



The Legal & Literary Society of Osgoode Hall Law School

Minutes

7 February, 2024
12:36-1:26 p.m. EST

Hybrid

Present: Armon Gh, Reagan Cockburn, Grace Rao, Yuval Shilon, Julie Choi, Shivaansh Khanna, Tania Kengatharan, Hillary Song, Kelly Tal Bilenkis, Joyce Gerges and Robert Dziarmaga.

Absent: Kaylie Ardolino and Jessrusty Montemayor

Call to Order (12:36pm)

Julie motioned to start the meeting, and Armon seconded

President's Items

Updates Roundtable

VP Internal Zamir:

Zamir has had lots of JCR bookings this month and club collab events. He suggests checking some of them out.

Volunteers for the period project have been fantastic. The only issue is people have allegedly been taking more than they actually need.

Kelly asked to clarify – are they being stolen from our office or from the ones we have out in the bathroom?

Zamir clarified it's the ones we have out.

Kelly suggested we could put up a poster asking people to please only take one at a time, or only what they need at a time.

Grace stated there was already a plan to do that in motion, a poster has already been printed.

Yuval suggested we could also buy more at a lower price.

Julie added that we can't police how many people take each day. If they're going to abuse the system, unfortunately, we're limited in what we can do.

Grace suggested we can do a fundraising drive to get more money for the period project.

Zamir also suggested that we could look into the cost of installing dispensers for the bathrooms.

Julie stated that at the moment, the funding from McCarthy's is insufficient to be able to install dispensers as an addition to the period products.

Hillary supported putting up posters directing people to only take what they need.

Julie stated that Zamir has put up a poster in that regard today.

Joyce suggested we could make packages, like goody bags, with a couple pads and a couple tampons in them and distribute the supplies that way.

Kelly added that we also don't know that the products aren't going to precisely the people that they need to be, and maybe the demand was just a lot higher than we predicted.

There are also 0 products in the men's rooms at the moment and in the gender-neutral restrooms.

One of the 1L reps clarified that the supply was fully stocked in the washroom when she went to grab one, one day, and then an hour later when she went back to the washroom and looked they were all gone. Which suggests that somebody is taking all of the product at once.

Zamir responded that he agrees that it appears like people are taking more than just their immediate needs. He suggests we communicate that there's only a limited amount of sponsorship money we have for this project, and when it's gone, that's it. We should clarify that the project is only meant to provide for immediate needs.

He also thinks it reasonable that the volunteers only re-stock weekly, but the volunteers this semester have been re-stocking far more often than that. It's not reasonable to re-stock on a daily basis, for example, which has been happening.

VP External Hillary:

We need to ratify two new clubs – the Osgoode Mooting Society, who she is meeting with after this meeting, and Hearts and Gavel, which is a gambling club. Hillary has checked our Constitution and we don't appear to have any policies against there being a gambling interest club. Also, they're just playing with chips so there is no money involved and no real gambling. They say that their mandate is to help law students learn to deal with performing under high-stress situations and how to think critically. Julie doesn't want to set a precedent for a gambling club and raised concerns regarding that. She thinks if it is clearly for educational purposes, there needs to be language that explicitly states that.

Kelly suggested we could put the fact that they are not supposed to play with money directly into the language of the motion today.

Armon suggested that, since they are entitled to a budget as a club, it's with the understanding that the money they are granted will not be used to gamble.

Hillary clarified that the money they get in any future budget will be for facilitating the event and not for gambling within the event.

This motion was passed as an e-motion later that same day.

Equity Officer Tania:

Her updates are very similar to last meeting's –

Way more people than expected reached out in regards to setting up mock recruit interviews. Thank you to the 1Ls for amplifying that.

The week of March 4th to 8th, she will need some extra hands for specific events. She will send an email with particulars to the L&L Exec. Very fun, very light kind of activities. You could hang out with therapy dogs!

1L Reps:

Ticket sales have gone well, we have sold more early-bird tickets than anticipated.

We are getting some money from one of their sponsors this week. Unclear right now what the method of payment will be, but their deadline is next Monday.

Friday is the last day for their early bird sale. After that, tickets will be sold at full price.

Right now they're just figuring out event organizing details for the formal, like the seating chart.

2L Rep Grace:

Unfortunately, the Wendy Babcock show will be on the same night as our semi-formal.

We have had a conversation with the organizers about it and decided to still go forward on the same night. There will be discounted tickets to the 2L semi-formal if you also bought a Wendy Babcock ticket. We also pushed the entry time by an hour to account for the overlap.

People who want to go to both would have less time at the 2L semi-formal but would get a discount because of that.

