



Minutes

22 June 2021

8 PM EST

Zoom

Present: Alex Mulligan (Chair), Jordan Crocker, Nushrah Amod, Mario Lofranco, Danielle Landry, Jessica Li, Christina Tassopoulos, Courtney Cameron, Valentina Gavis, Chloe Duggal

Call to Order (8:04 pm)

Alex: We have never done land acknowledgements but I think we should. Everyone will get the chance to say it this year. Also, whoever is doing the land acknowledgment that week will get to share an interesting fact that they have researched about Indigenous people/nations. Does not have to be about Toronto. Any questions/comments?

****Alex says land acknowledgement****

Alex: We will do a sign up sheet for the dates that everyone will say the land acknowledgement

President's Items

1. Updates Roundtable

Nush: I have been bringing things together from last year, finishing up activities. Trying to facilitate racialized wellness counselling. Debbie Ernest is great and usually has a student who works with her but they are switched out every year and there is no guarantee they will be a racialized individual. The BLSA report asked for a racialized wealth officer, and have been pushing for it so I want to see what the other equity groups' opinions are.

Christina: I have just been sending emails out when it is needed.

Danielle: I have been working with Friesens for Agenda stuff. We have an agenda now!! Thanks for Alex and Jess's help.

Courtney: Not too much in terms of updates. The activity planning depends on provincial restrictions. Once we have a better idea, we can get the ball moving more.

Mario: I have been working a lot. I will need help with some stuff because there is lots to do. Lots of people did not get refunds so I have been submitting those and working with the bookkeeper for the audit.

Jess: I do not have too many updates, I have just been doing background admin work. Mouthpiece law is running a virtual conference this Saturday and they reached out for 2 volunteers to be panelists to talk about Osgoode. I will be one, is there anyone else? Maybe from out of province?

J. Crocker volunteered.

Val: I have been waiting for Aiish to be done but we discussed working on the yearbook together. We found a platform for non-zoom activities, more like a Sims thing. Can gather and have conversations. Just in case we need to run virtual events next year. It is called Kumo space.

Jordan: Usually the VP external has this month off. I am waiting to learn what the restrictions will be in the fall so I know more about how to organize the clubs fair. Clubs have been quiet, I have the updated info for most of them.

Chloe: Compassionate grading deadline finished. I have just been dealing with stuff about that. After all of that is settled, we will begin with the rest of the academic advocacy.

Alex: Shoutout to Mario and Danielle for all their hard work this past month.

2. President's report:

1) O-Week Information

Alex: We have our O-Week Chairs: Chloe, Adam, Devin. We also have chosen the exec. Not sure if O-week will be in person or online; it will probably be hybrid with maybe more in person events but we have to wait and see.

2) Homecoming

Alex: We had to cancel the meeting yesterday. The deans want to do a 2L and 3L homecoming. I want to get the ball rolling so I will email Assistant Dean Rimon to start planning that.

3) Updates RE Meeting with the Deans + LSSO

Alex: The LSSO is really cool. It is all of the law schools and their reps and they do pan-Ontario law school advocacy work. LSSO has had wins regarding bar exam, length of articling, and are pushing hard to get a student rep on all law society communities. Very new, but have had big success. Last Thursday, the Annual General Meeting occurred and they voted on membership dues (88\$) and new exec. Equity officer was not voted on because the equity officer was not able to attend the meeting, will be voted on later.

Alex: Meetings With deans: have all been productive, nothing complex.

Asked about an off-campus events policy. Last year, many clubs wanted to do events off-campus. We created a waiver of liability for clubs to sign so we wouldn't be liable for injuries or COVID cases that result from these activities. We asked if York was planning on creating a similar thing; the Deans did not have an answer but undertook to check with the university. I am hoping there is an official policy. If not, we should discuss using last year's.

The objective of the year is flexibility. The Deans are working through what will be allowed because the rules seem to be constantly changing. I am hopeful that with the vaccination numbers, we will be able to lift restrictions and host events in person. I think it's a fair assumption to make that we will be able to host SOME in person events in the fall, we will just have to figure out what can work in person and what can work online and have a plan for both. The first day of classes is August 30th. What we know about the winter semester is not much. The university doesn't know either and the Deans are doing their best to find out as much information as possible.

Alex: On a different note, should we do a recruit info session where we give advice, support, tips, and guidance? If so, it will probably be in July.

