For example, OISA had reached out about using JCR. They are thinking February and we more than happy to collaborate with other clubs interested.

Jess: In cases where there is a club event, are other people still allowed in the JCR? Can they get external firm sponsorship?

Ayesha: Other people will definitely still be allowed in the JCR. I don't see why clubs can't get external firm sponsorship. If a firm is paying for alcohol, then that's something we would coordinate.

Max: Admin is concerned that an earlier opening time could be distracting for students during hours that people are there for study. It used to be open at 2:30pm so there is precedent is there.

Courtney: The JCR is an L&L thing in the end. We've lost institutional memory and have lost understanding about jurisdiction on some of these things. The JCR is our space – we insure it. It is a separate issue if there are safety concerns.

Max: In terms of the safety issue, this comes up if we are closing at 11pm. Chloe and I have to count the money in the open at that time and then head home after that. We live downtown so we don't get home until 12am / 1am.

Courtney: Counting money in the open is scary. I will send you the code to the L&L office and you can count the money in the L&L office.

Christina: Be sure to close the blinds in the L&L office too!

Max: 3-8pm is ideal.

Courtney: I want you two to be safe, so I am happy with you opening earlier and closing earlier. I wonder if we should try to set up a meeting with Professor Drake. I am in for your suggested hours.

Max: An in-person meeting with Professor Drake would be good. It is tough to get people in there unless the timing is optimal.

Courtney: As for next steps, let's set up meeting with Professor Drake and sift through the TUUS Form. In terms of the non-alcohol stuff, are you able to provide a mocktail or something?

Max: A mocktail is really easy to do. We can put something cool together – it is a bit more fun than just getting a pop. We will work on that today.

Courtney: Anything else about the JCR?

Ayesha: Who will be meeting with Professor Drake?

Courtney: We don't need whole council but please include me.

Quinn: In terms of timing, would it be to send out a poll to students?

Max: I imagine that at this point in the semester, it would be best for us to decide the time.

Julie: It is probably best that those running the JCR have the biggest input. They are not being compensated a lot (if at all) to run the bar. Plus, I imagine if we polled students that everyone would have different viewpoints, especially with both on-campus and commuter students.

Max: In terms of pay, the bar manager and bartender used to have a fee for non-Wednesday events. Courtney, I can send you the memo we have on that from past years.

President's Items

Welcome 1Ls, and Introductions

Courtney: I wanted to go around and introduce ourselves. Typically, we do our updates by talking and handing it off to the next person. It is pretty casual.

**Everyone introduced themselves, indicating their name, pronouns (if they wanted), position, and year of study. **

Courtney: You will have an on-boarding meeting with Ayesha to get you on your emails and to familiarized yourselves with your roles. In the meantime, you will act as the liaison for your section and if you ever have ideas for events, you can propose them on a rolling basis. We will have a more thorough conversation when we onboard you.

Updates

Courtney: 1Ls might not have too much, but I will start. I shared with the exec a few weeks ago that we had a complaint against a club. The investigation has concluded, and we have a report. No misconduct found on the part of the club. This is more of an FYI that it has been looked into externally and they have been cleared of that. That club won't be facing any reprimands since they were cleared of any wrongdoing. My other big item is the constitutional amendment that is later on in the agenda.

Melissa: Things have been going well. I have been uploading the meeting minutes approved by consent. The weekly newsletters have also been going out each Sunday.

Christina: Grad photos are starting next week which is exciting. I am trying to book times for the new year, but I am waiting on OEO. I have sent an email to the 3L Formal Committee, and I will try to set up with them meeting next week. I have a preliminary list of potential venues. I will bring something up in additional business as we have to agree to sign the 2024 yearbook contract.

Jess: Things have finally quieted down on my end. The Dean set a final deadline for on-campus and off-campus in-person event. That's Nov. 18. I was able to negotiate and push the date back a week. I have committed this deadline to all the clubs already. You can't plan any in-person events for after Nov 18, but you can still do virtual events. I can ask about the JCR because that's different than student led events. Other than that, I have nothing else.

