

LSS Academic Council: Agenda

Wednesday, January 28, 2015 at 12:30 pm in LSS Office

In Attendance: Josh, Brenda, Wes, Andrea, Kristy, Megan, Matthew, Dustin, Alina, Randy.

Regrets: Sabrina, Larissa, Jenn, Erica

1. Old Business

a. Letter: re Computer Policy.

- Kristy: It appears the particular instructor's policy does permit students to take notes, and students can ask permission to use them.

Academic Council engaged in a discussion on the role of a blanket in-class computer use policy created by instructors. They agreed that such a policy should include exceptions that are made clear to students. Since this instructor subsequently made exceptions clear, Academic Council is satisfied this matter is resolved; however, Academic Council is alerted to possible concerns of blanket policies regarding computer use.

2. Committee Reports

Brenda: Senate

- There was faculty pushback at senate to the Allard donation, for the renaming of the Faculty to a School.
- Student senators met with the President. Priorities include student mental health, which includes the discussion of a Winter term reading week, as well as flexible and online learning. There is a tie in with the Allard donation objectives of supporting clinics and experiential learning.
- There is a comprehensive report outlining student mental health concerns at UBC, and an effort to view University decisions through a student mental health lens.

Academic Council engaged in a discussion on the benefits of full-year classes, and mental health issues. The Council discussed the possibility of creating a resource for students to know what mental health supports exist.

Action item: Matt, Andrea, and Kristy to work with Kaila to further discuss, and include a statement on mental health in the news flash.

Kristy: Faculty Advisory Committee

- Faculty governance document being voted on at Faculty Council. Dean and Associate Deans will be able to vote at committees.
- Erica and Brenda will absent from Faculty Council due to make up class
- Commendations to Wes and Randy on the Allyship panel.

Randy: Indigenous Legal Studies Committee

- Feedback on February 13th.

Alina: Education Committee

- Has not met

Megan: Admission Committee

- Reviewed indigenous applicants and submitted.

Matt: Asian Legal Studies Program Committee

- Still seeking feedback for relevant print materials to purchase.

Kristy: Teaching Awards Committee

- February 6th due date for teaching excellence awards.
- Will advertise deadline in newsflash.

3. LSS Members' Satisfaction Survey

Dustin: Interested in conducting a survey of law students at the end of the Spring semester on their perspective on academic and other faculty specific issues.

Kristy: There is overlap between the AMS survey and an LSS student survey.

Alina: Can break down the AMS survey by Law specific results.

Action item: Kristy, Alina and Dustin to talk further.

4. Upcoming LSS Elections

Kristy: Run for LSS elections. Feel free to talk to current Executives if you're interested in running.

-March 13 (tentative) – results for LSS elections will come out (Andrea is the elections returning officer)

-Email will be sent out with details of each position and nomination requirements/forms

5. Beyond 1L Panel

- Kristy: Discussion of how law school changes after first year. Typically organized by first year students. Includes advice from lawyers on courses to take.

Academic Council discussed the content of such a panel. Discussed possibility of including an upper year student, but decided that this panel would focus on professionals and professors. It may be beneficial to have a 2-part panel, focusing on a career-perspective and then the student perspective.

- Josh, Kristy, Wes, and perhaps Erica volunteer.

6. Increasing the CAN Database

- a. CAN drive/ best CAN award?

- Gathering CANs and maintaining the database is a key mandate of the Academic Council
- Kristy: we need to raise awareness or promotion to have people submit their CANs
 - o One way used in past is to have award for best CAN
 - o "CAN Drive"
 - o Set a goal for number of CANs, and track the progress.
- Randy: There's a shortage of CANs for seminar courses.
- Kristy: Split prizes into the categories of first-year, seminar, upper year.
- Josh: We could source the need for CANs through a Facebook poll.
- Megan volunteers to support this CAN drive, working with Andrea and Kayla.

7. Academic Concerns

8. Upcoming Academic Council Events

- a. Faculty Council: Vote on Faculty Governance Document
 - 1. Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 12:30 in Room 104
- b. Indigenous Law Students Program's Student Consultation on Aboriginal Law Curriculum (Randy)
 - 1. Friday, February 13, 2015