

## October 26 Academic Council Agenda

1. Follow up discussions
  - a. Midterm Evaluation Surveys
    - i. Midterm course evaluations have been distributed. A couple of profs from 1L did the evaluations on their own. Will suggest that the evaluations should be done in all courses anyway.
    - ii. Academic council will consider whether to make changes to the midterm course evaluation form, especially whether to change the last question.
    - iii. Please fill in the google form and indicate the courses where the midterm evaluations have been distributed.
  - b. Guile Town Hall
    - i. Was useful for students to learn about the reasons for the cancellation of the event.
    - ii. Disappointment about the late communication to students on the decision.
2. Public Law
  - a. Exam – since it was the first exam, the fact that it was 50% of the mark created a lot of anxiety for many students.
  - b. Students also had different expectations for the exam
  - c. Faculty should look into possibility of having an assessment that eases students into law school exams?
    - i. At this early stage, many students had not had practice with writing exams and the 50% exam so early on led to more anxiety for students.
3. Upcoming ALSS Town Hall - **November 10<sup>th</sup>**?
  - a. We will send out a notification about the Town Hall meeting. The intention is to consult students on the identified issues as well as any others that students would like to raise.
    - i. Examinations
    - ii. Admissions
    - iii. Curriculum
4. **FLSC National Requirement Review**
  - a. A committee of the Federation of Law Societies, the National Requirement Review Committee (NRCC) was tasked with considering whether the National Requirement standard should be amended to include a non-discrimination provision. The decision to consider the possibility arose from the highly contentious application by TWU for approval of its law school program.
  - b. The NRCC has prepared a draft report for consultation with various stakeholders. The consultation ends on Dec 31<sup>st</sup> 2016.
  - c. The committee noted that it had **three options** to address the task at hand:

1. **Add a competency requiring demonstrated understanding of the substantive law principles of equality and inclusiveness.**
  2. **Add a provision requiring every law school to demonstrate that it has a policy that prohibits discrimination in admissions and in the treatment of students, staff and faculty on ground enumerated in the Charter.**
  3. **Add a provision that articulates either a requirement or expectation that all law schools will provide an environment free of discrimination on enumerated grounds ...without prescribing how law schools are to meet this expectation.**
- d. The Committee's preliminary conclusion is that the National Requirement should not be amended to include a non-discrimination provision (**option 1**). The committee gave three major reasons for this decision:
1. Incongruence with the overall approach of the National Requirement and the perceived undesirability or regulating non-discrimination on the part of law schools.
  2. The uncertainty surrounding the ability of law schools to impose a non-discrimination provision aimed at the admissions—there are cases that are still being litigated and which may be ultimately decided by the SCC.
  3. Concerns about the challenges of applying a non-discrimination requirement to NCA candidates
- e. The committee however recommends the adoption of a policy statement (**option 3**) that includes both a commitment to equality and inclusiveness and an expectation that law schools will and other legal education providers will make a similar commitment.
- f. The Draft report will be sent out to students and the ALSS will consider the possibility of inviting someone from FLS to come give a talk to students. The ALSS will consider the option of submitting a report.

## 5. Committee Updates

- a. Faculty Advisory Committee:
  - i. Directing Admissions research
  - ii. Advising on TRC implementation
  - iii. Opining on financial solutions for the law school
- b. Appointments
  - i. Interviews are on going right now. Hiring for six professors. Tenure track and non-tenure track.
  - ii. Megan will follow up with Doug Harris on how these job talks should be advertised to the general student body.
  - iii. Hiring Criteria

1. Teaching is a going on concern and
6. Committee Mandates
    - a. Strategic Plan
      - i. Homework... ☺ -- not due until Nov 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting!
        1. Everyone should look at the strategic plan and try identify issues that they can bring to their faculty council committees in addition to the committee mandates.
        2. Also at the Town Hall, if you hear something that would be relevant to your committee, you should note it down and bring it to your faculty committee.
7. Coming up:
    - a. Academic Council meeting November 9<sup>th</sup>
    - b. Town Hall Nov 10<sup>th</sup>.
    - c. Academic Council meeting November 23<sup>rd</sup>
    - d. Faculty Council November 24<sup>th</sup>