Ayesha: You heard lots from me at the beginning of the meeting. I am also updating the website and summary database.

Damiana: Not much going on with me. I am just making sure that people are getting reimbursed. I have a topic later in the agenda.

**There were no 1L Rep updates. **

Swear in 1Ls

Courtney: Basically, it is time to swear all of you in. Keep on mute and repeat after me. This is just for the four 1L Reps.

**All for 1L Reps were sworn in.*

Courtney: Are all 4 of you in the Slack? I will resend the link just in case.

1L Rep Office Hours

Courtney: If you look at our website, you will see each exec has designated office hours and we sit in L&L office during those times. People don't come often so you can use the time to work. Look at those hours – you can do it while there is someone else but if there are more than two people in the slot, please pick a different time. Pick 2 hours and send it to me for an update. These hours should be during the school week.

Quinn: Do we offer office hours via Zoom?

Courtney: I am not opposed to that but if that's the case, use a consistent link. That goes for everyone – I am aware that things have been bad on the COVID-19 front so if you are feeling iffy about coming to campus, I want to respect that.

Constitutional Amendment

Courtney: I just sent you 3 motions via email. I am very concerned about hosting a referendum. I am worried about passing for 2 reasons. I don't know if people will care to vote in our referendum. I doubt we are going to get the numbers we need and even if we do, clubs might have concerns with not wanting additional measures being put on them. That being said, I don't want to pass it as a bylaw, so clubs don't have the chance to speak on it. Passing a bylaw means that we wouldn't have full referendum. We would have motion on the new bylaw that would be approved by 2/3 of the exec and could be repealed by 2/3 of the exec.

Courtney: 1Ls, we are doing this because under York, the only club that is ratified is L&L. To remain ratified, York is asking that we have a process in place to deal with disputes if there are issues with our exec or if there are issues with a club under us. We need to be ratified to get the levy money.

Courtney: I have sent you all the motions. I am aware that clubs might have something to say about these motions because they are about them. What I propose is that we send out an email about voting on new bylaw that regards club dispute resolution processes. We can provide notice of the meeting so if students are concerned, they can come to the meeting. This ensures that they get passed while also giving clubs the chance to be heard.

Jess: Did you ask York if they are okay with it being a bylaw as opposed to a referendum to change the constitution itself?

Courtney: I believe that they are okay with it. Alex also had this same understanding when he was the president. I am still waiting to hear back from a few other people to confirm. I will have those responses by the time we vote.

Jess: If it is okay with York, I don't see why we need to make it more onerous.

Courtney: Realistically, I don't see a referendum passing right now – it's already October.

Jess: Another way we can solicit feedback is bringing it up at town halls. The 1Ls are supposed to host town halls and same with the 2Ls and 3Ls so students can come to that forum.

Courtney: That's a good idea! Everyone but the 1Ls have seen these provisions except the new 1Ls. I also implemented the changes we discussed last meeting. We will also have to repeal a section of one of the old bylaws. You have motions in meantime if anyone has concerns – we aren't voting on it today.

New Rules for Facebook pages

Courtney: Hillary, Ayesha and I had a meeting with a student who is hosting an Israel Trip. The people who were at Osgoode last year are aware of this. The Trip was run last year, and it was posted to the Osgoode Facebook pages and it ended up being a very heated discussion. It ended up being that the person who posted it got a lot of personal comments sent her way. We met with the individual who is planning on running the trip this year – they are not part of any official Osgoode club. It is run through itrek. It is a Jewish student on his own planning a trip for other Jewish students. He wants to post but is worried about the backlash. From the L&L perspective, he can post personally in the pages. We reasonably should expect some backlash. To try and mitigate that, Hillary and I are workshopping new rules for the Facebook pages about what is allowed in those spaces. No hate speech, and if someone is spreading hate speech, their comments will be removed, and they will be removed from the group. Of course, that will be a motion. This is coming down the pipeline; you will hear from Hillary via e-motion.

Christina: I worry that being kicked out of the group might not be the best deterrent.

