



# Minutes

17 May 2020

12:00 – 2:00 PM EST

## Zoom

**Present:** Karin Kazakevich (Chair), Rachael Glassman, Reilly Everitt-Cunningham, Sydney McIvor, Jordan Crocker, Alex Mulligan, Nushrah Amod, Aiishwariya Haran, Mario Lofranco, Akshay Aurora

## *Call to Order (12:03PM)*

## Social Convener Items

### Accessibility Committee

Alex: Call put out for membership to join Accessibility Committee. Reilly, Nushrah, and Alex are automatically on it. Received 1 email from someone who is not on L&L. Others can join. Send Alex a message. Alex will also contact members of Disability Collective.

Rachael: where was the call put out?

Alex: newsletter.

Rachael: better to put out in wider social media.

Karin: how many people do we want on the Committee?

Alex: not sure yet. Have to use it once a semester, would like to use more often for feedback. No set number. Functions of the Committee are not yet well-defined. Written to be more of an advisory Committee so wants as many voices as possible.

Karin: Working Group people would be good to ask as well. People came to it, just more of a consistent basis.

Alex: who is doing social media now?

Rachael: VPI in charge. Reilly helped as 1L helper. In Fall, will look for another 1L helper. Aiish willing to assist.

Alex: will connect after meeting to talk about strategy.

### AtHomeTogether

Alex: Unlikely to be able to have large events by September/October. Large pub nights unlikely but am planning for events like pub nights just in case. Revised calendar of events. Tried to space out things and plan for online.

Looking at revamping how social operates and how we can build on 1L events. People don't want to do 1L at their homes. What can L&L do to make the first-year experience more grounded. Interaction with upper-year students. Would like to establish a community. One strategy could be general advice and feedback that students have for the wider body. Back to School Social Media Challenge. Faculty and staff, as well as L&L can contribute to supplement fact that JCR/pub nights cannot happen.

Large student settings are not ideal. Wants to change up everyone just being on a Zoom call. Every first-year section on Friday can help. Can also get upper-year students to participate if they were in a particular section. Looking for feedback from the Executive on these matters.

Karin: Bring these ideas to O-Week Committee as well. Sydney: like these ideas.

Karin: Idea sharing with other schools is also important. Not about a competition, about building the best 1L experience. The Friday events might not fly for Jewish students. Conversation via Zoom probably not too helpful.

Alex: breakout rooms are good and people can move between people, but also JackBox is fantastic.

Sydney: O-Week – may have to spread events out over the year. Moving some things to Winter. Have to check Calendar. Alex is on O-Week Exec so this should be helpful to avoid stepping on each other's toes.

Rachael: good start. Give people the calendar. Will be helpful for people planning their own events.

Mario: Is it possible to give 1L students access to Zoom without 40-minute restriction? We can also look at running events for those who are not as social and are not actively seeking out relationships.

Karin: re: Zoom – worth looking into, but they don't usually offer Pro to students.

Reilly: L&L might need to provide and allow clubs to get access to Zoom Pro.

*Reilly to look at the option for clubs and report back.*

Rachael: re: introverted students – private calls will probably be good with mentors.

Alex: Trying to address this issue by using Friday section nights and putting breakout rooms into with movement between them.

Karin: info-sharing will be important. If you hear from other schools, then make sure to tell L&L.

## **Vice-President Internal Items**

### **Petition to Osgoode to Adopt Slack**

Rachael: L&L uses Slack. Current company I am working for uses it heavily. People sometimes more willing to text rather than use oral communication. Events can be RSVP'd. Instead of getting emails the bot will simply notify you. Can integrate with Outlook Calendar. Way of cutting back on emails while still making sure that people who are interested in a talk can access it quickly instead of sifting through emails. Looking for feedback from Executive.

Akshay: Many on Caucus don't really like Slack because people are unfamiliar with it.

Rachael: There is a learning curve and can be used for wider group conversations. Better to have people who know what they are doing. Can teach ourselves and teach others.

Karin: In terms of a forum (because you can have different channels) would be good. Some concerns because people need to make profile and have to access the service. Could be barrier because emails will perhaps be supplanted. Having said that, could be interesting to have all years join a channel and use it as a forum. Just worry that some will fall through the cracks.

Rachael: Osgoode emails already leave people behind. This could be an 'in addition to' instead of replacing the emails. You can have a channel for the book exchange and housing instead of relying on Facebook. The year groups on FB is really just for club announcements. Slack will allow you to subscribe to what you want and allow you to RSVP to the event, etc.

Sydney: is there a limit to the number of people in a forum?

Rachael: looks to be unlimited.

Aiish: Slack can be confusing with the different threads. Facebook is easier for me to process rather than through one app with different threads.

Rachael: does not have to go forward with this, but if we can get it working then we can have all of the Osgoode things in one place (emails, FB, etc). Understand it's not a tool that everyone wants to use.

Reilly: Slack does work, but many may not download. We may be adding to the noise because some may not download it and we would have to use traditional ways of getting events out.

