

LSS Diversity Forum

Grant's Introduction

- Goals: to foster an inclusive environment, celebrate diversity,
- The LSS cares about the experience and our reputation
- This is bigger than just a law school thing
- The themes from the diversity survey have been condensed into the themes listed on the handouts to facilitate discussion
- There will be a separate budget reform committee; this is not the subject of the Forum, but the budget may well be involved inasmuch as it involves diversity

Non-alcohol events

- There is a perception that the LSS promotes drinking and that social events are alcohol-centric
- Fara: you don't need to have sober events per se, but many events from Orientation on have been specifically focused on drinking and drinking heavily
- Grant: LSS is looking to rename Bzzr-Ups to "Socials"
- Emily: It would be equally easy to do something with food
- Molly: It would have to be more than a renaming; few people are there for the networking, but most people just stand around and drink; don't subordinate the non-drinking events and put them in the middle of the week
- Fara: It is uncomfortable to go there and by the end, to be the only sober person in the room
- Taylor: Involve food and prizes
- Sam: Orientation should have fewer drinking events
- Martina: I will include Sam's recommendation in the Orientation transfer memo with Aletha
- Grant: We are also looking to rename the Wine & Cheese events to something like Career Fair

LSS Profile

- Emily: LSS officers should wear nametags at events
- Roni: We have and will be organizing
- Farah: We should put names of people on the TV screens and around the building
- Photos and descriptions should be in the newsflashes, sharepoints, etc.
- Farah: LSS office should be made known and accessible
- Erin: We need ways to make what we do more visible and encourage people to come talk to us about their concerns; people may well not even know what we do

Camaraderie between the years

- Taylor: Going beyond the Legal Buddies program;
- Jo: Accommodate relationships between the years or to help generally?
- Emily: We have our small groups, and there isn't really any mobility between the groups
- Grant: There should be some events with small groups that include all years
- Emily: People might be too scared to join stuff in first year at the very beginning of the year
- Jo: We could do another Clubs Day in January
- Taylor: We could do a budget per semester
- Molly: People are hesitant to sign-up and to back out of events; we should lower the stakes for signing up for clubs
- Rebecca: People with families have very little time and the movie night should be different or more family friendly; we should have a meet the teacher night, family day, or bring your kid to school day
 - o Taylor: Lawyers could bring their kids too
 - o Erin: Which events could we tweak to be family friendly
 - o Jessica: It's about when you have the events and what the focus is (e.g. alcohol); pool, karaoke, cards
- Farah: We need to be concerned with the mental health of students and to make them aware of support and resources
- Erin: LSS support day where they could come and whine
- Rebecca: We should make people aware of the resources from UBC, e.g. counseling, nurses, chaplains, etc.
- Danielle: We also need to have more vegan-friendly food

Respectful dialogue

- Rebecca: People should be comfortable with the fact that faith does have a place within the law school and that it should be welcome; some people have had negative reactions to the fact that they disclose their religious convictions and even some professors have reflected such views; a lot of it is based on stereotyping
 - o It doesn't seem to be a welcomed thing in the law school
- Erin: It would be possible to involve this is the ombuds role
- Roni: When should we step in?
- Rebecca: Making people aware of the stereotypes is important
- Martina: Re complaints, it will go as far as a complainant wants it to