

Minutes

September 28, 2022

12:30 PM EST

Zoom

Present: Courtney Cameron (Chair), Ayesha Khanna, Jessica Li, Damiana Pavone, Hillary Song, Rose Wong, Christina Tassopoulos, Jaylene Olson, Danielle Landry, and Melissa Paglialunga

Call to Order (12:33pm)

President's Items

Updates Round Table

Courtney: We have to amend our constitution, which is going to be a bit of nightmare. There will be a referendum. I sent you all a memo.

Jess: I have been working on the budget. We had a long budget meeting last Friday with Courtney, Damiana, and Hillary. We went through all budget requests.

Christina: I had meeting with Kyle about yearbooks, and I will eventually be putting together a team to work on that. Kyle wanted to show me the website and how to work it. I also got in touch with Gary about dates for grad photos. I am in touch with admin to schedule some dates in October and November.

Melissa: On my end, I have been fielding email requests. The Sunday newsletters have also been going well thus far.

Damiana: I have also been working on the budget. I wanted to give a major shoutout to Jess for all her hard work. The only other thing on my radar is that there are some clubs that have separate bank accounts. We have rules that we need them to follow to allow them to keep the separate bank accounts.

Hillary: I do not have many updates except the Equity event that I mentioned before. I am thinking about moving it to after OCIs but before in-firms. It is more relevant as students can ask more in-depth questions at that stage.

Ayesha: I am creating section specific Facebook groups for 1Ls. I got some feedback saying that there was some overlap, so I am deleting the Section B one I made because they want to keep their original group. I updated the office hour schedule, and it is now on the website. I am halfway through updating clubs on the website. As for the JCR, I am still responding to emails from the TUSS Office. For example, they asked for a copy of our liquor licence. I keep following up with them. I am expecting that October 5th will be first JCR Pub Night, but we shall see. I created a Facebook event for pub night. Please invite everyone you know at Osgoode.

Jaylene: The biggest thing on-going right now is the Facility Council Committee applications. The deadline was Sunday. We want to make sure that the 1Ls elected can apply before selecting. So, we are waiting to review applications. We are hoping to do it by the end of the weekend. Otherwise, I believe the Student Caucus election is done. Once we have the whole team, we will be able to determine the Student Caucus priorities for this year.

Courtney: All elections are completed except for one section (I think it is Section B). We have candidates and we are thinking we are going to go to a vote as well. Initially, we didn't get any candidates for that section. Other than that, we have our 1Ls. I will send out the poll for our L&L social once we have our 1Ls finalized.

Danielle: Tomorrow is the first Pub Night at Imperial Pub. This semester, we are going to do bi-weekly pub nights and we will see for the fall semester. The next one will be on October 13th, and it will be joint with both U of T and Lincoln Alexander School of Law. We ended up not paying for that one because Lincoln Alexander does not have access to student levies. We are doing that one at Maverik. On October 27th, we will have a Halloween Pub Night at Mick E Fynn's. The last one for the semester will be in

November at the Duke of Cornwall. They are staying open late for us. We are also talking about doing one next semester that is more upscale with U of T.

Rose: The agendas are here so we have to discuss how to distribute them. I am talking with the York Bookstore about the annual sale right now. I am going off the transition manual. I am not sure how much funding we have for the informal formal, so I plan on having fundraising events. I am debating between two events – a post-OCI event (I am not sure if that's too soon) or the end of the semester for a holiday event.

Courtney: A post-OCI event might be competing with other events. For the budget, Damiana and I will have to talk about that. It's not written in stone but is discretionary.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment

Courtney: Did you all get memo with constitutional amendment? York has now implemented a few new rules of us to be ratified under them. We have to be ratified under York because that is where we get all the money. So, our hands are tied. We do have to amend it accordingly to be ratified by them. Some of these items are things we already do like post Meeting Minutes. However, the main this is that we need a dispute resolution mechanism in the constitution for us and for the clubs ratified under us.

Motion: *THAT* we enter an in camera session.

(Cameron / Paglialunga) CARRIED.

