



# Minutes

**21 October 2020**

**12:30 – 2:30 PM EST**

## **Zoom**

**Present:** Karin Kazakevich (Chair), Rachael Glassman, Reilly Everitt-Cunningham, Sydney McIvor, Alex Mulligan, Nushrah Amod, Aiishwariya Haran, Mario Lofranco, Danielle Landry, Jessica Li, Christina Tassopoulos, Courtney Cameron, Akshay Aurora, Jordan Crocker (by phone)

*Due to network connectivity issues on campus, J. Crocker was unable to take the Minutes. R. Glassman took the Minutes of the meeting.*

## **Call to Order (12:31PM)**

### **President's Remarks & Items**

#### **1. Updates Roundtable**

Aiish: 3L photos are live. Some issues but nothing major.

Nushrah: MHWW events are being planned. Gift bags have been approved and we're starting to look at filing them. Committee has been put together and will meet later in the week.

Reilly: Working with Sydney to input budget things on the website.

Alex: Friday is a Halloween decorating event with the Environmental Law Society. Prizes available.

Sydney: Mostly inputting club budgets and responding to club questions and tech issues. Cheque reqs are coming in. Haven't had time to work on audit. Jessica is helping to fill in bank account signing officer info.

Jessica: I've done them all except those with no email addresses.

Sydney: Finance is up to date.

Rachael: Social media push for our accessibility campaign with alt-text. Events calendar is live, but clubs have not been updating it which limits its usefulness.

Reilly: We'll work on that – I'll email the clubs to remind them.

Jordan: Newsletters are going well.

Danielle: Did a virtual coffee date, got 6 people which is what other sections had. Going to try again but since it's midterm season I don't know how many people will come.

Jessica: Coffee chats or hallway hangouts, moved the time until after the quiz is due. I usually get 10-14 people. It's becoming a thing in the section, inside jokes etc. I have been helping with a lot of upper year stuff.

Christina: Section has been busy with midterms and assignments. Going to host a hangout when that's done. No complaints from my section.

Courtney: Zoom social with 16 people. Excited about that and will do again.

Karin: General admin: one library is open, but the hours are very limited. Response is that admin had to fight hard to even get those hours. If people ask, just temper expectations. Re: exams. Other schools have been talking about proctoring, so we asked here. There will be no video proctoring at Osgoode. Will be similar to last semester. You will have to write exams through Exemplify. Internet will be blocked but you can access your summaries on your computer. If people push back about cheating, there are arguments on both sides. Don't engage. Admin will do back end checks to ensure you haven't collaborated.

Sydney: How will we digitally access our summaries?

Karin: It's a modified version of Exemplify which allows other windows open but no copy and pasting.

Jordan: students sometimes use the same summaries so the answers will look similar.

Karin: That's a good point, I'll raise that with admin.

Alex: There are many ways for Exemplify to monitor you. It would be good to know what tools admin is using to monitor, since they may not be using them all.

Karin: Admin didn't mention using audio or key stroke tools.

Nushrah: The version of Exemplify we use only uses keystrokes. It doesn't do anything else. It does have your IP address so it can tell if you're writing from the same IP address.

Karin: It might be a helpful deterrent to know what they use. Three types of exams. 1. Timed exam. 2. Floating take home. Picked up within a time slot and then you have a certain amount of time to finish within that block. 3. Take home. Profs may choose whichever type they want. For folks outside of Toronto or outside of Canada, they will make accommodations.

Rachael and I met with Ryerson Law Student Union pres. They use our summaries. Which we approve of. For lockers, they need to be cleared out. We're clearing out the club lockers.

Quizzly Questions: We've had 75 people a week doing it.

@ozbook is launching this week. I've filled with stuff from you, thanks for sending it in. Please send more.

2L townhall: SC members took lead on organizing it. Monday November 2 at 12:30 pm during reading week. 2L please go and answer L&L related questions.

3L townhall: No date yet. It'll happen not during articling recruit.

Alumni board wants to start a new initiative. They want us to provide questions that they can answer. They want it to be harder questions like do you regret your area of practice and what's life actually like as a lawyer.

Karen Drake initiative: Study groups that are curated by L&L (i.e. Section B crim signs up and then L&L figure out who submits and create the groups and give out people's contact info). A bit out of our wheelhouse and we wouldn't normally do.

Rachael: It could work but we'd have to ask how people like to work.

