

1. Committee Meeting Update

Curriculum Committee

- Big change is that at next faculty meeting is a motion to propose that Business Orgs no longer be mandatory
 - Main considerations - ten faculty feedback - 8 said supporting removing it from mandatory list - 2 for keeping it
 - Business organizations is a pre-req for other courses - this could create problems (students not realizing its a prereq)
 - There aren't that many solicitor courses so this is important
 - Will it still be offered in the summer? Will there be as many sections?
 - Hope that they keep it as a summer offering
 - We did compare it to evidence, cause it's not mandatory but many people take it anyway
 - Helpful with removing stigma of Allard as business law school potentially
 - Law is different in different places re passing the bar exam after law school based on these courses
 - Part of this discussion is how much we choose to make mandatory and how much we dont - do we produce students who are the same or students who get to choose their own specific law school experience
 - Pre-req question may not make a huge question
 - Remember that they might be scrapping summer courses altogether
 - Anything we want said at Faculty Council?
 - Hoping to continue to offer it over the summer - importance of pre-req status
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- Potentially changing all upper year courses to three credit courses
 - Helpful for standardization
- Mandatory experiential learning component
 - List of courses that can be part of this component (moots, clinics, trial advocacy course etc)
- Curriculum committee may be working with TRC implementation committee
 - Removing business organizations could help with TRC stuff
 - may create space for course related to TRC if biz orgs not required (mandatory upper year course)
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Appointments Committee

- Mostly introductions
- Process of scheduling interviews with candidates for new business law course
- Going to go to equity and diversity training tomorrow
- Interviews are periodically throughout next week
- There will be lectures and interviews
- Students have 30 min interview for questions
 - Make a google doc to draft questions

TRC

- Had first meeting but she couldn't go
- They will have regular meetings

AMS update

- Big push is for fall reading week
- We already have one

Academic Procedures

- GRading Rules

- Brought grad program in line with JD re: grading
 - Failure at 49 for JD, failure at 59 for masters, failure at 67 for PhD
- Averaging rules for final grades for JD students
 - For first years - no change
 - For upper years - discretion of professor to fiddle with grades - when an ad-hoc professor has mid-term and gives grade - clarifying on syllabus that grades are changed to mandated averages - wanting to show students where they would fall in average spread from class
 - Changing handbook info for adjunct professor
- Attendance policy - mandatory
 - Something in the works - going to be coming up in procedures
 - Template from U of T - opens up conversation with students who aren't showing up - not about marks
 - Professor has grounds to remove student from the course in the template
 - But we want it for a wellness talk
 - No marks gained or lost - supposed to help Kaila be able to approach students re: wellness
 - Questions - why does it need to be a formalized policy?
 - Missed attendance - frames it as punitive
 - There are already negative consequences to missing class
 - It is beneficial for profs to tell Kaila that students are missing class - Kaila follows up and can support students
 - Differences between 1L and upper-year classes - might be easier to track things related to attendance in 1L
- Turns to policies about recording lectures
 - Variation between professors re: privacy concerns
 - Privacy concerns are also student-based - students may not consent to questions being recorded in class
 - There is a waiver - it applies to students who record class from access and diversity
- Over 90% grading rule
 - Currently there is an appeal process
 - Looking to get rid of this rule because they don't know where it came from
 - Started mandating averages
 - Projected bell curve - in actual fact - it is tighter than it should be
 - Before the time of Susan Warren
 - Profs want to give good marks, but they don't want to fail people.
 - Removing boundary of 90 just makes it so that students can have higher achievement
 - May not really affect people at the bottom of the curve
- Grading Scales
 - Larger project - looking to move to letter grades
 - Wanting to do this by 2020
 - How will conversion to letter grades affect access to UBC scholarships?
 - How will our letter grades convert to UBC scales?
 - First stage could be bumping up grade averages from 70-74 to 75-80
 - Our grades are already different from UBC standards
 - Allard gives you a slight bump in terms of grades ?
 - Maybe? It might have been changed recently to be the same as all of UBC

- What will be internal and what will be available to UBC or to students?
- Should we look at grad school grading system to help determine what the best way is
- Could suggest incremental changes - first raising average (help access scholarships, then move to letter grades etc)
- Could make JD marking scheme like grad school

2) Course evaluations (mid-term)

- Scrapped for this year
- Will be re-done for next year
- Standardized forms for seminar/lectures doesn't work
- Timing of forms were difficult e.g., it was too late in the semester
- Some people didn't like that it was anonymous
- Some feedback quite negative - gendered and racialized
- Might make question bank
- How to approach re-vamping it?
 - Sub-committee from academic council
 - Help direct the faculty
 - Come up with three ideas and processes to address the issues
 - Send three ideas to Bruce - disseminate among faculty, get written feedback, then set up in person meeting with faculty
- Neginia will send out info and sign-up sheet as google doc
- A couple of faculty offered expertise – Toby Goldbach (reach out to her in advance) & Mary Liston also expressed interest in the process
- Let them come in later – says Macdougall
- Could establish time frame for opting in that's not just the same week

3) Public Law Pop-Quiz (1L Issues)

- People are unsure when they are administered/graded
- Trying to engage students - in Curtis it is not going well - two quizzes on the weeks that they were working for the assignment
- You can't gain the 5% - just lose it - it's "mean"
- In Gee - they have to do presentations instead - you either pass/fail
- Curtis - has pop quizzes and has reading responses
- Proud - none of that shit
- Scow - quizzes were not super hard or super unfair
- Because we're not doing mid-term evaluations then we need some avenue to express the dissatisfaction/concerns
- Scow - quizzes were administered in a way that caused a lot of anxiety
- Curtis - quizzes were not clear
- Clarity within the small groups is more important than transparency across small groups
- There can be feedback processed through paper with Bruce MacDougall
- They will hear about it in their evaluations
 - Further thoughts to Neginia and Laura

4) Forum - town hall

- Once a semester
- Usually about a specific issue
- This year - trying to talk about grading

- Nov 13 at lunch in the Forum - the point is to gather as much feedback as possible
- We will have MC's, and topic - so Jen from ALSS will put it in the newsflash - probably an email for a while
- 1L reps should post about this - try to promote it among student body to encourage attendance
- Maybe removal of day-off for 1L students - part time job, LSLAP day - 2L and 3Ls thought that it was surprising that we had the day off removed - this affects students and organizations that rely on student time
 - One of the biggest changes this year - and it's not really being talked about
 - Also affected LEO and PBSC
 - Students were not consulted about this
 - Making it harder for commuters too
 - Now it's easier for administration for programming courses
 - But it does impact student experience
 - Prevents students from meaningfully contributing to clubs
 - Use of the building is changing - trying to effectively use the building and trying to not let other faculties use this space

Masters in Global Law Recap

- People who aren't lawyers who deal with law all the time but this program wasn't meant to help people
- Deadlines were too fast - process wasn't fair
- This does not help - seems like a way to get into law school, but it wouldn't
- Student opinion was that it was a cash grab
 - Not malicious, just poorly planned
- Stuff with the budget deficit - 1 million in debt

Misc - some students in upper-year brought complaints about animal law not being offered - normally offered every two years - adjunct professors

- Generally trying to reduce adjunct professors
- If it comes up, we are now aware.
- Administration won't be dealing with adjunct course offering until Jan