



Minutes

31 May 2020

12:30 – 2:30 PM EST

Zoom

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

Call to Order (12:36PM)

President's Remarks & Items

Karin: L&L response to events going on in the United States/Canada. Encourage to educate yourself and support communities who need assistance. Reach out to me about any ideas on how to support or if there is any feedback.

Aiish: if we see something offensive what should we be doing?

Rachael: If an Osgoode affiliated group then let us know, if personal then simply comment based on your own views not on behalf of L&L.

Karin: doesn't seem to be an issue, but just wanted to flag.

Sydney: is there anything BLSA needs? Funding, etc?

Nushrah: more about being an ally now. Nothing much to be done but educating yourself and others is helpful. Reach out to black friends at Osgoode.

Updates Roundtable

Karin: mentioned in Slack. Go around and talk about what we've been doing. A positive kudos is good. Can set a goal in case of nothing positive. Have been at Faculty Council and a good motion was passed. Finalized the audit and did CEO interviews. Worked on Constitutional Review Committee. Award emails sent out. Many 1Ls have reached out and want to get involved.

Sydney: audit done. Preparing for next audit. Little wins = that cheques have been mailed out. Signing authorities being dealt with.

Rachael: awards being made. In process of mailing. Website updates and making more use of it. Emily Kidd-White very excited about her award.

Akshay: Faculty Council meeting and received good feedback from faculty on speech.

Mario: Only 1 submission for Agendas. Karin and Rachael have been helpful.

Reilly: reaching out to clubs. Still getting contacts. Turnovers on Execs. Getting materials together. Getting Zoom was a win.

Alex: Accessibility Committee posting has gone well. Incoming 1Ls have been DM'ing on Twitter. LLM/PhD students are also interested. Speaking with Wellness and doing Yoga on Mondays.

Mario: can you also reach out to David Lepofsky or other Osgoode faculty/stakeholders?

Alex: Bylaws are restricted to L&L members (all JD students) but interested in getting as many voices as possible.

Nushrah: sent emails to Equity seeking groups and asking for feedback on what they would like to see. BLSA response = want Osgoode to employ a racialized counsellor. Good to speak to her. Trying to advocate for that this year. SLSA also transitioning and gave me a brief.

Aiish: Getting through last year's Grad photos. Speaking to people about what this year will look like. Would like to post in the 2021 group and ask what we would like to see for Fall in their 3L year. Agenda transition meeting also done.

Jordan: Constitutional Review Committee got off the ground. Not too much to add. Newsletter format and new Minutes format.

Administrative Matters

EMAILS & PROXIES

Karin: check emails regularly so we can respond to students. Also, proxies = can designate someone on L&L to vote in your stead if you cannot attend a meeting. Email the President about any arrangements. Members should not be represented more than two consecutive meetings.

Rachael: Quorum also demands one person from each year needs to be here so don't make it a habit.

Motion: THAT the meeting move In-Camera.

(Kazakevich/Crocker) CARRIED

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

(Kazakevich/Crocker) CARRIED

Health Plan

Karin: health plan runs September 1 – August 31. Should it be extended by 3 months because of lockdown. They had extended by a month by no one was told. Services were overutilized so next year price is going up by 15% and will increase by another 15% the next year. YUGSA also did not let us know about what was going on. Also looks bad for L&L because we just moved plans.

Rachael: do we have a Rep on YUGSA? Or a Rep on a Council? We should have some contact with them.

Karin: according to York we are not grad students, so it doesn't appear that we have any contact. I only knew because I reached out.

Rachael: L&L Exec can unilaterally change health plans, but we can only move to the undergrad plan and it doesn't provide much for benefits.

Aiish: only 3Ls will know about the referendum anyhow.

Karin: can advocate for L&L to have some voice and we can flag the communication issue. Messaging of 15% has to come from us as well as 1-month extension.

Aiish: reach out to YUGSA and if not being helpful we can be honest with students and be transparent about what happened.

Akshay: YUGSA can say L&L was negligent and should have been aware. Is there any position we can take for advocacy? Also don't have to accept the argument that just because this approved pre-pandemic means we need to accept it.

Karin: can appeal to YUGSA Council to highlight how upsetting this is.

Rachael/Aiish: like the idea of going to YUGSA and stating that it is not acceptable to increase health plan without consultation. L&L needs to be informed. Osgoode also makes up 900 students on the plan.

Sydney: we need to have a voice in these matters. Unilateral decisions are unacceptable.

Rachael: we can say to YUGSA we don't need a seat on the normal Council, but we need a voice or a Rep when health care is being discussed. YUGSA invited us on to the plan for the hopes of lower rates, but this has clearly not happened.

Karin: will make a formal response to this. Even if we can't change this, at least next time we can advocate and be aware of health care increases. Also, how will we speak to students?

Rachael: confirm the extension is correct.

