

MINUTES

ALSS Academic Council Meeting

October 22, 2015

Attendance: Matthew, Kristy, Carly, Catriona, Benj, Dan, Megan, Josh

- I. Committee reports
 - a. Strategic Planning – Phase 1, Dean’s Town Hall (October 27 – Tuesday, at lunch)
 - b. **ALL ACADEMIC COUNCIL MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE THE 2010 REPORT AND A ZIP FOLDER OF OTHER LAW SCHOOL’S STRATEGIC PLANS**
 - c. **ALL AC MEMBERS SHOULD REVIEW THESE MATERIALS, AND IN LIGHT OF THAT:**
 - i. Look at what items on the 2010 plan are things we **MUST** keep, it’d be **NICE TO KEEP**, and what things you **WOULD LIKE TO ADD ON**.
 - ii. Also consider how you would like to see those items **MEASURED**
 - iii. **ACTION ITEM: SUBMIT COMMENTS TO MATTHEW BY EMAIL BY OCTOBER 30 (FRIDAY) 5PM.**
 - d. Matthew will put together everyone’s comments and submit to FAC as first round consultation.
 - e. Matthew will also consult ALSS Exec similarly.
 - f. AC members do not have to comment on **EVERY** item on the 2010 plan
- II. Law library:
 - a. **SITUATION:**
 - i. This year, lawbrary will **NOT** hold extended hours during exam period
 - ii. Reserved seating arrangements will still be in place
 - iii. Allard **WILL** still be open to law students
 - iv. Also other libraries open on campus
 - v. Seminar rooms will be available
 - b. **DISCUSSION:**
 - i. General lack of staff resources to keep library running at extended hours – too onerous on staff
 - ii. Concern: reference materials available for longer during this period to allow students to check out books overnight?
 - iii. Of Allard rooms available, some should be designated quiet study (e.g., 104?) while seminar rooms can be open for group study
 - c. **TASKS:**
 - i. Talk to library staff about reference materials availability
 - ii. Designate rooms for quiet/group study – perhaps ask Kaila/Susan to authorize access/use of those rooms after hours
 - iii. Informing students of arrangements
- III. Project teams:
 - a. Faculty Mixer
 - i. No major reasons as to why it can’t be in second semester, but consider that AC may do another event (e.g., panel talk) next semester

- ii. Members present thought it is fine if the 1L reps would like to do the mixer next term instead
 - b. Mid-term feedback
 - i. General thoughts that it was welcomed by both faculty and students – some professors made changes right away!
 - ii. Some concerns about confidentiality in terms of handwriting
- IV. Any other business
 - a. ILSP
 - i. There is an indigenous governance degree in formulation in campus
 - ii. They want to know if they can do joint classes with law classes
 - iii. They want to incorporate law school class material into their curriculum – it would be particularly useful for their degree
 - iv. Proposal is being organized to put this to Faculty Council
 - v. Concern – lack of class resources (space)
 - vi. Instead of credit course that they take in faculty of law, consider organize a process for Allard Constitutional law / indigenous legal studies profs to give guest lectures as part of their program
 - b. Mental health and well-being
 - i. Josh:
 1. Priorities identified for the year by University Senate
 2. University has hired 12 new counsellors
 3. From law school’s perspective – a chance to look internally at mental health, and it does not get mentioned enough
 - ii. Kristy:
 1. Amjad is the law school’s wellness councillor, addressing this issue
 2. At the moment, this is heading through equity and diversity committee
 3. Mental health and well-being issues can be sent out to this committee
 - c. Write a blurb about the role of academic council
 - i. Megan will write this blurb
 - ii. Specify what AC does, and what concerns students can feel they can bring directly to AC, as well as how they can do it – put into Newsflash
- V. Next meeting: **NOVEMBER 3 (TUESDAY) AT LUNCH**
 - a. **Reminder for Faculty Council – November 19 (Thursday) at lunch**
 - b. **Reminder for Dean’s Town Hall – October 27 (Tuesday) at lunch**