

Minutes

January 12, 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 pm)

Land Acknowledgement given by A. Mulligan

President's Items

Updates Roundtable

Christina: No updates.

Jess: Our website domain has been renewed for another year. I have an invoice, just not sure whose credit card it was.

Alex: I suspect it was Rachael's card.

Imani: All of the first years are talking about how we will start planning the formal.

Jordan: It has been a busy time for VPX. All clubs meeting will be Jan 17 at 12:30. Budgets are due January 19th. That weekend, the 4 of us (Myself, Alex, Nush, and Mario) will look at budgets and allocate.

Armon: No updates. 1L reps gathered to talk about formal options. A bunch of students have been wondering when we get back to classes.

Alex: We will discuss that later.

Nush: Just skip me until my items come up.

Chloe: No update for me.

Alex: It is worth noting that Chloe put forth a motion to include an OISA seat on Caucus and Faculty Council to have Indigenous representation.

Jordan: Will that need to go to a vote of the membership?

Chloe: it was voted upon by the members of Student Caucus

Courtney: Not a lot happening for social convenor. I think I will host a virtual event next Thursday. If 1Ls have an idea for an event, please chat with me

Kelly: No updates.

Val: No updates, just lots of questions.

Mario: No updates.

Winter Semester Outlook

Alex: Return to campus: obviously the date has been pushed. There have been no additional updates so far regarding return to campus. If you have any additional questions, I would direct them to Chloe or myself. But keep in mind that it is not Osgoode specifically that decides the return to campus policy. All the schools currently have a general date of return near one another and those dates are informed by local public health units. Until we hear otherwise, the return is January 31st, but if people ask

questions that is the date. Part 2 of the pandemic funding will be released. Last year, Osgoode made a financial commitment to provide financial relief in the result of the pandemic. People who received a bursary will automatically get a top up. People who weren't eligible before will be able to apply soon.

Kelly: Is the general understanding that if the province allows the schools to go back in person, Osgoode will go back 100% or will it depend on timing?

Alex: When they announce we will be back in person, we will be back in person. If we wait till March, there might be a different communication but currently we are going back when they say. It has been in the news that the province really wants to go back. But we will ensure that whatever decision is made will be equitable and fair.

Kelly: People want to have a specific date to know that if we pass that date, before going back, then we will not go back in person.

Alex: A lot of this comes from the province. I don't think York, nor Osgoode specifically has the ability to set an arbitrary deadline regarding going back or not. The situation is one that Osgoode really doesn't have control over.

Kelly: Just to clarify, we want a date to know whether we are returning to campus or not.

Chloe: As of right now, the Deans have no other info. But if the province decides the day before the supposed return that we will not be returning, we will have to follow those requirements. That is why I would say it would not be best to circulate a survey because regardless of what the students would prefer, we do not have extra information nor do we have control over the timing.

Alex: The situation is obviously not ideal.

Chloe: If you are overwhelmed dealing with people asking you questions, feel free to direct the questions to myself.

Alex: There are a lot of questions that just cannot be answered right now.

H. Song joined at 12:52

Alex: Finally, we have an events framework. Currently the plan for events is two-fold: if a club wants to host an off-campus event, we just have to fill out an internal Osgoode form and Osgoode faculty will review it to ensure all of the COVID safety questions are answered properly and then approve the event and advise York that they have approved it. For on-campus events, there will be an internal TUUS form that is created and Osgoode students will fill it out. There will be a cap based on capacity limits. Osgoode will review and then it will go to York to do a cursory review. All of this is contingent upon return to campus. What happens if province opens venues before we return? I was told that we don't have the answer for that so we will need a later update. So Danielle and Val, important to start planning venues and themes. Look at cancellation and deposit policies and be open.

D. Landry joined at 12:56

Armon: How is it possible to have a formal in-person?

Alex: We genuinely do not know. Right now, the focus is trying to find venues that might be able to host us.

Mario: I don't mean to belabour the point but we genuinely don't know the answers to these questions and so we just have to plan ahead.

Chloe: Based on my experiences for O-week, I have suggestions. First, figure out accessibility requirements. Come up with a tentative plan and think about the things you can control and be flexible in planning. Have multiple different events planned in case of last minute changes.

Alex: My last update is that we will be releasing a mental health and wellness survey to the student body. I'll share it with you so you have an understanding of what it looks like. You cannot share the results of this survey outside the exec. The results will be amalgamated and discussed with admin. It was very useful last year and served us well in advocacy.

OISA Letter

Alex: This letter was shared in the email that Christina sent out with the materials. As background, there was a suggestion that the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation be a holiday. OISA wrote an open letter expressing disappointment to admin that

classes were not cancelled on that day, and asking that September 30th in future years be a day of no classes. Caucus has already voted in favour. I am bringing this motion to do the same.

Jordan: Is this even something that Osgoode has the power to do? Just cancel classes without going through York?

Alex: I believe they can but I will defer to Chloe.

Chloe: Yes, we set our own dates. I imagine if this motion is passed, the issue will likely go to faculty council if it is an issue or if we do end up needing York's consent, this might be an issue that the Student Senators will need to handle. But Osgoode starts and ends at different times than York and sets their own reading week so I believe they could cancel class without going to York.

Nush: yeah, I agree and think that passing this at Osgoode is a good starting point nonetheless.

Chloe: Also, Indigenous students make up 2-3% of the Osgoode population and so I think this has a better chance of passing at Osgoode itself.

