



L&L Meeting Minutes – October 27, 2021

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Minutes

27 October 2021

12:30 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, Kelly Bilenkis, Hillary Song, Imani Theodore, Armon Ghaeinizadeh

Call to Order (12:43 pm)

Land acknowledgement read by A. Mulligan

President's Items:

Updates Roundtable

Nush: No updates really. Mental Health and Wellness week is coming up. Val has volunteered to help but we will make a small team to delegate tasks. If anyone wants to be on the team message Val and Nush.

Mario: No updates.

Christina: No updates.

Danielle: Dean's Gala was very successful! We received lots of good feedback, the later ones were busier. Overall, they were a success.

Courtney: I am waiting to hear back about pub nights. I am hopeful they can take place. I am also talking to people about ski trip and hopefully the ball gets rolling soon.

Armon: Lots of professors in 1L have been going way over time, I have received lots of complaints. I wanted to pass this on to the caucus team. The events I want to plan will happen next semester.

Kelly: I think Caucus has been dealing with this. We have a 1L residence group chat. Lots of people have reported incidents of men following women into rooms and buildings. One person had a guy following her and she had to run away, I was also followed. I want to do something to address this because it is very problematic. I have written an email for the Dean but wanted to show you guys first to get your opinion.

Armon: Also, there was a bullet found outside a doorstep.

Kelly: I think that was just one person.

Jordan: You could go to Passy Fellows and maybe talk to Mya.

Alex: I reached out to Mya. I thought her response wasn't that great. She gave us contacts that we can reach out to, so we should follow up and say we need more active involvement from York. Maybe we should forward the email to Dean Condon. I know all the 1L reps are on the thread so think about it.

Nush: Are people aware that York has a security service that will walk you places on campus at night? In the meantime, we should make those resources available to people

Kelly: It's not even really just at night, it just seems like it's personal. It could be anyone.

Nush: I think anyone on campus can use the resource.

Alex: Christina will send an email to all 3 listservs saying something about how we are aware of campus safety concerns, and will send you resources to send out. This will be what we do in the interim.

Jordan: Nothing too much here, it's a bit of a slower period. I have been answering club questions but they are usually budget questions. Room booking is now a club's initiative, not a google form. I sent out a list of times.

Jess: I will save my updates for later.

Hillary: There was someone in my section that asked if there were any professional headshot- taking opportunities. Is that something we can do?

Nush: Historically clubs have done that but because we aren't in person they haven't done them this year. Good question, let me think about how we could do that because it is probably a possibility, just have to figure out logistics for how to do it on campus.

Mario: We have lots of money to do that.

Alex: I might connect with OBLs to see if we could team up on that.

Homecoming Debrief

Alex: Homecoming was a great success. We received TUUS approval on the Tuesday before the Friday event, so that was stressful. I sent the budget to you all. The total cost was \$16, 937.00. Our total budget was \$18,000. Currently, we have just over \$1,000 left over in our budget. Christina and Danielle bought some decorations, I bought COVID PPE stuff. Also, I got the updated invoice from the caterer because some staff had to stay later. But we will still be under budget. Big lesson is that what we did was a bit risky because the event wasn't going to be approved. We had to go to York's head of COVID response committee and say that they approved an identical 1L event and had to approve this. But they really otherwise weren't going to because we can't have food or drinks at approved events. So there will be a lot of work that goes into hosting these events and we need to be mindful of that when we try to plan more. That said, it is expected that on Nov 1, there will be a new means for student clubs to book events. We will keep an eye out, but I'm skeptical. We will see what the restrictions are.

Headspace

Alex: There was advocacy regarding the Headspace app. It is a mental health and wellness app. The Dean's are going to pay for all of the cost. It will be a pilot project, help roll out the advertising. It will be only for 1st years to see how it helps student health and wellness. It is a really great opportunity to see if there is an impact. We will figure out how to roll it out and we will be rolled out with Nush, and try to sync with Mental Health and Wellness Week.

Advertising Club Events

Alex: Don't advertise any in person club events. OALS is going to MOCA and technically not allowed. This was not anyone's fault, I just wanted to raise this so that everyone knows for the future.

VP Internal

L&L Mentorships

Jess: I want to talk about setting up internal mentorships. We are starting this a bit later this year because a lot of people were gone last meeting. This is not a very formal mentorship, it is just 1Ls paired with 2 upper year mentors. The mentorship pairings are as follows:

Kelly: Danielle and Nush

Hillary: Jess and Mario

Imani: Christina and Jordan

Armon: Courtney and Val

Office Hours

Jess: Office hours were relevant when we had an office, but I am not sure if they are relevant now. Last year we had them online but no one would come. I am not sure what your opinions are, was it actually useful last year? That's why I haven't discussed this yet, but I know Caucus is doing it and I want your opinion. We do have alternative options. 1) just do what we did last year. 2) Have 1 or 2 designated hours of the week and rotate whoever is responsible to be there in those hours. This also probably won't be used. 3) Bookable office hours instead of set times. That way there is no time commitment unless it is actually needed. 4) No office hours.

Imani Theodore joined at 1:13.

Alex: Yeah, once we're back in person we will have real office hours.

Nush: I vote no office hours.

Courtney: I think if people actually need to talk to us they could just email us.

Alex: Maybe we blend option 3 and 4 and make a sign up form.

Jordan: Do we know if the Caucus hours are being used?

Alex: I am not sure. But I vaguely remember that last Caucus meeting someone talked about how there was a concern raised in their office hours and the hours were used sparingly. So maybe use a sign up this semester. I don't think we're allowed to do in person office hours.