Karin: was a Press Release (on extension). Will reach out to YUGSA.

CDO/Recruitment

Karin: LSSO held webinar last week. New timelines. CDO have reached out to see if there is anything they can do or if we have any ideas as to supports for students. Reach out to Leanne if you have any ideas.

Vice-President Internal Items

Website Update

Rachael: Working with Nushrah and made a new page for Equity at Osgoode. Introduction to equity at Osgoode and providing a form for contacting the Equity Officer. Makes people more aware. If there is any feedback you have please reach out. Moreover, if you think the site doesn't discuss your role enough or have enough resources for your role, then we can make a page. Want to make use of the site.

Alex: some webforms for things would be helpful closer to September.

Rachael: thank you all for your bios and pictures BTW.

Course Selection Advice

Rachael: incoming 1Ls have reached out about this. The session in March/April is not helpful. Better to hear from upper years. York has a course builder which is helpful. Do we think it's worthwhile?

Akshay: did something similar on Caucus last year. Nora made a spreadsheet which we got a lot of positive feedback on. Would also highlight that you should take student experiences with a grain of salt.

Rachael: wouldn't give direct feedback during the session. Would give a list of people who have taken it.

Alex: worried about trashing professors in this session. Also, would like to advocate for a better site to advertise courses. Not very streamlined.

Akshay: that's exactly what Caucus did last year. The spreadsheet compiled all of this information. Doesn't have to be just a Caucus thing. Many people can work on it.

Karin: could feature on our site as well.

Sydney: also don't know what CDO have said to students. Sounded like their advice was not helpful.

Akshay: CDO cannot advocate for students to be strategic. Trying to be neutral.

Alex: Academic Success Session was neutral/broad advice. Dufraimont spoke to selecting a wide breadth of courses but don't remember in particular that they advised to 'game' law school.

Nushrah: was more like 'don't have conflicts'. No type of strategy was discussed.

Rachael: room to advocate for Osgoode to present this information differently. Best to do in a site and provide a list of people who have taken specific courses.

Karin: Google Sheets? Would anyone have hesitation about providing feedback?

Sydney: a little uncomfortable, happy to be honest but also don't want to be a naysayer.

Akshay: like the idea of having to go to someone for advice.

Karin: similar to the clinic and intensives list we provide.

Rachael: will work on this and post to 2022 group.

Mario: RateMyProfessor is also something I use. Better to reach out to people though. People being honest about their learning style as well can be helpful and inform the advice.

Nushrah: contact info sheet a good idea.

Rachael: Final update — have been in touch with UofT student government and will update with Ryerson.

Secretary Items

Osgoode Student Senator Website

Jordan: Student Senators this year want to be more present. As one of those Senators, I would like to see a site that is part of the L&L site that way all of Osgoode's student government information is in one place and also gets people more aware of Senate. Will work on with Rachael and Jina to get a website up and running so students are aware there is a third prong to their student government.

Rachael: Happy to help.

Old Business

CU Advertising – Karin

Karin: Asked for a phone call. In that call, they mentioned some items so that we can make an informed decision. Basically, CU has had student governments leaving and coming back. There is also a process around getting the advertising and getting that ad into print.

Rachael: CU only do advertising and don't take sponsorship money. They do the follow-up work that isn't really known by students.

Sydney: sponsors this year will be difficult. O-Week has asked and received no's from many big firms.

Karin: CU was also flexible if we want some sponsors for ourselves. Honestly, could go either way for me. Checking in with the work again and making sure everyone is fine.

Reilly: could also go either way.

Rachael: after the phone-call leaning towards letting CU have the contract. Potentially next VPI won't want this on their plate.

Reilly: won't be much money you would be getting anyhow this year.

Alex: maybe this year isn't the best year to change advertising given COVID-19. Is graphic design the best use of your time for students?

Karin: we'll have lower expenses this year and won't be getting much money from ads so the cost variable is also different.

Sydney: cost-benefit analysis seems like we should be leaving the contract with CU. Might also be good if we don't reach out, so it doesn't seem like Osgoode is asking for money all the time. Would be better to reserve sponsors for other events.

Motion: THAT the motion passed 17 May 2020 which reads:

“THAT the Legal and Literary Society cancels the advertising contract with CU Advertising and mandates that the Vice-President (Internal) take over the role of finding advertising funding for the agendas, yearbooks, and the website. (Everitt-Cunningham /Glassman).”

Be rescinded and voided of any commitments so that it was never approved;

AND THAT the Legal and Literary Society instead renews the advertising contract with CU Advertising for the 2020-2021 year.

(Kazakevich/Crocker) CARRIED

New Business

Auditor Appointment – Karin

Sydney: current auditors are fine. Current person is dismissive. Would be a hassle to find new ones. Last audit cost \$8500 and was complicated. This one should be less expensive and less complicated. Should keep current auditors and get caught up.

