



Minutes

23 September 2020

12:30 – 2:30 PM EST

Zoom

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

Call to Order (12:34PM)

President's Remarks & Items

Welcome, Oaths, & Icebreaker

Sydney McIvor arrived at 12:37PM

An icebreaker was played where the upper-year Executives and new 1L Representatives introduced themselves.

The 1L Representatives took the Oath of Office:

"I solemnly affirm that I shall faithfully serve and uphold the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws of the Legal and Literary Society of Osgoode Hall Law School at York University and to the best of my availability shall administer the duties of my position for the benefit of the students I represent and the law school."

2. Updates Roundtable

Reilly: Club budgets were due on Monday so will meet with Karin and Syd on those.

Rachael: summary reviews for the past two weeks. . Had about 30 new submissions in the past two weeks and posting things on social media like the Student Governance date and Faculty Council Reps. Creating and updating Calendar.

Nushrah: working on database for Equity materials. Student is doing this and consulting. Mental Health and Wellness Week Planning.

Sydney: chipping away at the audit. They want it by the end of the month, may not happen by that time because of the work involved. Many summer transactions that we don't know where they came from. Need to track them down. Done the Clubs account. Working on budgeting for the Clubs with Reilly and Karin. Answering questions from Clubs and informing them of best practices.

Aiish: yearbook for last year is complete. Got all grad photos. Problem with the company but was fixed. Articling recruit applications are due this week. Might be nice to get a graphic together.

Alex: social events are fine. Tomorrow is the Book Club with OISA. Gaby and Brittany will be there to moderate. Figuring out what to do with Blue Mountain.

Akshay: Committee appointments, interviews yesterday. Many good candidates.

Jordan: Normal things, newsletter is all good.

Karin: . JCR is not happening this year and did not want to pay \$7-8K. Still need some insurance but York has approved a reduction to \$2K. Health plan amounts have been posted. Opt-out deadline is October 11th. . Akshay and I meet with the Deans fairly often. If there are things you want to flag for admin, then let us know. Library Spaces. Kind of approved. Issue that may need to be considered: because it is difficult to make friends and there are no lecture recordings and you don't need a Deans Scribe; then how can students get notes? Just record the lecture, but some profs are against this. Admin wants a Deans Scribe but without that accessibility aspect.

Alex: aren't 1L lectures recorded?

Karin/Akshay: not all

Alex: can't they just use the Deans Scribe notes?

Karin: my thinking as well.

Rachael: not every course has one. They may need to post on the Year Groups. Same concern for transfer students.

Nushrah: why doesn't admin wants Deans Scribe notes available?

Karin: admin thinks people have to get an accommodation for those things, but what was the point if the notes go to everyone?

Nushrah: incentives?

Akshay: supposed to give you a gift card and dinner. Didn't get anything last year.

Reilly: this seems like a problem in regular school too. You need to put yourself out there if you need notes. This should be student led.

Karin: wondering if it might be Deans Scribe when they are in the class.

Nushrah: could do a separate thing via L&L.

Reilly: put a call out for note sharing program and then put those students in a group and let them sort it out?

Aiish: but would that only be for people who want notes?

Reilly: would have to be goodwill.

Rachael: do something similar in classes without summaries. They can contact me. Could make a note sharing group aside from the class groups.

Aiish: At Queen's we had a lot of different groups which were similar. People join out of goodwill and becomes something that people would know about.

Jessica: issue for students that do not have accessibility needs might mean students don't show up for lectures. Talking about a special circumstance, so would it be possible that people have access to Deans Scribe notes but only for some many times?

Akshay: that point makes sense because admin will want to ensure people attend lectures, but the issue is not every class has a Dean's Scribe. This should be student led. It's a weird place for us to get involved, not our responsibility to make a whole new system.

Alex: should be student led. Trying to set up checks and balances will not work. Too much effort. Can host a group where people submit notes. Not every class would have people who submit notes. Instead of worrying about every class with notes, need the most accessible way to get notes out. Can maybe use some budget to incentivize some notes.

