

LSS Academic Council: Agenda

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 at 12:30 pm in LSS Office

In Attendance: Sabrina, Kristy, Wes, Erica, Dustin, Megan, Alina.

Regrets:

1. Committee Reports

Kristy: the Faculty Advisory Committee hasn't met since the governance document was passed.

Wes: the Faculty is developing equity vignettes on diversity to be discussed by students.

Dustin: the Curriculum committee hasn't met yet this year.

Megan: the Admissions committee has done two rounds of indigenous applicants.

Sabrina: Centre for Law and the Environment has met, surprisingly. Developing a Board structure and a visiting scholar panel.

Erica: the Library committee has not met since January.

2. Examinations Policy

Alina: At Faculty Council we will be discussing (not voting on) a new examinations policy, regarding advancement regulations. If a student fails first year, a student will still receive credit for the courses they passed and continues on academic probation. A student who has failed 11 credits can apply to the examinations committee for immediate readmission, which raises issues based on the weighting of first-year courses like constitutional law.

3. Beyond 1L Panel: Panelists

Erica: Seeking panelists, including lawyers at a large and medium firm. Including Benedet, Duff, and Susan Morin. March 3rd at 12:30.

Josh: Kaila Mikkelsen suggested doing an online summer seminar instead of second year students providing advice to first year students on preparing for life after 1L.

Sabrina: This is ineffective timing, as third years will not be with us and second years will be summering with firms.

Dustin: A more informal approach might be more appropriate.

Kristy: Let's revisit this topic after reading week.

4. CAN Drive

Megan: Including a meter on how close the LSS is to meeting its goal. Considering seeking nominations for best CAN, with a Facebook poll from the top 3.

5. Academic Experience Survey: Tuition Questions

Kristy: A discussion on the survey questions for the AMS student experience survey.

Josh: Perhaps its worthwhile postponing these questions until this becomes a greater issue?

Sabrina: Or, perhaps the LSS can inform students that this is an issue in the upcoming Dean's town-hall on February 26th.

Kristy: Law Student Engagement survey conducted by the Dean is confidential, and not shared with students.

6. Adam Albright Award in Teaching

Kristy: This award is primarily an award nominated by students, for adjunct professors. Who wants to volunteer? Wes, Dustin, Erica all volunteered.

7. Academic Concerns

a. Adjunct Professors

Kristy: I have received concerns from students about adjuncts who provide too much reading, insufficient reading lists, and other concerns. I have asked Associate Dean Benedet a set of questions on standards and how to respond to issues that students face with Adjunct Professors. They are treated identically to faculty-members. How do we manage quality issues as the LSS?

Megan, Dustin, Erica: A proactive approach in order to support adjunct professor development in the future could be advocated by the LSS.

Alina: The Faculty does attempt to cover all first year courses with tenured faculty, instead of adjuncts. It was just not possible this year.

Kristy: I'm hoping to invite AD Benedet to an Academic Council meeting to discuss issues like this in a productive manner. Larger issues are the best for the LSS to taken on, while individual student or faculty-member issues are addressed best with the Faculty directly.

b. Exam support and individuation

Josh: When invigilators and instructors have to share between multiple rooms, it isn't as easy to supervise students or answer questions. It would be great to have further instructors.

Erica: Sign-in sheet during the exam was disruptive.

Dustin: Issues affecting the quality of supervision.

Upcoming Academic Council Events

- a. Faculty Council: Thursday, February 13, 2015
- b. Indigenous Law Students Program's Student Consultation on Aboriginal Law Curriculum (Randy): Friday, February 13, 2015
- c. Mental Health Symposium (AMS): Saturday, February 14, 2015