Armon: I think Student Caucus is doing in-person.

Alex: I think we are not supposed to be in this building unless you book a room. I'm not going to make people come here to have office hours for an hour. But you can plan to meet someone in person and use the L&L office or find elsewhere.

Armon: Could we put our email addresses on the form? Because who's responsibility would it be to go through the form responses and let us know that someone wants to meet with us?

Jess: Yeah it is better to just have people contact whoever they want to speak to directly. But definitely want to send out some communication about office hours.

Kelly: I texted a few of the Student Caucus reps to see if the office hours were used and they had one person show up.

Imani: Yeah, I don't think anyone shows up

Alex: Yeah that tends to be the case. In first year, the office hours were busy because people wanted their money and often came to see me for refunds.

Events calendar on website

Jess: We haven't been using this so far because last year it wasn't really a thing and no one checked the calendar. It's a lot of work and not sure if the outreach is actually effective. But someone reached out to ask to populate the calendar. I'm trying to get people's thoughts. Is there a better way to use the calendar?

Imani: I don't even think my section knows there's an L&L website so maybe if we advertised it more then people would use it.

Hillary: People in my section were asking me to make a calendar to know when each event was happening, so I don't think people know about it. I echo what Imani said. I tried something with Canva and made a calendar but it wasn't really used widely.

Kelly: The orientation week calendar was used all the time. I think the calendar would be useful. I think a lot of people don't know what's happening. If you miss the post on the Facebook group, you can't see it and you won't know it's happening. So I think a calendar would be good.

Jess: I would love to have a calendar where clubs populate it themselves. But I'm not sure what a good system for that would be because I don't necessarily want it to be accessed by everyone.

Alex: Could we let clubs edit by email? And use only the club email addresses.

Christina: Can we use this to get rid of newsletter?

Armon: The newsletter is actually very helpful.

Alex: We don't need a solution right now. Christina and Jess can talk offline. Newsletter has always been a thing and calendar is new but we can take time to reconsider. Talk to 1Ls about what's working and not working. I would like to deal with it this year/semester and start new ways of doing things more effectively.

Jess: I really like the idea of merging newsletter and calendar.

Alex: The newsletters can get very long. Maybe it would be more effective if we make it short and just have a calendar.

Wendy Babcock

Jess: I have had meetings with OUTLaws because normally L&L does help with the drag show. They will probably need more help this year because they were a little delayed with planning. Also, I am not sure if it will be in person or online. I have volunteered my assistance to do as much as they need. I said L&L will be willing to help, so I just wanted to let everyone know. They wanted to know how possible it will be to have it in person if it is in late February or early March, but I said I didn't really know but that I would ask.

Alex: for the 1Ls, this is the drag show that OUTLaws puts on every year. The other big event is Mock Trial. I am happy to set up a meeting with Professor Drake to get an answer to that question. I think Professor Drake also won't know right now. Seems like Osgoode is getting an exemption regarding doing in person activities in January whereas the rest of York is not. I can definitely set up a meeting because Wendy Babcock and Mock Trial will need an answer regarding likeliness of in-person events, but I will seek out an answer.

Other Business

Mario: I wanted to have it on the record that I want to reach out to Karen Mann to ask about an honorarium. Alex, can you try reaching out because she isn't responding to me.

Alex: Yes, I will reach out.

Mario: Alex, do you know if we have to get a number for the honorariums that are paid out of a club bank account?

Alex: I think we should reach out and ask. If the clubs phrase it as a speaker fee, they can probably get around CRA requirements. I think they phrased it as an honorarium instead.

New Business

Alex: Osgoode Environmental Law Society reached out for several things. When we used to be in person, there was a lug a mug program where if you brought a mug, you could collect stamps and then get free coffee. They asked if we could continue this. They also reached out about the sustainability of o-week packages about how to make it more sustainable and not use as much plastic. I said it would be great and that we would try and put a team together. Message me if you are interested and we can put together a team and discuss what to give out in a way to make it sustainable.

Jess; I am on the environmental and sustainability committee. I feel like I should be a part of it.

Alex: I think this would be an easy fit. Kelly is on the team. Anything else?

Jordan: I wanted to confirm something from last meeting. To confirm, Osgoode Hall Law Union was awarded how much?

Alex: \$400

Mario: Didn't we agree on 4\$50? They're budget was \$400 and we originally approved \$250.

Alex: The motion last week was that we increase OHLU by \$150.

Mario: I can change the budget. You can tell me which event you want me to get rid of \$50 for.

Jordan: If we want to do \$450, we can do a quick motion and just allocate the money right now. I'm good allocating another \$50.

Mario: We're already over by \$1000.

Jordan: I didn't know that.

Alex: We also haven't discussed the OUTLaws budget yet.

Mario: We can have a meeting just with Nush, Alex, me and Jordan.

Alex: We should review the OUTLaws event and ensure their funding requests are reimbursable anyway and we can bring it to everyone else next meeting.

Jordan: We can also make it an e-motion.

Imani: When you go talk to Professor Drake, can you ask about 1L reps being able to host in person events.

Alex: I will ask.

Kelly: The Student Caucus rep for sec A asked if we could host an in-person study thing.

Alex: I have asked about this so many times since May. I will ask about if we include Deans Fellows or something to come and it is more academic, if that would be allowed.

Motion: *That the Legal and Literary Society give the Osgoode Hall Law Union an additional \$50.*

(Crocker/Lofranco) CARRIED.

Motion: *THAT the meeting be adjourned.*

(Tassopoulos/Landry) CARRIED.

Adjourned (2:04 pm)

Consent Agenda

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 27 October 2021, were deemed approved.