**The meeting entered an in camera session. **

Courtney: I am proposing two new articles:

Courtney: For Article 1, this will be about allegations of wrongdoing against us. If someone has complainant against a member of the executive, they need to send it in writing to the Equity Officer. The Equity Officer would let the President and VP Internal know about the complaint in 24 hours (unless the complainant is against one of those individuals). Right out of the York Guidelines, we have to follow up with the person within 72 hours. We have to provide due notice of which day the complaint will be dealt with at an executive meeting, redacting if we need to. The Equity Officer would present the complaint at the executive meeting and allow us to ask questions. There would also be a limit of one hour for the person who is facing the complaint to address complaint the against them. The executive can vote to suspend or impeach the member by 2/3 majority. The suspended time would be agreed upon through the motion. The person facing the suspension / impeachment can file a formal appeal. The Equity Officer would strike a committee with the President and VP Internal and at least 3 members of the L&L (which means the student body).

Melissa: What about if the complaint is about Equity Officer?

Courtney: That's a good point!

Jess: What if they appoint an Equity Officer Proxy?

Christina: What if they go to their year rep or section rep?

Courtney: Does that work? Do we think that if there is a complaint against the Equity Officer, then students can go to their year rep or section rep?

**People nodding in agreement. **

Courtney: Thanks for flagging that. I will add that into the motion accordingly.

Courtney: Next, we can look at Article 2, which is a complaint process for organizations ratified under us (namely clubs).

Motion: *THAT* we enter an in camera session.

(Cameron / Paglialunga) CARRIED.

**The meeting entered an in camera session. **

Courtney: Someone would submit a formal complaint to the Equity Officer. I will write it in that if the Equity Officer is also an executive of the club facing the complainant, then it will go to the year / section rep. Again, the Equity Officer has to notify the President and VP Internal with 24 hours and respond to the complainant within 72 hours. The complaint should be kept confidential until a formal investigation is completed. One thing to note is that an external party is going to cost us more money, but I don't see a way around it. We are not going to pass this as motion today cause want to make sure they are drafted effectively.

Motion: *THAT* we enter an in camera session.

(Cameron / Paglialunga) CARRIED.

**The meeting entered an in camera session. **

Jess: It might be that complaints that don't deal with human right concerns. They might deal with things like improper elections. Would we really need to send all complaints to an external investigator?

Courtney: That makes sense because we would waste a bunch of money on an elections complaint when we are able to deal with that. I will write this point down and think of way to draft it.

Jess: The external party could also be Deans.

Christina: I am worried that when people make a complaint, to them, it is always serious. Who are we to say that their complaint is not serious?

Melissa: What about if we say that if the complaint is not under the purview of our roles, then it will be escalated to external investigators?

Jess: We should also say that if you are on the executive of the club being complained about, there is a conflict of interest, and you shouldn't be able to partake in investigation and vote.

Courtney: One other thing I wanted to discuss is the 21 days requirement to bring conflicts to a resolution. I do not see it being possible. It is Section 5 here. It is part of York's requirement.

Hillary: Can we say that for issues that are not being dealt with externally that then can keep that deadline? If it is a strict requirement from York, then we might need to keep it. But if we do have external investigators, then it's not really in our control.

Courtney: Can you ask about 21 days at the constitutional meeting tomorrow?

Ayesha: Definitely.

Courtney: This would be the same process as above. When the Equity Officer has the report from the external investigators, it will be shared with the executive, the accused party, and the complainant. All parties will be invited to the executive meeting where it is discussed. As for the remedy, the Equity Officer will review the complaint and make a recommendation based on the report, which can include but is not limited to suspending the accused club; ordering the club to host an internal investigation; or recommending the club suspend an accused member.

Courtney: Once we pass this motion, we are going to have to be careful to frame it.

Melissa: Do the external investigators ever recommend remedies?

Courtney: I was worried about that since the external investigators may not have an understanding for the inner workings of things.

Damiana: I don't see an issue if we consider their resolution, but it is not set in stone.

Hillary: If they do have some sort of suggestion, I can implement it in the options.