Karin: will bring these points to ADS Drake. Next topic: alumni board. They want to be more involved. O-Week folks had a panel and alumni loved it. Set up meeting next week. Maybe we can make an alumni database for events to get them more involved.

Reilly: can brainstorm other ideas.

Karin: will ask Alumni if they have any ideas. Next: upper year agendas – gone to all the distribution centres.

Nushrah: do we get agendas?

Karin: yes, if you want one.

3. Tuition Working Group

Motion: THAT the meeting be moved In-Camera.

(Kazakevich/Glassman) CARRIED

Mario Lofranco arrived at 1:28PM

Motion: THAT the meeting be moved out of In-Camera.

(Kazakevich/Crocker) CARRIED

4. Mentorship Pairs

Karin: New to L&L there will be Mentor pairs for the 1L Reps. Will be sending directions to the Mentors.

Pairs:

Danielle: Sydney and Reilly

Courtney: Jordan and Aiish

Jessica: Alex and Nushrah

Christina: Mario and Rachael

Karin and Akshay will be floating.

Vice-President Internal Items

5. Upper Year Projects for 1L Representatives

Rachael: told 1Ls about this at the Monday meeting. We would love some help with these projects. Would like you to pick one. Social media with me is one project.

The other projects are:

Nushrah: Mental Health and Wellness Week. Need help with reach out to sponsors and helping with general coordination. Vice-Chair of the Committee.

Sydney: help with general Treasurer duties. Day to day helping with the accounts. Would also be nice to have someone who has been exposed to Treasurer role and stay on next year.

Aiish: yearbook. Don't know what help will be needed. Need content as well. Probably will be asking for help

Reilly: help putting together Event Guidelines and a resource bank for clubs. Would like to hold a Clubs Gala.

Rachael: would like some 1Ls to sign up now.

Christina: can help Reilly.

Courtney: happy to help with Wellness Week.

Jessica: will help with Treasurer things.

Danielle: can float around and help. Can help with social media and help Aiish.

Karin: Jess you can also help with the Wellness Week planning.

Rachael: can still help with other projects for sure.

Social Convenor Items

6. Winter Retreat

Alex: Usually have ski trip (that will now be a Winter Retreat) in January. Not sure what Winter will look like. Spoke with Blue Mountain and got it in writing that we could cancel 72 hours before event for 100% refund. Need to book things now.

Karin: the optics of booking a hotel now might be bad optics.

Mario: Formal that's coming up in March. Queen's announced mandatory online in Winter. Not sure how it will look if we have this retreat and limited ability for Clubs to hold in person events. Looks hypocritical.

Alex: would need to reverse the policy for sure.

Karin: part of me thinks Blue Mountain won't be very booked, if we pushed it back there will probably be some time. Can wait. Should not advertise this now. Can do some general/broad "this is what it could look like" but no specifics.

Alex: my thoughts too.

Karin: Admin doesn't think we are going back in Winter. Have to be aware of what's going on. We're in September so don't need to jump to a conclusion yet but can make a tough call later.

Sydney: if Blue Mountain is open, we can do things, but we can wait. If we run out of hotels people can just book using Airbnb.

Alex: not getting a vaccine in the Spring. Shouldn't hold out for that. Winter is also really tight. Frankly, end of November I don't want to be dealing with this. Could be a late Spring/end of the Year Retreat. Just needed feedback now.

Sydney: happy to help if things gets too busy given OCIs. Can share the burden.

Nushrah: have you considered rebranding it to an online event?

Alex: Have thought about it. In terms of Thursday night turnout, it hasn't been great. Don't know how effective the online aspect would be. In February could do a Frost Week online. Need to determine if it would be worth it.

Rachael: could we do outdoor things like Nathan Phillips Square where it's outside.