Jessica: People in my section have already formed study groups if they want one. I haven't because I like to study alone. I think a study group formed by people who are friends is more effective than if we did it.

Courtney: For my section, most people have already formed groups via the Discord.

Christina: For my section it might be helpful for those who haven't made connections yet.

Danielle: I agree with Christina. I think there is a demand for it. It could be useful.

Aiish: We might as well post and see if there is interest, with the caveat that it might not happen if not enough people sign up.

Karin: Do you think that people will have found their groups already?

Christina: I think it would be helpful.

Jessica: I think pre-exams could be helpful. Some people don't want to commit. It's pressure. But maybe a crash course pre-exam could be helpful.

Karin: Rebranding it as a crash course, review session could help. We'll talk about this more on Slack.

Mario: It's a good way to just meet other people as well. People can break off and for their own groups as well. As don't know if this is a Dean's Fellow thing, but everyone could do practice questions and take up the answers together.

Karin: That's great, let's chat more offline about the execution of this idea.

Mario: Updates from 2L rep. Clothing sale, I have sent the details to Rachael.

Rachael: We've posted it on Instagram and will post again on the first day.

Mario: 2L formal. What's happening with it? We're still in a holding pattern.

Karin: 1Ls don't start planning it until January, because we don't even know if it'll be possible.

Mario: If we're on this back and forth wave of opening and closing due to COVID, if that's still the case in January, we should just cancel. The venue will work with us on this.

Alex: The clause is government and York restrictions and Osgoode guidelines. Most people want their money back. We're waiting on Osgoode to formally announce we're online. We did say we'd open up refunds at the end of this semester.

Karin: That's fine. We can offer the refunds at that time. But if we can also have the event, there may be value in that. I trust the 2Ls judgment on how your year feels about this.

Alex: We don't have contractual grounds to cancel right now. Message is just that we're waiting on guidance from Osgoode.

Aiish: Can I host the 3L formal outside?

Rachael: Yes, but it has to be accessible. Could even be in May or June?

## **2. Feedback on Presidential Regulation 4**

Karin: York Student Life wants to amend the regulation, which does affect us. This explains that there are 3 levels of student government at York. 1. Central government (YFS and YUGSA). Complication, we are undergraduate students and part of YFS. We don't operate that way and we don't do anything with YFS. 2. Faculty Level (which is us). There is only one faculty level government allowed per faculty. 3. College level (Strong, etc.) those are smaller than faculty level. Student activities fund – not relevant to us. Levy – Hope this doesn't change, but it defines how we get our levy. A long time ago there was a referendum which chose how much we got in a levy. If we want to change that, we would have to have another referendum. If we do nothing, we just get what the levy says we get. Financial accountability – Nothing specific. Just says we will clearly define things and not misappropriate money. Does anyone have suggestions? If you have thoughts I can bring, I'm happy to hear them. Typically, if they are going to make a change, they will send us the redline. I will send you an update after the meeting which Rachael and I are going to tomorrow.

## **3. Care Packages**

Karin: We've been greenlit to send these out. I have an ethical question. We don't have money to send a nice care package to every single student. What we could do is have a slimmer version which everyone gets. If we do a nice one, it's first come first serve, about 400-500 people. It includes a cute Osgoode hat. Will people complain?

Sydney: I think the people to sign up would want it and they people who don't will be indifferent. I don't see it being a big issue. The other thing is we have about 50 O-Week packages still which we could include.

Rachael: We will get complaints, that's the nature of law school. But I think not everyone will want one.

Jessica: I think people don't understand that L&L and Osgoode have different budgets.

Karin: Yes, if it looks like its coming from Osgoode, people might be mad that they aren't getting one. What about people who pay student levy funds who don't get the care package.

Sydney: What's Osgoode's budget for sending out the packages.

Karin: Osgoode is indifferent to how many we send out.

Alex: One way to get around it is to announce the care packages and their contents ahead of time. And then lay out that its first come, first serve. And that it's L&L. This is the process. I think that will be fine.

Mario: Do we have to say how many we are giving out?

Alex: More transparency is better. The vaguer the language, the more emails and questions you'll get.

Aiish: If its first come first serve its clearly a limited amount.

Sydney: Budget-wise we do have money. We could potentially add more to this budget if we want to. A lot of clubs requested money for care packages, so clubs could be on board with this. I will warn that it's a lot of work to put the packages together. If budget is a concern, it doesn't need to be one.