Rachael: like staying with the auditors. Could we request to have a different contact?

Sydney: will call and request a different contact.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society reappoints Bassi & Karimjee LLP as the Auditors of the Society for the interim audit May 2019 – December 2019.

(Mclvor/Kazakevich) CARRIED

J. Crocker objected

CEO Appointment – Karin

Karin: did interviews and selected a candidate. Candidate is very familiar with L&L as she was a 1L Rep and knows the Constitution and had reached out to Melika (previous Chief Electoral Officer) about any issues that came up.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society appoints Alina Lakhani as the Chief Electoral Officer for a term beginning 1 June 2020 and ending 31 May 2021.

(Crocker/Glassman) CARRIED

Agendas – Mario

Mario: cover submission that we got was fantastic. If we're good with the cover, we can send the cover off to be printed.

Karin: just need to note we have to credit the artist. Very happy with the cover.

Rachael: will announce the winner on social media.

Karin: anything with copyright?

Rachael: will write up a licensing document.

Mario: will let winner know and will send off a document for them to sign to make it official and use the design for the agenda.

Sydney: need to talk about amount and when these come out. Ideally if we can have the agendas in the welcome package would be good (August 14). Absolutely need them August 26. Can push to August 21st if necessary but would be good to have earlier.

Aiish: they are flexible in the sense that they can push it back. The cover needs to be in by a certain point, just don't know if we have passed that deadline to have it for August 14.

Mario: will send June 1st and will see when we can expect the agendas.

Karin: need to also look at how many we need to order. 400 is typical. Might not be able to send agendas to upper years until January. Exchange students will also be getting agendas (around 30 or 35 more).

Sydney: does it need to be in multiples of 100?

Aiish: hasn't come up.

Rachael: charged by percentage? If you order less than X you get charged X, but if you order more than X you are charged X?

Sydney: would be helpful to see contract so I can see the numbers.

Mario: 400 makes sense because we don't have any agendas left over.

Aiish: but pandemic could pose issue because upper years are not around.

Sydney: 400 seems fine. Shouldn't be less.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society approve the signing of an agreement with Friesens for 400 Agendas with an ideal delivery date of 14 August 2020.

(Kazakevich/Lofranco) CARRIED

Student Government Achievement Award – Karin

Karin: some people did not get Awards that perhaps should have got them. Should we have a recognition for continued involvement in L&L and Student Caucus? Tiers for different years? Some sort of recognition or being involved. Should be from Osgoode Admin not L&L. Looking for feedback.

Akshay: what is the Gold Key then?

Karin: Nominated by students and then picked by admin.

Akshay: important for recognition and good to have the admin giving the recognition. In favour of giving recognition for students because it is a lot of work.

Alex: if you are going into student government for the recognition then you are not in it for the right reasons and you do benefit from it in interviews and such.

Sydney: Gold Key is special because they are scarce. Having more would dilute them. Being on L&L is recognition in and of itself. We have filled in a lot of the cracks with our own awards. Don't see the point in giving everyone a participation medal.

Aiish: agree with Sydney.

Jordan: agree completely.

Alex: perhaps we shouldn't be giving the L&L Awards to those who receive Gold Keys.

Aiish: agree with that point. Had this discussion this year.

Mario: what are the parameters on L&L's awards and Dean's Gold Key?

Rachael: meant to be more of an acknowledgment rather than an award.

Alex: but do we want to have people running for recognition? External validation seems like it will be problematic.

Aiish: you don't want to have people that only stay on for the acknowledgment.

Sydney: also hard for people who have run and didn't win election.

Jordan: recognition might even require criteria and could be rewarding people who were not good at their jobs or sat around and did nothing.

Mario: I lost my Caucus election and ended up getting elected in 2L. Ran unopposed this year for L&L. The people who are elected are not always the right people for the jobs. Getting more people to run might require better communication.

Karin: this is coming from a place to reward you all for a job well done. Table for now until the next meeting. Any other business?

Rachael: minutes approval.

Jordan: We will no longer be ratifying the Minutes via a vote; this is now done by Consent to free up time at the beginning of the meeting and is being adopted because it is in line with Faculty Council and York University Senate procedures.

Other Business

Treasurer's Items

Sydney: Need to open two new bank accounts at BMO to separate out O-Week and *Obiter Dicta's* levy fund from L&L's accounts. Easier for audit purposes.

Motion: THAT the Legal and Literary Society opens two new and separate bank accounts at the Bank of Montréal for Orientation Week and for the Obiter Dicta levy funds.

(Mclvor/Glassman) CARRIED

Motion: THAT the meeting be Adjourned.

(Kazakevich/Mclvor) CARRIED

Adjournment (2:34PM)

Consent Agenda

The item on the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of the meeting of 17 May 2020, was deemed approved.

-

Next Meeting

Sunday, 28 June 2020, 12:30PM EST