



Minutes

26 July 2020

6:00 – 8:00 PM EST

Zoom

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

Regrets: Akshay Aurora

Call to Order (6:02PM)

Approval of the Minutes

Motion: *THAT the Legal and Literary Society Minutes of 28 June 2020 be approved as amended.*

(Crocker/Kazakevich) CARRIED

President's Remarks & Items

Icebreakers

The team played an online mini game.

2. Updates Roundtable

Rachael: Sections are now assigned for 1Ls. FB groups. Feel free to join your previous sections in case they have questions. Contest. Hosted Working Group for Student Caucus for Online Education. Will speak with admin in future to alleviate concerns, such as lack of structure and changing to in-person in the middle of the semester. Working to move the summary database because it is difficult to administer. Trying to get SharePoint for it. Please submit summaries and get friends to do it. 3Ls submitted a lot. Will be helpful for 1Ls if there are summaries. Will be posting Exec on Instagram, but waiting on some Execs.

Reilly: promoting clubs on FB and Instagram to give awareness. Post sometime this week for ratification for clubs. Working on clubs magazine for 1Ls.

Sydney: communicating with sponsors and depositing O-Week cheques. Some money coming in E-Transfers should be good now with the BMO account. Need to look at budgets for next year – will be the priority now.

Aiish: put out Google Doc for suggestions for 3Ls. Will connect with CDO.

Nushrah: Akshay and Karin have group with the Dean to talk about tuition. Caucus will ask for feedback on tuition reduction. Goal is to give Karin and Akshay information and will focus on equity groups.

Sydney: getting videos from equity seeking clubs as well.

Alex: working with Nushrah. Close to finishing Calendar.

Mario: everything confirmed for Agenda, including advertisements. Reached out regarding clothing. May put a Google Doc out with sample designs and provide answers to whoever is in charge of Osgoode clothing at Osgoode.

Jordan: Constitutional Review Committee is through the articles and now moving on to By-laws. Karin figured out IT issues so Jordan can send emails.

Karin: BoG is making decision about tuition. Point is to make a report and recommend things. Will be giving to BoG and hopefully will carry a lot of weight. In terms of the fund, it was surprising that it appeared that 1Ls could not apply for COVID relief. Emailed for clarification. If you get questions, answer with the regular bursary process for now until we hear more. Decision was made without consulting Karin/Akshay.

Aiish: Could be making up for March.

Sydney: lots of students lost summer employment, might be the logic for the exclusion. Not defending it but seems like what they thought.

Karin: insurance renewal, but JCR won't be open in the Fall. We'll see about Winter. Also going to insure cash/other assets. In terms of Osgoode access, it's on lockdown. Unsure about the status of the lockers. Officially no one can go in and likely can't go in lockers for now.

Karin: Some courses will be prioritize in-person. There were concerns from students. Gus van Harten was on vacation and will give an answer next week about these courses. Admin knows it's a concern.

Karin: Email went out. General overview = everyone is automatically in. Opt-out until October and will get money back but need another insurance. Simple process. If there are any questions, tell them to email YUGSA or direct them to the email Jordan sent out. One issue = rep would come to school and let students to know about how the process works. Can do an online session.

Rachael: should do the session in the Fall because we will get questions.

Sydney: there is time during O-Week, but it should be open to all students. The Wednesday after O-Week. September 9th would be a good time so that the info session is post-O-Week and open to all.

Karin: will get back to them.

Vice-President External Items

3. Clubs Ratification Information

Sydney McIvor left the meeting at 6:44PM EST.

Reilly: want ratification for clubs to happen earlier.

Rachael: usually in September because VPX hosts a two-hour session about everything they need to know such as tabling and getting money. Incentive is that coming to the meeting is a step for ratification.

Reilly: must have the session online anyway and can get this done earlier. Some individuals are also very aggressive about getting ratified. Will send an email about dates and release materials August 1st. Flexible as to when they're due. If club needs an extension, they can email. Will make a large 'How-To' clubs meeting and have Sydney facilitate as well. Working on getting the materials together and sending out a Budget Memo to clubs and what to say about this upcoming year. Any thoughts that we should say?