Alex: thought about this for Frost Week. Just don't know what the next year will look like. Frost Week would probably be good, but we would still need to reverse the in-person events policy.

Reilly: the policy we gave clubs was only for Fall too. Will have to rethink anyway.

Alex: can work on what I was thinking for Frost Week and not steal anything from O-Week. Can draw up some plans.

Mario: only issue is it's right after the holidays and people seeing family could mean that the chance of spreading COVID-19 could increase.

Alex: that's why I was thinking February. Like the last two weeks. Clock is ticking here if we want to do things.

Karin: should check in about this and see what to do. Plan the contingencies in broad strokes now.

Vice-President External Items

7. Club Ratification

Reilly: a proposed list. Couple of clubs we should discuss. 58 is the final number. Access to Osgoode, Middle Eastern Law Students Association, Peer Network, CLAHIR going defunct

Real Estate and IRAP want to be ratified now. Former Blockchain is Emerging Technologies.

4 new Clubs: Bankruptcy, Venture Capital, Jogsprudence, Securities. See the need for Venture and jogging. Bankruptcy and Securities are hard to justify. Both clubs think OBLs doesn't go deep enough into these areas. Spoke with OBLs and they saw the need for Venture and Bankruptcy. Unsure around Securities. Securities thinks they are too generalist.

The Constitution says we can't have two clubs with the same purpose, but they have over 150 signatures. As L&L we are here to facilitate student wishes. Opening for discussion.

Rachael: have thoughts about all. Venture Club – we already have a Clinic. What can the Club do that the Clinic can't? What is their logic?

Reilly: more of an interest area, not everyone gets into the Clinic.

Rachael: what are the new business clubs doing? Usually they just do a firm tour and a panel. Cannibalization happens.

Reilly: brought this up. Securities doesn't want to do firm tours, want to have speakers like the Dean and the OSC. More informational events.

Alex: did Securities exist last year?

Nushrah: Competition.

Rachael: having trouble seeing the value for students. Anyone can talk to the Dean. If you're not doing firm tours, having trouble seeing the point. There is information on websites. Goes for Bankruptcy and Venture Capital. Look like resume padding.

Akshay: the way I see it is that OBLs is so broad and would be useful to have everyone collapse there. Speaking from experience, Securities does operate differently in the things that deal with. OBLs sounds like they should cover everything then if we're using the logic that they're business

Reilly: worried about slippery slope but seems like we've already opened Pandora's Box here because we have clubs for Tax as an example.

Akshay: now that we have allowed it, drawing a line here looks like you're against the club specifically.

Jessica: think it's useful for the niche clubs to exist. Having niche clubs that seem like they're too broad is actually helpful for 1Ls to look and see what it's about. Would I join? No, but can also look at the events.

Sydney: wondering if Bankruptcy Club will look at the Moot. Could probably create a Moot team. Worried about diluting the quality of events. OBLs/Competition/Bankruptcy – are we just watering down the events? Are they gonna team up? If so, what's the point. Just looks like we might be fatiguing speakers and making events look basically the same.

Christina: there's no limit to club numbers? A lot of people have shown interest in OBLs. If we have all of these events can be overwhelming. I question the purpose.

Alex: First part – bad move to not ratify 150 signatory club. PR/branding bad look. Shelve the discussion there. In general, I agree with the oversaturation of clubs, but also if there is interest and the area of law is different then there's no reason why we shouldn't allow them to do it. We have a Tax Law Club, Charity Law. There is a lot repetition in the law. Should be a discussion of maybe creating divisions of OBLs. That seems like a better structure going forward.

Reilly: that is the biggest thing. These clubs got big sign-ups. Not here to block what students can do. May have to control how clubs operate with each other.

Rachael: I don't think we should be thinking about the number of students this year. Did ratification online and so this is not the best measure. Hear the point about interest, but people probably just signed up as friends and not interest. In a normal year, we would have two time slots Monday/Wednesday at 12:30PM. Only 26 slots per term. We'll have people going over each other slots and hurt their own prospects. They will need to coordinate with each other.