We did try to find another date but the contract was already finalized and there were no other dates available. In the chat, Robert suggested we stream the Wendy Babcock show. Grace was not sure how amenable they would be to that, but said we could ask. The Wendy Babcock show has also stated that the overlap is historically quite small (between the groups that go to each event). OUTLAWS has stated that they don't think the impact will be huge. In past years, they have sold out of tickets within two days of opening sales. Because it appears they have individual contracts with each of their performers, it is not clear whether they would be able to live stream (or even record) the performance. Julie mentioned it is also possible that someone could attend both events if they wanted to. Because we have been in open communication with them and have their understanding, we're going to go forward with the currently scheduled date for the event. Additionally, Grace is willing to take on raising more money for the period product initiative. Zamir is going to message her about that, there may be interest from a law firm he knows of. She also wants to be very clear that the 2L event is a 2L **semi-formal, not an informal**.

Social Convenor Joyce:

Next pub night is on the 15th, we are currently confirming the venue, potentially Mister Vander (which is accessible) and would start the event at 10pm. Worst case scenario, we can go back to Bar St Low but the event would have to start at 11pm. We're still deciding which venue to go with. The plan right now is for it to be V-Day-themed. If anyone has any cute slogan ideas, feel free to send those to Joyce. We're also doing a joint mixer with UofT Law, possibly with TMU too, on February 29th (secretary's note: not a mistake! It's a leap year guys). Armon asked if the Barrister's Ball is happening again this year. Julie clarified that it was not actually organized by any of the student governments at any of the schools involved last year. The only mixer occurring with the other schools will be the one on the 29th. There has been discussion about making the tri-school event a semi-formal, however, we are already planning formal or semi-formal events for each of the school's year groups, so we're already too close to capacity to add another formal onto our agenda.

Caucus (Rob):

If we could all interact with the Caucus post for feedback that is going around on FB and in the group chats, please do so.

President:

Our social will be happening next Friday. The budget has been approved, which is not enough to fund all of us going to an escape room or something like that, which is fine because the budget has been very very tight this year. Julie expressed that it wouldn't feel right to have a larger budget anyway. So thoughts – do we want to spend our own money to go to an escape room and then have some drinks and snacks at Julie's place with the money? Julie mentioned that we also wanted to have a debrief as a team, for now, the plan is to take time to debrief at this social.

3L Rep Armon:

Communicating something the 3Ls have been complaining about – the library is getting a little crazy in terms of how many non-Osgoode students there are. The librarians have also communicated this to us. It's not just their use of the space but actually misusing the facilities. Noise, inappropriate behaviour (i.e. making out on our tables 🙄), etc. The pool table in the JCR is also missing the white ball and the cue is broken. It needs some maintenance.

3L Rep's Items:

Yearbook Update

We have a cover, and front and end sheets.

We have funds, though not enough to print a yearbook for literally everyone.

We will put out a Google form (aiming for this to go out on Sunday) for people to sign up for a yearbook. The first 100 to 150 people will be able to reserve a physical yearbook and everyone else will get access to a digital copy.

3L Formal Update

Early bird tickets sold out super quickly, within the first day.

We were forced to close early bird tickets and open regular tickets.

Now, there are only about 63 tickets left and we are opening +1 ticket sales in a week on the 12th.

There is a concern that +1s will get tickets when there are more Osgoode students who want to attend but can't because it's sold out.

That said, not everyone wants to go to the formal. Unfortunately, it is during Ramadan and there have been some people who communicated they are uncomfortable going to the formal during Ramadan.

That said, there will be accommodations for students who need them to attend the event during Ramadan.

2 emails have already gone out about early bird tickets, and a third email will go out to give them notice of +1 tickets going live.

We will also send a final warning email when we are near selling out for the event.

After that, once we have sold out, that's it, we're sold out.

Armon asked whether there were any suggestions from the group regarding making sure 3Ls know to purchase tickets before they open up to +1s.

Nobody had any further insights. Given the silence and all the steps already taken to give the student body plenty of notice and opportunity to buy tickets, we feel that this situation is acceptable.

VP External Hillary's Items:

Motions: 2 clubs to be ratified

This motion was moved to an e-motion.

Motion: *THAT the Legal & Literary Society ratify the Osgoode Mooting Society as a new club for the Winter 2024 semester.*

Tabled to be passed as an e-motion.

Motion: *THAT the Legal & Literary Society ratify Heart's & Gavel's ("the Club"), who shall not engage in any form of gambling activity, and shall serve strictly educational purposes for the student body, as a new club for the Winter 2024 semester.*

Tabled to be passed as an e-motion.

**note that this is currently being passed as I write this, but the language of the motion is up-to-date.*

Secretary's Items

Approving the January 11th 2024 and the January 24th 2024 Meeting Minutes for posting.

Kelly asked for feedback on the new minutes' format.

Julie complimented the format – there was no critical feedback.

Nobody else had any comments.

The updated, edited minutes from the first January meeting were circulated before this meeting.

We discussed whether we wanted to give people any more time to review the minutes before posting the minutes from our first January meeting but given the existing delay, the group decided to post them in their current state.

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

(Julie motioned/Kelly seconds) CARRIED

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society approve of the minutes taken on January 24th to be posted.

(Julie motioned/Kelly seconds) CARRIED

Motion: to adjourn the meeting

(Julie motioned/Kelly seconds) CARRIED