Karin: should probably think of some prompts for people. Also, yes, ratification should start early. A little issue that 1Ls wanting to start clubs might not be able to. Could have a second phase or have a deadline and keep it flexible.

Reilly: the idea of 'rolling deadline' would be helpful. Overview of the process = all clubs need to be ratified. Need to send membership list, Constitution, budget. Check for duplicates, other criteria. Basically, do we need this club, and does it provide value? Usually will ratify. Not automatic that the club gets the money they ask for. Rules around spending. Syd/Karin/Reilly will meet to look over the clubs.

Rachael: then L&L votes on it.

Karin: there are years where people are more gun-ho for clubs. Need to be mindful of overlap and L&L are the gatekeepers. One issue to think about: what happens if a club does not get ratified. No policy. Can the club start operating illegally? Or is it enough that they can't book a table/get funds? Or do we say they can't operate?

Rachael: how Ashley handled it = would bring similar clubs together. "You need to combine the mandate or convince me that the two clubs should be separate." Step we could put in. Should have a written policy on rejecting a club. Not having tables/website/budget/posting in year groups could work for sanctions.

Alex: Like the idea of a written reason and can have a rolling/Fall/Winter ratification deadline. Not worth enforcing sanctions that aren't ratified. Too hard to police. Not having a budget or having access to a table is enough.

Reilly: comfortable with those consequences for clubs that aren't ratified.

Karin: a bridge we can cross when we get there. Also, defunct clubs are fair game too for people to try and ratify. Can keep sending to Reilly for any questions. Website is also a great resource.

Mario: do we have an issue where one year a club gets ratified and then doesn't? Should there be a different process for clubs ratification? Need to provide a 3-year plan perhaps when clubs apply to be ratified?

Reilly: depends on the club. We ask for the next Exec. Some clubs have not replied and maybe there are not interested.

Rachael: not really an issue. If no one wants to be in the club, then it goes defunct. Not their responsibility to have people continue. It is on you to make a good club but if no one is interested then we shouldn't be holding on to them. Can put into defunct section.

Mario: it is their responsibility to continue, however. Should be passed on. If it's just for one year, then it wastes time and resources.

Rachael: to get ratified a club does not a Constitution and 10 signatures. There are enough barriers to stop people from starting up for just one year really. Would be more work on VPX to police just making a club for resume.

Karin: student life mosaic will change. If one-year people can be interested in Aerospace, then great, but if not, then we shouldn't hold on to it and it should wait for another year. We do seek to have the clubs continue, but not the responsibility of L&L to keep them going if they have no value.

Reilly: we do a bit of a check with ratification; they have to show they have a plan. An aspect is captured.

Rachael: it has been the case where someone does just have the club on the resume and L&L can change over the Exec to someone else if there are complaints.

4. Clubs Fair

Reilly: will be on September 2nd. Can do a pre-recorded video of each club explaining themselves. No interaction which sucks. One big Zoom with all the clubs works. Other option could be to have multiple Zooms going on. Going to be hard.

Aiish: the third option could work and could have a timetable. Links available for students. Breakout rooms might be the answer.

Rachael: helpful and could connect with a smaller group of people. Multiple Zooms could be good and then having a breakout room and could post people in different rooms.

Karin: one thing we could do – every club could have own unique link and people could pop-in. Within two hours and have club and their link. Could make a big doc and post the link.

Aiish: if you want a presentation to just have an infographic on the main page/intro and presentation. Clubs can figure it out themselves.

Rachael: tried to create doc for clubs. How many hours? Do you have 1L reps? Events? That way 1Ls are informed about what the club does and is a nice of introducing clubs before going to an event.

Karin: people will put in the effort. Need O-Week team to promote it.

Reilly: would also like to have a consolidated sign up sheet. Can allow people to export their lists so students can fill it out online.

Karin: feel free to reach out to L&L Exec for help. Alex/Aiish concur.