Mario: agree with Alex. Should have the business clubs under OBLs and then have students select which they are interested in. You would have to close down these clubs though.

Reilly: could facilitate a general OBLs alliance. Can look into the future. Could look at that as a project.

Karin: usually these clubs don't plan a lot. Probably wouldn't get much push back from panelists because everything is online this year, just throwing it out there. I propose a meeting sooner rather than later if we don't think we're not going to come to a consensus. Need another meeting?

Reilly: want to put a vote forward now.

Karin: will push the last item today.

Reilly: guinea pig year and budgets aren't a concern this year. Could ratify and see how things go.

Karin: next year might want to have these conversations. Bringing joy this year.

Reilly: these clubs are also very organized and gung-ho.

Karin: also, if it's any consolidation, Reilly is fantastic this year and she is on top of it.

Rachael: worried about precedence setting. Need to be clear if we're treating this as a trial year and if they're worth ratifying next year. If we aren't specific will just be rubber stamped next year. Not against ratification necessarily, but future years may see strains on budgets and speakers. If Reilly thinks a Business Council can work, then great. Don't think my concerns have been cleared.

Karin: we'll call the vote now.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society ratifies the following Clubs for 2020 - 2021:

Asian Law Students Association (ALSA)

Black Law Students Association

CARL Osgoode

CIAO – Canadian Italian Association of Osgoode

Disability Collective of Osgoode

Entertainment and Sports Law Association

Fair Change Community Services

First Generation Network (Osgoode Hall Chapter)

Intellectual Property Society of Osgoode

International Legal Partnership

International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP) at Osgoode

JD/MBA Students' Association

Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA)

Jogisprudence

Korean Law Students Association

Legal Entrepreneurs Organization

Muslim Law Students' Association

Osgoode Advocacy Society

Osgoode Art Law Society

Osgoode Bankruptcy and Insolvency Club

Osgoode Business Law Society

Osgoode Charity Law Association

Osgoode Christian Legal Fellowship

Osgoode Constitutional Law Society

Osgoode Earth Law Club

Osgoode Emerging Technology Association

Osgoode Environmental Law Society

Osgoode Fashion Law Society

Osgoode Feminist Collective

Osgoode Hall Animal Justice

Osgoode Hall Athletics Association

Osgoode Hall Criminal Law Society

Osgoode Hall Family Law Association

Osgoode Hall Law Union

Osgoode Health Law Association

Osgoode Indigenous Students' Association

Osgoode Labour and Employment Law Society (OLELS)

Osgoode Latin American Students

Osgoode Law Games Association

Osgoode Legal Philosophy Club

Osgoode Mature Students Association

Osgoode Mental Health Law Society

Osgoode Mooting Society

Osgoode Peer Support Centre

Osgoode Photography Club (OPC)

Osgoode Privacy Law Society (OPLS)

Osgoode Runnymede Society

Osgoode Securities Law Association (OSLA)

Osgoode Society for Corporate Governance

Osgoode Tamil Law Students' Association

Osgoode Tax Law Association

Osgoode Venture Capital Law Society (OVCLS)

Osgoode Women's Network

Real Estate and Infrastructure Student Association

South Asian Law Students' Association (SALSA)

The Competition Law Society – Osgoode (TCLS)

The Osgoode Hall Chess Club

The OUTLaws

AND

THAT the Vice-President External forms an alliance group of business clubs in order to help them coordinate their resources and avoid oversaturating their target students.

(Everitt-Cunningham/Landry) CARRIED

New Business

8. Community Building Event Brainstorm – Karin – TABLED TO NEXT MEETING

Motion: THAT the meeting be Adjourned.

(Crocker/Glassman) CARRIED

Adjournment (2:29 PM)

Consent Agenda

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 9 September 2020, were deemed approved.

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Next Meeting

Wednesday, 7 October 2020, 12:30PM EST