Courtney: I can draft this in. Some organizations are publishing these reports. I didn't think we should do that.

Rose: We could ask clubs first if they should be published?

Courtney: If there are no other questions or comments, I will make those changes, send it out, and have it passed at next meeting when we'll have 1Ls.

VP External's Items

Budget Ratification

Jess: I sent out the finalized budget allocation excel sheet. Last Friday, Courtney, Damiana, Hillary, and I met for 2 hours. We went through the budget line by line. We received requests for \$38,000, but we only had \$15,000 to give. After talking to Damiana and the Treasures from past years, we decided to have a more flexible budget. We landed on a maximum of \$18,000 instead of \$15,000. But we did keep to as close to \$15,000 as possible not to overstress. This is only for the fall semester and traditionally, clubs ask for more in the winter semester. In total, we ended up at just under \$15,500, which is pretty on par with last year. I wanted to note that we ratified 61 clubs and only received funding requests from 54 clubs. A similar situation happened last year. This year, BLSA didn't submit and traditionally, they ask for a lot (close to \$2,000). I Haven't heard anything from their executive so there's a chance that BLSA and several other clubs will come to us later on and we might need to give money retroactively. If we do have to do that, we do have some money left to give.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society ratifies the Fall Clubs Budget allocation, given that it has been reviewed and approved by the Vice President External, the Treasurer, the President, and the Equity Officer of the Legal & Literary Society.

(Li / Cameron) CARRIED.

Jess: Now that this motion has been passed, I will send out the outcome to each club individually. I will start that tomorrow morning and throughout the weekend. I am hoping that all clubs will have those details by Monday. Damiana is inputting this into the finance website.

Club Office Spaces

Jess: So, as I am sure you are all aware, but there is a corridor with clubs offices. I don't know when they were assigned, or who assigned them. I know that they have not been updated since we were in 1L. Most of the office spaces are given to equity seeking clubs except for Fair Change, Mock Trial, and Obiter. MLSA has reached out about office space. They are an equity seeking club, and their membership has grown. We don't have an additional office to give them, so the only option is to split up an office. Outlaws and OISA each have their own office so we can split one of those offices (not sure how big they are). Courtney has codes to them.

Courtney: Those offices are smaller, but clubs could do some moving around of the furniture.

Jess: The other option is to kick out Fair Change and Mock Trial. MLSA should have an office space, but I am not sure where to get it from.

Courtney: There is a room behind the Moot Court. There is a bunch of space, and there is a sign that says, "Mock Trial Storage". Do they need office space if they have this space?

Melissa: That might just be a temporary space, but I am not sure about that.

Courtney: If Mock Trial only needs the office for storage, then we should be able to find it somewhere else.

Jaylene: Do all clubs with offices use their spaces?

Jess: OISA uses theirs, and ALSA uses theirs.

Jaylene: Student Caucus doesn't really use it; the office is mainly used by Obiter.

Jess: I will look to see if Fair Change needs the space.

Secretary

L&L and Student Caucus Representatives for Open House

Melissa: This request is from the Admissions Office at Osgoode. We need a rep from L&L and a rep from Student Caucus to attend the Open House on October 6th and help run a table.

Christina: I can help and represent L&L!

Jaylene: I will get back to you with a Student Caucus rep for the event.

Other Business

Rose: I have two other questions. If we host events in JCR, we don't pay, right?

Courtney: That's right. If you want to have drinks, there is a cash bar so people can buy drinks. Students would have to buy their own drinks.

Rose: How long does it take to book the JCR?

Courtney: You just have to make sure nothing else going on and make sure that the bartender is free. Usually, it is best to avoid Wednesdays.

Rose: I have been getting a lot of questions about Ski Trip.

Danielle: I talked about it with Karen Drake, and she said that she thinks that it will be a hard sell to York. I did not get the warmest reception to that on York side.

Courtney: If you want support, then I am happy to come with. I think that Ski Trip is one of those things that we should fight for.

Adjournment (1:43pm)

Motion: *THAT* we adjourn.

(Cameron / Song) CARRIED

Consent Agenda

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 14 September, 2022 was deemed approved.