

Allard Law Students' Society Executive
Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 12:30 pm in the ALSS Office

Present: Kristy, Matthew, Allanah, Catriona, Benj, Mischa, Joshua

Absent: Ben F, Scott, Nicole, Carly, Jennifer

1. Consultation on International Student Tuition with Dean Dauvergne

- Increase to international student tuition for UBC was resolved by the Board of Governors in late September
- International student tuition can increase to market rates (approximately 15% increase for the next three years, in addition to 10% this year – for the university as a whole). This would be similar for the JD program.
- LLMCL and LLMT tuition are already close to benchmark, so they will be increasing by approximately 3% annually for the next three years
- No change to tuition for research-based international student tuition
- We are convinced that international student interest in Allard will decline (there are law school seats going unfilled in the US). International student revenue makes very little difference to our bottom line (because of the decrease in students enrolled in the international program) (approx.. \$35k).
- Overall, UBC will collect an enormous amount of money (approx. \$55M).
- Allard has a persistent structural deficit in our budget. International student tuition being treated as regular traditional tuition revenue (rather than needs-based distribution which existed prior to 2010). All of the professional faculties are being put into a ‘have-not’ position as a result of this change.
- Roughly half of the money collected will go directly to the faculty, the other half will go to a strategic initiative fund for which the Faculty of Law would be able to compete. That fund will not be needs-based.
- The crunch on the law school budget is a temporary issue; eventually, our tuition will have to increase and catch up to the rest of Canada. We are about \$1-1.5M short annually for the foreseeable future. The Allard gift will eventually pay out \$1.2M, but right now it is about \$72k. We do not want the Allard gift to be used to cover our deficit, and it would be difficult to use it to correct the deficit, because of the gifting clauses.
- Allard students’ use of central university resources/services is not representative of the level of tuition that domestic law students are paying (relative to other faculties).
- **UBC rationale:** The solution for professional faculties ought to be an increase in professional student tuition. If UBC helps the professional programs cover their deficits, then it will remove pressure on the government to allow an increase in professional tuition fees.
- Law degrees from Canadian schools are not easily transferred to other jurisdictions. But, international students certainly enrich our learning experience.
- We may have to consider increasing our class size in order to fill the deficit.
- International students may need different services than domestic students.
- We are not supporting as many international graduate research-based students as a university of our size and stature should be.

- Ben: the law Faculty has a responsibility to make sure that international students can afford to study.
- Kristy: the increase in international student fees may be a deterrent to people studying with us. Especially because most international students are not eligible for financial aid.
- Mischa: increasing international student fees may be a deterrent for ‘highly qualified’ and ‘resource deficit’ students
- Josh: we should advocate for the AMS to have a portion of the funds be dedicated to financial needs-based funding
- Matt: if we model our international student recruitment after Australia, would that not increase our international student recruitment?
 - ➔ DD: Australia has a lower English standard requirement, and they also do not have to have an undergraduate degree. So it would be very difficult to model after them. We also have fewer seats available.
- Catriona: has there ever been a consideration of having an international students ILSP program? We already have a great level of Indigenous programming and population.
 - ➔ DD: that would tie in to our existing program and may be an interesting source of international students.

2. Future of Relationship with AMS

Kristy: we are considering distancing ourselves from the AMS and trying to align ourselves with the GSS. What value is the AMS providing our student body? What is the AMS’ strategic vision for professional schools?

Benj: we, as a law Faculty, put money into the AMS, and we do not really benefit from that. We hardly attend their events, we have our own clubs structure. They do provide health and dental, and the U-Pass (which is also offered by the GSS. AMS provides advocacy (we have our own ombudsperson, and we often do not necessarily have the same interests), AMS foodbank (not geared towards us), SafeWalk (few students probably use SafeWalk), SpeakEasy (similar to ombuds), Sexual Assault Support (we do not have an equivalent), AMS tutoring (irrelevant to us), Volunteer Avenue (we have plenty of volunteer opportunities available here). Most law students do not know what the AMS does, or how they benefit our student population. The student fees would probably be similar to the fees of the GSS.

Josh: what value do we get for the money? There is a great disconnect between undergraduate interests and professional interests, but is there not a possibility to increase synergy and collaborate with the AMS rather than push away from them?

Kristy: our law students are a real service to the AMS (in terms of participation); we are something to model after (exams database, CANs, syllabus availability, practical skills for the AMS). But, they do not have the strategic planning to ask the professional programs how they can be of service to us.

Benj: Queens has a GPSS (graduate and professional students society), we may model after them.

Kristy: we would need to properly consult with students and we would need to see if we are welcome. We would also need to consult with the other professional schools. The GSS has

shown interest in having us be involved with them, and their interests seem more aligned with our own.

Matt: we should check in with Jen to see how it would affect her position.