Secretary Items

5. Privacy Policy

Jordan: Rachael, Karin, and I drafted a new Privacy Policy for L&L. Current one for our website just speaks about cookies and a decision was made for it to be more comprehensive. Now takes into consideration website and listserv usage. Unsure whether to vote on it here as many people have not read the Policy in advance.

Rachael: genesis of changing this is because people have said they want to opt-out of the listserv and have cited CASL as reasoning for opting out. Students CANNOT opt out because we do have essential information which goes out (such as the health plan). Policy makes these things explicit. Don't have emails, just have the class list and we send to it. Suggest holding the vote as an e-motion.

Jordan: agrees and will make an e-motion in the coming days to vote on the new Policy. After a vote confirming the Policy it can replace the existing one on the website.

6. York Grading Scale Consultation Update

Jordan: Earlier in July I represented L&L and Osgoode at a Student Roundtable to advise on the new York grading scheme. Essentially, York is adopting minus grades and moving to a 4.0 scale. Osgoode is an exception to the scheme. While we are moving to a 4.0 scale, we are not adding minus grades so the current letter grades will remain the same. When asked about why this was the case, the York admin only offered two explanations: 1) Osgoode admin was asked if they wanted to move to the new scheme and simply said no, or 2) there was a need to keep Osgoode consistent with other law schools in Ontario so no minus grades were added. Explanation #2 isn't accurate. A cursory glance at other law schools in Ontario show a variety of grading scheme (UofT, Western, and Queen's all grade differently - Western even has minus grades). So, the more likely explanation was that this decision was taken unilaterally by Osgoode admin. Problematic. Reached out to FTR (Interim Chair of Faculty Council's APPC) and even he did not know originally what Osgoode's stance was on this meaning faculty likely haven't been counted here either - likely a unilateral admin move then. The issue is here in case of any concerns we may have about the process or if we wanted to see minus grades at Osgoode. If no worries, then this is just information.

Karin: thank you for the update, there's no questions so we can move to Equity.

Equity Officer Items

7. Potential General Equity Meeting

Nushrah: want to host a general equity meeting. Sent an email 6 weeks ago and asking what they are doing in terms of online events. Clubs aren't sure and want to know how to solicit 1Ls to join. Asked Alex to be part of a general meeting and we can share social events that L&L is running. Not sure if online planning should be extended to clubs.

Karin: will discuss after this meeting.

Nushrah: some groups have not responded but will reach out on FB.

Reilly: happy to be part of the meeting.

Nushrah: there has been an issue with captioning or if this is a matter for Caucus.

Alex: have a lead on a captioning AI program which we could try.

Rachael: can have a Zoom call also and see what works best. Also want to flag that an incoming student is blind. Zoom chat function is accessible. Need clubs to know that if they're posting an image of text, they need an alternative.

Alex: can include in the club meeting that we are planning on having.

New Business

8. Guide to Online Events – Karin/Reilly

Karin: there is a need for some guidance from us. In a good position to help clubs. Worth looking at so that clubs know how to submit forms, run events. Is this something you want to take on Reilly?

Reilly: for initial stages, we can have a group doc and collaborate. The more the merrier. Will need something on the website as well. All hands-on deck. Google Docs.

Karin: also, helpful to look at other schools.

Rachael: UofT is in the same boat. Thinking about it but haven't put anything in there. Could collaborate with them as well.

Karin: having a sense of what panels, events, resources, media clubs can use would be helpful. Also, what clubs can spend money on.

Alex: equity groups piggy backing on L&L events – we can make the offer and if there are slots before/after an event leftover, then look to larger clubs. IE: BLSA can host a trivia night and then co-host a social night after their trivia.

Nushrah: Book club type event and equity groups can suggest books. Can also run a diversity week online.

Rachael: would be worth looking at things that are pay only and L&L can buy the pass and have others host. Might be a good use of our money.

Reilly: Will send out Google Doc.

Karin: would be nice to get this out ASAP.

Reilly: Can send out with ratification docs. Can send it out on August 8th.

