

Academic Council
November 24, 2017 - Meeting Agenda

Attending: Elise, Alex, Alex, Naz, Negin, Asha, Ozge, Julia

1. Academic Town Hall
 - a. Thank you! – hopefully another in early second term
 - b. Follow up (Minutes being circulated to various faculty reps) – what do we do now? Students can come to Faculty council? But can they speak, probably best if they bring issues to reps, and have reps speak on their behalf for council. Could solicit more feedback through a survey and use that to focus next town hall.

2. Follow ups from meeting with Associate Dean
 - a. Course Evaluations – timing for 1st years is usually a few weeks later than upper-year courses. Doing it earlier would allow sooner reaction to feedback. Adjuncts not evaluated this year but sometimes very important to, because they may not be considering their teaching strategy as much as faculty. We'll do it next term for all adjuncts, take more work but worth it.
 - b. New Masters of Arts Program
 - c. Experiential Learning – 20 credit limit since last year. Nikos has proposal to make an element of experiential learning mandatory for all students, but broad amount of qualifying experiences – moot, workshops, clinics, etc. Will increase more clinics/moots (VIS) and possibly business and diversity moot. Clinic for business (Norton Business Clinic), and hoping to expand indigenous clinic to travelling clinic to other regions. Concern to limit possibility of experiences for those who want more than 1. RISE has low #s so maybe lower family law requirement. Scheduling issues to fit things within your degree when competing with others for spots when they don't really want to do they vs those just doing it to fulfill requirement? Overloading amount of required courses to do – almost full semester of what's required in upper years. Looking at total number of available spots to determine feasibility. Solicit student feedback, maybe include in the survey.
 - d. LRW issue – assignment content required research into cases involving animal abuse, which may be insensitive for first years. Not clear from the fact pattern but the research that follows could lead to animal abuse cases. Was a mistake, and don't intend for something like this to happen in the future.
Bigger issue – review procedure for exams: what if something is written in an offensive way, no real monitoring of the content sent to students in exam context
 - e. Public law – next year to move back to 4 small groups meeting. Most people involved (profs, TAs, etc) aren't that interested. Could consider

putting on the survey. Maybe alternative 'foundations' course, shorter, right at the start, covering statutory interpretation, understanding the judicial system, etc.

3. Academic Support during December Exams

- a. Ideas? – Students highly stressed, playing counsellor to one another, but then all each dealing with their own stressors. Who can we talk to about things (information) that isn't biased? Kaila says they're hiring 8 wellness advisors to rotate through the school and help give students someone to speak with. Have upper year peer tutor//legal buddies reach out again (maybe reminder from program set up)
- b. Small group support? – upper year leaders hosting 'venting sessions' Something with just upper years feels more casual and open, easier to speak honestly. Maybe lunch hour some days next week or during break? Shorter commitment, 30min. Could get coffee which will attract people. Newsflash. Facebook. Google doc for sign-up. BYOMug for hot chocolate day.

4. Committee Updates

- a. Mostly fine – appointments have meeting next week, admissions nothing (hasn't closed yet), curriculum/examinations take the information from these meetings

5. Coming up

- a. ALSS Blackout period – if its too much work, remember, it's blackout, so take care of your own wellness
- b. Next term meeting dates – send Elise anticipated semester for next year so we can hopefully figure out a day that works for most people. We'll mostly be able to figure out. **PRIORITIZE ACADEMIC COUNCIL, This is an elected position**
- c. Committees for next year – if you're interested, you may be able to switch with some people.