Rachael: Not everyone on Facebook either, but don't want to add to the noise. Can use Slack as a pilot project to see if it will work. Worth trying to make it useful for everyone.

Mario: Queen's uses Slack and did not like it. Slack is way more useful. May have to make it mandatory, but now we're telling students to download another app when email and Facebook is more intuitive.

Rachael: we can say 'download this for O-Week' but can't force students to download.

Karin: for O-Week it would work. Worry about people posting on Facebook, Slack and using email. Can use Slack as more of a forum to transition.

Rachael: should we try as pilot then? But we don't have to try it at all if people are resistant to it.

Alex: there is merit to using it as an alternative of an FB group chat for 1Ls. Have to do this sooner rather than later.

Aiish: group chats will get started when sections are assigned.

Nushrah: can't just be for one year because then it will add to the noise.

Aiish: more convenient for Facebook. Slack isn't always consistent. People check Facebook already.

Alex: merit in larger group chat function which can be used for social things but will have to double up communication.

Rachael: make a Slack for Osgoode and it will add to noise to start with, but with time see if we can get more people on board. This year can be a good year to test this as a tool.

Karin: Upper years have less reason to adopt it. No incentive. Making a bigger Slack for everyone will backfire because people will not move to it. Will be more successful and relevant if it's used for 1Ls because they don't know. Perhaps bigger conversation for O-Week Executive to see if they want to adopt it.

Sydney: need to take it back to O-Week Exec. Neutral on the idea, but until we explore other options for communication can't commit to it because we haven't thought about it on the O-Week Exec. Rachael you can come to the meetings and discuss how to implement.

Karin: Good idea but need to be strategic.

Rachael: Lukewarm reception and may show how to implement and how to use to L&L Exec. Osgoode can then help pay for subscription.

### **Outreach to Other Law Schools (UofT/Ryerson)**

Rachael: Ryerson starting a new law school in September. Would be nice for L&L to reach out and offer support in creating their new student government. These students are starting from scratch.

Reilly/Alex/Akshay: good idea. Also looking at doing joint pub night. Caucus is willing to help.

Rachael: will reach out to UofT to see if they want to assist.

### **Constitutional Review**

*Akshay Aurora left the meeting.*

Rachael: L&L Constitution is messy. Bylaws not uniform. Doesn't codify things we are doing and stipulates things we don't do. Karin/Rachael/Jordan will be examining and striking Committee. Looking for others to join. Requires a lot of work from everyone and is a useful exercise.

Karin: wants to do this. Long-time coming. Lots of work and take a lot of effort on our part to change and then get people to say yes. Good legacy piece for us. Don't have to join Committee. Any changes need to be agreed by this body. Committee will be on more intricate focus. Look through document and just add comments.

Rachael: even if not on Committee, look at your role and state if you think your position should be doing specific things. When we have amendments, we will bring to L&L Exec. 2/3 need to agree and then student body needs to approve. 1/3 students need to

vote. Needs majority.

Aiish: not sure yet. Looked through 3L Rep. States that 3L Rep plans for Spring Formal and also plans for 3L event – are these two different events?

Rachael: see we don't know and this is just one example of something we want to fix.

Karin: so far will just be Rachael, Jordan and Karin on the Committee. Admin does want us to update. Caucus also just changed theirs last year.

***Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society strike a Governance Review Committee with a mandate to amend the Constitution of the Society and its Bylaws to be approved the Executive. The Committee shall be populated by the President, Vice President (Internal), and the Secretary.***

***(Glassman/Haran) CARRIED***

## **President's Items**

### **CU Advertising**

Karin: CU Advertising. Company that we have agreement with to advertise on website and yearbook. Sell ad spots to law firms and get half of the profits. Exclusive and cannot hire another company. Need to take whatever they get. No minimum spends on yearbooks and agendas. Is it worth it and are we losing out on money? Contract for website/yearbook/agenda for next year. Renew for next three years. They have sold one for agenda. Income has gone down steadily. Can stop contract and make it someone's job to go out and get funding but this is a lot of work. Contract is hands off, but we could be losing money. Budget: do we need the money?

Sydney: if we don't need a minimum spend for yearbooks then it doesn't really hurt us to keep the contract.

Rachael: We don't need to keep doing Agendas, especially if we are losing money. Yearbook = we get a levy. We need better marketing to give to 3Ls. Do we have ads in the yearbook?

Karin/Aiish: yes.

Rachael: that's a bit odd. This is why we don't have the Dean's Lunch sponsored. Why should the yearbook be used as an ad? In terms of website, we get around 6 ads. Wouldn't be much for VPI to reach out and ask if firms want to sponsor.

Sydney: we were losing money by printing too much. We are getting money from CU. We could get more money ourselves.

Alex: concerned for ads on a website when events are a better use.

Rachael: we give list to CU on law firms.

Karin: it's not big law firms, usually smaller/medium sized. Biggest on Agenda is Osgoode Hall Alumni Association. Based on who and how much these wouldn't take away from events. Do we want to do the work ourselves or not? Advertising at all? A free yearbook might be worth it.