Karin: the 9th/10th would be a reasonable timeline.

Reilly: gifts for speakers. Probably will not be able to give them L&L things. May need to be more flexible with gifts for speakers and such.

Karin: should be open to change.

Rachael: part of it is the value, speakers get mugs or something else that costs \$2.00. If we are giving money directly to someone to come in that's not benefitting the students. Are funds are meant to help students. Paying speakers is ethically problematic because we will get people anyhow.

Karin: other schools do provide honorariums. Thinking more along something like a Starbucks gift card.

Alex: if we have people coming in, they usually get something smaller. We can't give the gift four months later – should do it then. I agree with Rachael, but we might need to be flexible just this semester.

Reilly: have to make it clear that this is a one semester exemption.

Mario: I agree, doesn't have to be something expensive. Small token is fine. Could also mail things.

Karin: we don't have access to the mugs at all. This should be an online gift. Shouldn't bother with shipping as well for physical things, but if it's online then it'll be money.

Rachael: almost want something Osgoode related. Can also explore giving other gifts. \$10 or less no matter what.

Mario: what about Iacobucci?

Rachael: our policy is that clubs get a certain number of gifts and above that then the cost comes from the club. Dean Condon would have paid for the difference for the Justice.

Reilly: have a cap. Only so many that can be given out.

Rachael: clubs can request more gifts.

Reilly: same way they request a mug.

Karin: should we give a \$5 gift card?

Mario: \$10 is the best idea, but how does it work to request?

Karin: can have clubs request in advance but if we said no (say club has 6 speakers) how can they reward some speakers and not others?

Rachael: don't have to rock the boat. Have 5 for free. VPX will get requests and then approve overages which would come from club budget.

Karin: the small piece here is the budget. Needs Sydney stamp of approval because the gift card would be more than a mug. Can go into online club event.

9. New Supports & Services Breakdown – Karin

Karin: think of new supports that could work for students. Bring to the group. Closer to September we'll talk about office hours and have a schedule for Caucus/L&L meetings. When ratification starts may have another meeting before O-Week starts. Point is to help students and make their experience the best it can be.

Rachael: 1L formal – people asking for refunds. Need to inform people about what is going on because students need to know and want to know what is happening with their money.

Alex: had a meeting with Palais Royale – new contract. Props to Mario. Looking for event March 25th, 2021. Information about cancellation.

Mario: Alex and Reilly brought up to speed. If York cancels external events, then we get everything back except deposit. There was a force majeure, but venue has been very accommodating. Depends on what happens with COVID and York. If people are not comfortable going in March need to think about what to do.

Karin: is the whole thing paid for?

Alex: need to discuss. Venue didn't receive final cheque. 8K.

Rachael: made decision not to refund because too much money was spent. At the time planned for September event. Worthwhile to tell people what is happening. Tricky to offer refunds and we can't eat the money we've spent, but it is tricky to hold on to student money for a year.

Reilly: can change out numbers in the contract so we could give refunds to some people. If event doesn't happen then we have an issue.

Alex: generous force majeure in the contract. If York prohibits events, then we get all the money and deposit except processing fee. If second wave, then get all money back. If government shuts things down, get refund.

Karin: when do we say refunds are available? Can say offer them in March and buy tickets for new guests but will happen in the Winter. Will people be okay with that?

Mario: refunds now would likely mean we go below the minimum. Messaging should not mention refunds but will provide other updates in the Winter.

Karin: put out the messaging, all three of you should collaborate and have a shared message.

Rachael: connect with Phoebe and Jacob as well in case other people direct questions to them.

Alex: how many people have asked questions? Only had one in April.

Rachael: Three people for me.

Karin: not so much the refund piece, more about updating people. Keep it light.

Rachael: could be “we’re moving to March 25th. Opening sales on March 1st/Winter Semester and if you want a refund or want to buy more tickets you can do so then.”

Motion: THAT the meeting be Adjourned.

(Kazakevich/Crocker) CARRIED

Adjournment (8:11 PM)

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Next Meeting

TBD