MOTION:

Whereas the Osgoode Indigenous Students Association (OISA) has written an open letter to Osgoode Administration;

Whereas the OISA Letter expresses disappointment over Osgoode's decision to not cancel classes on the first National Day of Truth and Reconciliation;

Whereas the OISA letter calls on Osgoode Administration to cancel classes on future National Day of Truth and Reconciliation;

Whereas the Legal and Literary Society, as one of the two branches of student Government seeks to stand in solidarity with OISA;

The Legal and Literary Society moves to co-sign and support OISA's open letter to the Osgoode Administration.

Moved by Alexander Mulligan and seconded by Nushrah Amod. CARRIED.

LSSO Equity Forum

Alex: Background: as you know every student government of law schools are part of LSSO. Chloe and I both sit as Osgoode reps. The LSSO is creating an equity forum where equity and diversity initiatives will be discussed across law schools. They are asking for 2 reps from each school to sit on this forum. This will be a standing committee and to create a standard form way of doing that, we wanted to include this in our constitution. Chloe and I worked on creating an amendment to the by-law and Jordan provided some edits.

C. Tassopoulos shared the new by-law on screen to go through the edits and proposed amendments

Alex: In by-law I, subsection 5 has been added to include mandating the Equity Officer to represent Osgoode on the LSSO Equity Forum. By-law XVII would be a new by-law. To clarify with Jordan, your edits were only friendly amendments meaning they do not go to the substance of the by-law, just clarification.

Jordan: Yes.

Chloe: should we include a provision about timeline for appointment of the representative?

Alex: I am not sure what the timeline will be.

Chloe: Also, is this upper year only? I know the LSSO has a general meeting in May or June and they start working in the summer.

Alex: I think we should raise this at the next LSSO meeting and then amend this by-law once we get some more information.

Motion: In recognition of the LSSO Equity Forum and the need to provide a means of open and accessible appointment processes, be it resolved that the Legal and Literary Society amend the By-Laws to mandate membership on the LSSO's Equity Forum. The society shall amend By-Law 1, restructure the By-Law creating a new section 5. The society shall create By-Law XVII entitled LSSO Equity Forum to prescribe the manner in which the society shall appoint members.

CARRIED.

Equity Officer Items

Mental Health and Wellness Week

Alex: we have to skip this because Nush had to leave. I will just mention that Professor Drake proposed to have a speaker named Doron Gold come in. He refocused his practice to focus on mental health in the legal profession and she would be willing to host that event during MHWW.

VP External Items

Clubs Ratification

Jordan: This all involves ratifying new clubs. First, we have the **Osgoode Behavioural Economics and the Law Club**. This club has no conflicts. I have no concerns about this group.

Second, the **Osgoode International Law Society**. This club has been dead for a while and wants to be resurrected and there are some folks on here that were involved in that so if there is a conflict of interest, don't vote. This does not conflict with other international law groups.

Last, the **Artists' Legal Advice Services (Osgoode Chapter)**. This is a clinic that is run out of U of T but in the past few years, Osgoode folks have become involved and now want representation here to organize more effectively. My issue is that it is a clinic and the problem is that it takes a lot of money to fund. I was told by the organizers of the club that they would not be seeking organizing funds from us so this is more for speaker events to draw up interest in the clinic. The other issue is that we already have an Osgoode Art Law society which is niche and so the concern is that they will exhaust speaker list very quickly and will cannibalize with the art law club. They said they don't anticipate that will be the case, this club will try to encourage students to participate in the clinic. I'm satisfied that they meet the requirement that they don't overlap.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society votes on the following three motions as an omnibus vote.

(Crocker/Li). CARRIED.

MOTIONS:

THAT the Legal and Literary Society ratifies the Osgoode Behavioural Economics and the Law Club as a new club for the Winter 2022 term. (Crocker/Tassopoulos) CARRIED.

THAT the Legal and Literary Society revives and ratifies the formerly defunct Osgoode International Law Society as an active club for the Winter 2022 term. (Crocker/Tassopoulos) CARRIED.

THAT the Legal and Literary Society ratifies the formation of the Artists' Legal Advice Services (Osgoode Chapter) as a club of the Legal and Literary Society for the Winter 2022 term in a similar vein to Fair Change Community Legal Services, with the exception that operating funds will not be provided by the Society. (Crocker/Tassopoulos) CARRIED.

Secretary Items

Women's Law Association of Ontario – Contact Person

Christina: I was sent an email from the Women's Law Association of Ontario asking for a contact person on L&L. I sent it to Alex to get his thoughts and he suggested we bring it up here. I volunteered to be the contact person, so please let me know if you have any comments or concerns.

Alex: Yes, I know the WLAO and they do a lot of advocacy for women in the legal profession. I thought it made sense to have Christina be the contact because she has access to the listservs.

Jordan: Should we pass this on to OWN for it to be something they take on instead?

Alex: Yeah, I considered that. The only reason I didn't bring it up was because they specifically asked for a L&L rep.

Christina: I will email OWN and ask them if they would like to take this on. Otherwise, I will be happy to do it.

Other Business

Alex: Just want to make sure everyone is holding up okay. To cheer everyone up, I definitely want to get the ball rolling on some L&L swag for this year. I am not a good designer so anyone who wants to volunteer to help with that please let me know.

J. Li and H. Song volunteer

We will also do a social as soon as it is safe to do so.

Motion: THAT the meeting be adjourned

(Mulligan/Li) CARRIED.

Adjournment (1:54 pm)

Consent Agenda

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 24 November 2021, was deemed approved.