Treasurer Items

1. Formal Refunds

I am still working on the refunds from 1L formal 2020. There are 184 ppl who bought tickets, and I still think ppl haven't submitted an email to request their refund. I don't want there to be a situation where people do not get their money back, so what are your thoughts on sending another email and extending the deadline for one last effort? I don't think it is fair to put blame on students if they do not send in their email on time when this whole process was confusing and quite delayed through no fault of the students themselves.

Alex: I think it is fine to extend the deadline. Let's wait until the 30th (deadline) and if we are worried, we can extend. I just don't want to send an email before the deadline again and bombard people.

2. Club Refunds

Mario: The deadline for club refunds is always April 30th. Some people have sent in their refund requests late this year, and we have been very liberal, but this has been difficult. Are we planning on doing club refunds until we do the budget for next year or should we be denying clubs that are late? My opinion is that we should grant refunds until we move into the new academic year because that is when we will be creating our new budget and the amount of money to allocate to each club may differ.

Alex: Yeah, we should probably still give them out even if they submit late. Are people asking for refunds for things that happened after the end of the year?

Mario: No, they mostly have been submitting refunds for things from before April 30th.

Alex: Yeah, I think we should still refund them. Maybe we can ask Jordan to send out an email to get the clubs to send the receipts in.

Nush: if we are planning on keeping the opportunity to get club refunds open until September, maybe we should do the same thing with the formal refunds and allow them until September.

3. Audit

Mario: Making good progress on that.

4. L&L Finance Site

Mario: Right now, we have a finance page. We don't pay anything for that page because it was made for us for free. But now whenever there is a problem, we have to rely on the creator to help us fix it without being paid. If he ever said no, we would not have any other way of fixing it. I had the idea that either he bills us for his time and that would incentivize him to say yes and do the work efficiently. The agreement in the past was that he would do it out of the kindness of his heart. He didn't even know if he would feel comfortable getting money. But if he refuses to accept payment, I don't know if it is reliable for us to be depending on a website that could go up in smoke anytime and we would not be able to fix it.

Jordan: What is the alternative?

Mario: Dan (the creator) said he could recommend a site. The only issue is that I would have to learn how to use it and then teach it. My proposal is to pay him just so that the money will keep him tied to it and each new future treasurer will not have to learn a whole new website every year.

Alex: For context, Dan is the owner of the group of emails. He designed and manages the L&L finance page. If we give him money, it should be an honorarium. If we pay an hourly wage, it can get into employee/employer issues. The other issue is that if he bills us like a service provider, we would have to pay taxes on that and I don't necessarily want to do that.

Mario: I will talk to him again and get more details and next meeting I can propose an actual solution.

Chloe: Was wondering if when you talk to him, you can ask what the cost per year would be or cost per service.

Mario: Yes.

5. Our Bookkeeper

Mario: Last year, we signed a contract with the bookkeeper for her to work for 40 hours. Because of the audit, she might work more than 40 hours. She will send me the number of hours she has worked so far after the first audit. The question is, once we fix the books, if 40 hours is not enough, is there a way to get more funding if we need more time?

Alex: We would have to vote on it like we did last time because we voted for a certain amount of money last time and would have to do that again. Get us a sense of the number of hours she has worked so far and the number of hours she has left. I have a feeling it will be over 40 and we will probably have to vote again.

Mario: I will do that. When we voted last time, did we vote that we would be using her every year or just a one time thing?

Alex: We will have to check the minutes from last year.

President Remarks (again)

3. Course Selection Chart

Alex: Info regarding course selection will be sent out later this week. Typically L&L and SC send out a course selection chart because the process that Osgoode uses is very confusing. Usually, we create a spreadsheet with course name, professor, when it's offered and exam dates. Typically, the names of the courses and who teaches them do not really change; it is mostly just changing times and dates. I will help but we need more people to help.

Jess and Chloe volunteer.

Usually, the course selection website is open for about a week. Then you put in your choices and there is a lottery system and you receive your course schedule in late July.

Nush: It is a terrible experience. Traumatizing.

Alex: Val, Jordan, and I will help post the courses we took and be there if you have any questions.

4. Class of 2024 Question and Answers

Alex: Also, I put out a form for the new incoming class to ask us questions. I will share the questions with you all and we can all help provide answers. The end goal will be a rolling Q&A document that can be created for everyone in the incoming class so no one is stressed in the summer.

5. Legal & Lit Summer event

Alex: Last but not least, I want to do a summer event. Whether it is a picnic with pizza, or an actual patio once those re-open, or none of the above.

Mario: Come to my backyard, we will make pizza.

Alex: Stay tuned for that.

Motion: THAT the meeting be Adjourned.

Tassopoulos/Mulligan Carried.

Adjournment (9:05 pm)