

## ALSS Academic Council Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2016

### I. Committee Reports

#### a. Faculty Advisory – *Phase 2 submission submitted*

- i. Submissions have been uploaded and committee meeting next week to approve draft
- ii. MacDougall sent out Draft Epsilon: colour-coded edit from prior drafts. Submissions with respect to tuition – need to keep affordable, exam policies, stress, academic standards, etc.
- iii. Survey responses anonymous and appended to submission

#### b. Curriculum Committee

- i. Course additions: Pavlich's new course: Condominium Law; change to name Health Law (plus course taught by adjunct on Medical Negligence Law). Course additions to be approved on Thursday at Faculty Council.
- ii. Course deletions: 10 courses. Have not been offered in the last 5 years (either no one available to teach, or no student interest). In Faculty Council documents. Can be brought back through "topics in" courses?

#### c. Examinations Committee – *mandate regarding grading*

- i. Met a couple weeks ago, mandate re examining UBC's grading policies. UBC is one of one or two Canadian Law Schools still using number grades. Most schools using letter grades. Different schools have different numbers of tiers of grading (i.e. U of T 5 tiers)
- ii. Diverse opinions within Examinations Committee: debate underway...arguments both for and against changing grading scheme
  1. Pro change: student mental health, conforming to other schools, are we the outlier?
  2. Con change: status quo, won't have to re-educate firms, able to better differentiate students' abilities
- iii. Class averages for upper year courses, technically incorrect because they include LLM grades. Fix this?
- iv. The degree to which professors are compelled to instil a certain grade distribution in their classes. Confusion among new profs and adjunct profs that these are guidelines, not hard and fast rules. Experienced profs sometimes ignore. Committee to address – equity issue.
- v. Writing exams through Access + Diversity – maintaining anonymity, very difficult. Do our best to maintain anonymity. Due to A+D exams being written later, inevitably going to be a loss of anonymity. Are we OK with just accepting this as fact?

### II. Project team reports:

#### a. Faculty Mixer – *any feedback/comments?*

- i. Good! Good attendance and faculty participation.
- ii. Main problem: no budget, therefore no food. Another event with food at the same time, drew many people away. **Consider budgeting for food for next year \$\$.**
- iii. 2<sup>nd</sup> semester vs. 1<sup>st</sup> semester was a good decision. Main questions were regarding upper year courses and summer research positions.

#### b. Mid-term feedback – *Round 2 ready for distribution*

- i. This week and next week is when this is happening
- ii. 1Ls have courses and will distribute
- iii. Upper years find courses that they are in and distribute – Collect responses and give back to prof.

#### c. Course Guide – *update?*

- i. Probably not completed before the end of the term
- ii. Request from Josh: everyone contribute to make the load much easier. Everyone on AC to commit to writing a guide / impression of at least 2-3 courses. One paragraph, approaches, tips

etc. for future students to use. Submit to Josh. Courses you have taken, or are currently enrolled in. 1Ls included. Once most courses covered, then we can publish and ask for more submissions.

**Deadline: Next meeting. Tuesday March 8<sup>th</sup>.** Feel free to ask other students and get submissions from them.

**III. Any other business**

a. Elections coming up!

i. Run for something, 1Ls have experience, already up to speed and have relationships with profs.

**IV. Next meetings –**

a. *Faculty Council this Thursday, February 25*

i. Voting on curriculum changes: name change, new course, and deletion of inactive courses

b. *Next Academic Council meeting: Tuesday, March 8*

i. Deadline for course write-up paragraphs. Send to Josh