

Academic Council Meeting 9 October 2014

Absent: Sabrina, Andrea

Present: Wes, Jennifer, Erica, Megan, Dustin, Alina, Larissa, Matthew, Randy, Brenda, Kristy, Josh

Any Concerns or Complaints:

- Brenda:
 - o Legal Research and Writing is not working for a lot of 1Ls
 - Chatter that the course is not effective --> the tools that were taught were not used right away
 - Too much work?
 - o The first assignment was a disproportionate amount of work
 - o Better discussion of where time should be focussed
 - A lot of students really enjoy the online portion of the course
 - Those of us who had legal research jobs really found that it was helpful
 - The instructors are not as engaging this year
 - Where should we go forward from here?
 - There is a three year review that is going on
 - Should we leave this for the curriculum committee
 - o Is the separation between Public Law and Constitutional Law remain?
 - o Things being submitted to external review
- Sabrina:
 - o SNAILS in the library
 - There has been a fair amount of clamouring regarding this
 - Should all students be free to study everywhere?
 - Do we finance differently and should this be an issue
 - Could we deal about this at the level of the noise disruption, could we designate one of the floors as being quiet only
 - We should maintain the space during exam periods
 - Consider: going to the library staff to let them know that there is a noise problem
 - Kristy, motion for talking to the library staff about enforcing some noise restrictions in certain areas of the library
 - o Seconded, and carried
 - Have the council let students know where other study locations would be -> put this in the news flash

Student Evaluations of Teaching:

- How can we encourage better teaching?
- Should there be a student voted teaching award given by the Law school?
- Could we put something in place to the side to fill the teaching gaps that are being recognized?
- The Peer tutors are matched up according to student need
- Could there be a level of teaching assistance that is provided at the outset for some of the instructors
 - o More opportunities for this available at the school
- Would we be able to put together additional tutoring opportunities targeted for students?

- Targeted or general knowledge for tutorials
- Do we want to have another set of surveys? Midway through the class to give the prof feed back
 - Issue of survey fatigue
 - Is this a good time to implement because of the turn over of instructors?
 - We should see what the possibilities are for this to move forward
 - Can we use the current form? Would we need to go through the school?
 - Do we want this to be student led or instructor led
 - What questions would get us the answers we want
- Will post the current surveys

Faculty Student Mixer – 21 October

- Hosted in the forum
- Style will be like the coffee breaks
- Name tags and questions for the booklet
 - Can we get name tags from social counsel
- Baking from Academic Council members

Faculty Committee Appointments:

- No final list at this point, there are some committees that don't want LSS members
- There is a tentative list, and everyone got either their top or second choice