Reilly: 1L/2L Reps already reach out. Not too much work to do ourselves. Another option could be a sponsorship flip book or packages. Willing to do that.

Rachael: great idea and willing to help.

Karin: would be in line with other law schools.

Rachael: would just need to be careful with O-Week. We would need to coordinate and make sure we aren't poaching.

Sydney: packages for O-Week are usually dependent on what events we are doing. Stuck right now. Will try to start sending out next week. Reach out to everyone from last year and re-offer packages. Last year = O-Week had a lot of money. This year = might get less money from more places.

Reilly: let O-Week do their first things, could send out in September to allow O-Week to have their turn.

Karin: any other concerns?

Jordan: what about future years?

Rachael: this year is probably the most difficult. Person coming in next year wouldn't know any different. Can be part of the role for VPI.

Sydney: not every VPI will be yourself.

Rachael: True but will be around for transition and can train future VPI.

Reilly: can assist.

Karin: consensus seems to be cancel contract. Can be a nice breakup and can always go back if it doesn't work this year. Could be successful project. Also, losing the 2K wouldn't break our bank.

Rachael: more interesting ways to sell our sponsorship and integrate social media channels.

Mario: dealing with Agenda. Would have to send the ads to him. Possible to reach out to smaller Osgoode alum at smaller law firms?

Rachael: we will be doing looking at that.

***Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society cancels the advertising contract with CU Advertising and mandates that the Vice-President (Internal) take over the role of finding advertising funding for the agendas, yearbooks, and the website.***

***(Everitt-Cunningham/Glassman) CARRIED***

## **New Business**

### **Vision Planning – Karin**

Karin: Important to remind ourselves of why we are doing what we do. Any thoughts and what would you like to add or what do you think our vision and mission statement should be?

Rachael: we oversee things and are student focused. Making sure students feel like they are part of a community. Spend a lot of time thinking about what types of advocacy we are part of. One thing we can do better is telling people what we are doing. We could be louder about what advocacy work we are doing and speaking about what the President is doing. In 1L you can be very siloed. Then a jump in 2L. Felt a bit lost. Could assist with the transition.

Mario: perceptions of L&L. Caucus for Academic and L&L is the more social side. L&L planned all events. Including O-Week. L&L does touch on academic side.

Nushrah: more about student life as a whole. Important that people know that we do more than just the social aspect.

Sydney: L&L is reflective of the student body of the day. The Accessibility Policy is one example. Facilitates the will of the student body in conjunction with Caucus.

Jordan: L&L is commonly seen as the 'Party Planning Committee.' However, as someone who has been on Caucus, L&L was a support network for students and assisted Caucus, especially during the CR/NCR conversations.

Reilly: every student is part of L&L. Might need more opportunities to give students a voice.

Aiish: didn't know much in 1L but saw Section A Rep (Cory) and what he was doing and became interested. It does touch on the academic aspect as well.

Alex: Communication. How we explain what our roles are. We contribute to building a community and culture at Osgoode Hall and create the starting blocks for professional legal networks.

Rachael: Very important that L&L is fostering the community and makes it different than other law schools. It's the community we are building. Other student governments are mainly just focused on academic matters (the Caucus side).

Karin: would like to clarify how L&L works with academic side.

Jordan: There is some merit to having the dichotomy because it makes it easier for students but at the same time L&L does more.

Alex: not a fan of the dichotomy (Caucus does academic and L&L plans parties). More nuanced in practice but might be easier to manage.

Nushrah: would be helpful to establish more communication.

Jordan: agreed. Communication is great. We need to be part of the conversation on the academic front. Also need to do if we don't have communication from Caucus Reps.

Rachael: Student Caucus was an offshoot of L&L. L&L is the only student government. L&L is the only student government group that is recognized by York. Caucus is accountable to L&L and still part of L&L. Perception that they are the most serious, but L&L controls student government.

Karin: practical side. How do we work together with Caucus? Might impact our Constitution and Governance Review Committee. Need to communicate and build the culture/student life. Everyone should have tasks in the meantime. Engage on Slack if you want to talk about more things.

## **Other Business**

### **AGENDAS**

Mario: Aiiish and I have a meeting for Agendas. Any input on the design? Make sure to tell me on Slack.

Nushrah: should we open up designs to student body?

Aiiish: it has to be certain dimensions and sent in by the end of May. Would have to be fast. Great idea. Something to flag for the future.

Mario: Meeting is on Tuesday, can bring up when the deadline is and can post in Osgoode group to see if people are interested.

Karin: would be good for those who might be bored at home and best-case scenario we get a great cover.

***Motion: THAT the meeting be Adjourned.***

***(Kazakevich/Crocker) CARRIED***

***Adjournment (1:59PM)***

## **Consent Agenda**

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 13 May 2020, was deemed approved.

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**Next Meeting**

**Sunday, 31 May 2020, 12:30PM EST**