Nushrah: I started pricing items, and let's say its 400 people. If we have one nice item like the toque, we would have \$2500 just for the toques. I can price a whole package and see what it's like from there. What's our flexibility?

Sydney: Not fully up to me. We have \$10,000 for virtual events. We also have money for general L&L events, which we probably won't fully use.

Nushrah: I'm going to get the committee to price different versions which I will present to L&L at a later meeting.

Karin: That won't work timewise. Does anyone have issues? We need to decide soon.

Nushrah: Idea of care packages takes the place of physical events. 1. Finalize contents, 2. Finalize budget, 3. Finalize who is getting them – sign ups and things.

Karin: Be active on Slack and we will send out an e-motion shortly about the budget.

Nushrah: Any ideas of what to put in the care package? We've got candy and Osgoode-branded toques. Maybe tea or coffee? Exam and stationary related things?

Rachael: I like all of these. Something sweet to show L&L is thinking of you and something practical.

Karin: Someone in my class mentioned handwritten notes.

Rachael: Only if they are photocopied. We can't write 900 notes!

Nushrah: How about candles?

Mario: I know of a place where you can get 1000 candles.

Jessica: How about earbuds?

Rachael: Library usually gives them out, we can ask them for some.

Sydney: Facemasks?

Nushrah: I think people would like them.

Rachael: Does anyone here who doesn't normally use facemasks think this is good?

Alex: Yes.

Sydney: Branded hand sanitizer?

Aiish: Yes.

Nushrah: Yes.

#### **4. Constitutional Review**

Karin: don't have time to review it here. Overview. Jordan sent you three documents. Old version, redlined, clean version. There are a lot of changes. The ask is for you to actually read and comment on everything. Particularly where your role is involved. I will ask for you to review and I will flag what needs particular attention. We might have a separate meeting for this. For now, read it through and come back to us with questions. Some sections you should focus on:

Anywhere there is a lot of purple, please pay attention. We will give you time in advance of when we will have this meeting. Will follow up later.

#### **Treasurer Items**

#### **5. Bookkeeper Hiring**

Sydney: Treasurer turnover and aptitude for bookkeeping is higher than a law student might have. Problem is transition period, and lots of inconsistency. Hire a bookkeeper to have consistency, focus on the nitty-gritty quick books accounting side of things. Got a reference for an Osgoode student who does bookkeeping for other student societies at York U, they charge \$800 for the entire year

Karin: Supports it

Jordan: Supports

Sydney: Will start reaching out, will vote when we are ready to hire someone.

Mario: Do we want to find someone who will do it permanently (a period of 5-10 years)?

Sydney: Agreed, don't want turnover.

#### **New Business**

#### **6. Graduation Photos (for students not in Toronto) – Karin/Aiish**

*A. Mulligan continued taking notes after the departure of R. Glassman from the meeting.*

Karin: Some students aren't in Toronto, and if there is not a Lassman studios where they are, they can go to their own studio and take the photos. Student raised an issue about having to find their own studios.

Mario: You're kinda out of luck if you're out of a large area.

Aiish: Unreasonable to find studios for everyone, Osgoode has a specific sash, Lassman will photoshop it on.

Alex: Does Lassman have any recommendations?

Aiish: Was going to ask but makes sense for people to just go find their own, its easier for them.

Karin: If students are in cities with law schools, maybe we can tack our people onto theirs photos.

Aiish: Just makes more sense to find your own place, its more convenient.

Karin: We can put something in our email and say if you need help then let us know.

Aiish: Send this email out sooner rather than later.

Aiish: Got a nicely worded email from a student who lives with someone who is immunocompromised. Can't compromise the safety of their family to get a grad photo. How can they get a photo if they can't go to a studio?

Karin: Initial reaction is, there's time.

Aiish: Agree but don't want it to be March and have this issue still be around.

Sydney: If Lassman can photoshop sash, can they not photoshop the robe and the background?

Mario: Can we have someone come to their house?

Aiish: Worries its more than one person, wants to know who.

Mario: Can't they take a selfie?

Aiish: Issue of uniformity versus including everyone.

Karin: Inclined to wait and see, next email should have info about COVID concerns and see what can be done on a personal level.

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

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

***Adjournment (2:13PM)***

**Consent Agenda**

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 7 October 2020, were deemed approved.

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**Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, 28 October 2020, 12:30PM EST**