Courtney: As L&L, we don't have jurisdiction to punish students. We can't do that much when it comes to consequences. Potentially though, spreading hate speech online is against the student code of conduct so I will talk to Professor Drake about that.

Zamir: When it comes to very political issues, how are we determining what constitutes hate speech?

Courtney: Thanks for pointing that out. The individual hosting the trip would prefer nobody saying anything, but I told him that if someone has general concerns/ feedback, that wouldn't be removed. Last year, it got really personal. It would more be about if these people are being personally attacked or if anti-semitic comments are being made. If someone has a problem from a political stance and voices it, that would not be removed.

Zamir: And who is arbitrating?

Courtney: We are working on that now which is why we don't have a motion yet. It would Hillary our Equity Officer and we are toying with the idea of potentially striking a committee that will help keep an eye on that and she would ultimately be the one deciding.

Zamir: Last year, I was part of a group and helped religious groups meet each other and run events. It would sometimes become heated, and we had the coordinator monitor social media. It put them in a difficult spot, so I wanted to support the idea of a committee.

Courtney: That was my concern too where Hillary is constantly is constantly monitoring the pages.

Zamir: It is helpful to have a group because then they can't just blame the individual.

Treasurer

Granting an external bank account for MLSA

Damiana: Basically, MLSA approached Jess and I and they wanted to get permission to see how they could open up their own external bank account. We have separate accounts for each club that is organized on the L&L finance page. However, we don't actually have separate accounts. It's not that we can open new bank accounts. For clubs overseen by L&L, we manage their funds. MLSA asked if they can open their own external bank account because they are having a gala next semester and they are worried that sponsorship might not get in in time. They want some more autonomy. The problem is that there are only a few groups that have external bank accounts. Of these groups only one is a club and that's BLSA. BLSA has significant funds, and they also have the financial support of BLSA national. MLSA does not seem to meet this threshold. Other large clubs like MLSA don't have their own accounts. For example, OWN doesn't have their own. In the conversation I had with them, they weren't very happy with it. They also mentioned that the way it works for reimbursement is that students have to front the cost first, but we can circumvent this with writing cheques. I gave them this option and they didn't seem too excited about it. I wanted to get all of your thoughts.

Courtney: I worry about the precedent is sets for clubs.

Christina: I echo Courtney's sentiment and from my experience with O -Week, an external bank account is not needed. O-Week was a significant amount of money, and we were able to handle it without an external bank account.

Damiana: Okay – thank you! It sounds like we are all on the same page.

VP External

Updating TUUS signing officers

Jess: This is a brief procedural motion. TUUS is making our lives more difficult. Any clubs having an event on-campus have to submit a TUUS form from L&L. This has been happening with no issues all semester. However, they have just informed me now that as VP External, I am not a signing officer for L&L and the only signing officers are Courtney and Damiana. They only allow for two signing authorities so in order for me to become a signing authority, I would need to replace either Courtney or Damiana. We decided that it would make more sense for me to replace is Damiana. In order to formally do that, we have to pass a motion.

Motion: *THAT* the Legal & Literary Society approves the appointment of Vice President External Jessica Li as a signing officer for the York TUUS office in place of Treasurer Damiana Pavone.

(Li / Tassopoulos) CARRIED

Jess: The next step for me is to submit the formal form to the TUUS Office to have the replacement carried out.

Other Business

Courtney: One quick note about the office is that someone had propped it open with cardboard. I wanted to flag this to make sure that the door is closed. On another note, Damiana, did you do the safety training for York?

Damiana: Yes, I did it and went to the York clubs thing. One of them was Zoom safety, and there was a financial one.

Quinn: Can we have office hours on Friday?

Courtney: Yeah totally. Also, as for our bi-weekly meetings, technically the meetings are hybrid, but most of us stay home. Any other business?

Christina: I really quickly want to do a motion on the yearbook. Actually, disregard, I will send an email.

Courtney: For an e-motion, someone sends out a motion and we reply all and say in favour, not in favour, or you wish to abstain so keep your eye on that.

Adjournment (2:00pm)

Motion: *THAT* we adjourn.

(Cameron / Stevenson) CARRIED

Consent Agenda

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