

LSS Meeting Minutes – November 6, 2018

Attendance

Laura Edwards	President	X	Julia Genovese	2L Career Options Rep	X
Leyla Salmi	VP Student Affairs	X	Jeeti Bhupal	2L Articling Rep	
Fabio McLeod	VP Communications	X	Maeve O'Neill Sanger	Co-Op Rep	X
Kurtas Welch	VP Finance	X	Emily Beggs	Social Coordinator	X
Afsana Allidina	General Secretary	X	Craig McCue	Social Coordinator	X
Marissa Di Lorenzo	Sports and Clubs Rep	X	Mark Finnbogason	Health & Wellness Rep	X
Suzy Flader	Equity and Diversity Rep	X	Maddie Lusk	1L Rep	X
Maleika Jeewanjee	3L Rep	X	Brendan Noyes	1L Rep	X
Lola Churchman	3L Rep		Carolyn Belleau	1L ILSA Rep	X
Steve Faryna	ILSA Rep	X	Laura Floyd	Accessibility Rep	X

Absent:

- Jeeti Bhupal (proxy – Afsana Allidina)
- Lola Churchman (proxy – Maleika Jeewanjee)

I. Call to Order & Acknowledgment

II. Ratification of LSS Meeting Minutes from last week

- Motion: Laura
- Seconded: Emily
- All in favour

III. Budget presentation and approval

- Laura, Leyla, Kurt and Emily met last Monday to assess where cuts could be made and bring the deficit down
 - o They were able to bring the deficit down to \$1200, which is ideal
 - o Many of the changes made were based on last year's budget, and areas where money was not used

Changes Made

- Staff appreciation budget was reduced
- Consultation honorarium taken out
 - o Laura/Leyla still working on what they're doing with it
- Cut from Community Conference and Winter Welcome budget
 - o Community Conference: cut from \$2000 to \$1000
 - o Winter Welcome: cut from \$4000 to \$1000
 - The large-scale event and expense has only existed recently for this event, but it is possible to still do something with \$1000
- Cut food budget for LSS (AGM and Awards Night)
 - o We can feed ourselves
- Reduced budget for outline raffles
 - o Went from \$500 (larger than what was spent last year) to \$80
- Reduced costs for charity fundraiser
 - o It will still be nice to do, but we can't contribute our own money to it
 - o We'll have to fundraise for it
- Reduced budget for office expenses
 - o Reduced to \$650, which is what was used last year
- Year End budget cut from \$650 to \$500 to match what was spent last year
- Grad wasn't a huge change, but removed expected deficit from drink tickets amount
 - o All grad events at the end should be neutral
- In Orientation budget, unused childcare initiative was taken out because it was doubled down
- Rugby amount reduced to \$84
- Brought the end balance down to \$1270 deficit

Discussion/Comments/Concerns

- 1L reps are concerned that two of the major cuts came from 1L initiatives (Community Conference and Winter Welcome)
 - o They want to understand reasons for cutting the budget so 1Ls understand
 - o 1L students are already interested in getting involved with the Community Conference, so they feel it is unfortunate this will be scaled back
- It is very important that 1L reps get experience planning an event before orientation because of all the work that goes into planning orientation
- The contracts sent to sponsors for orientation says that funds are intended to be used for orientation and winter welcome, and any small remainder will go into LSS
 - o This isn't fair to the firms and sponsors, the class of 1Ls, and the people who did the fundraising
- Winter Welcome planning won't be cheap because venues are very expensive
 - o The cheapest venue in downtown or Victoria is VEC, and the elevator here is no longer operating so that would make the event inaccessible for some people
 - o Without possibility of VEC, seems like more money would be needed to get a venue for an event

- Winter Welcome event affects the whole student body
 - o Welcome back for students who have been on exchange, doing a visiting semester, etc.
 - Many of the student body weren't here in September to take part in orientation events
- When planning orientation, \$5000 was always set aside for Winter Welcome, so it doesn't seem fair to put this money to other expenses
 - o This year's students will suffer from last year's mistakes
 - Reply: But 1Ls won't be suffering, they just won't have an event exactly the same as last year
- Because this 1L class is so much bigger, its taking a lot more money to fund things
 - o Ex.. Potluck budget was too small for the number of people
 - o We should be projecting the message that this year's 1L class can't have the same kind of event because of their size
- Last year's end of year party only cost \$600, so it is possible that Winter Welcome could be planned with a similar budget
 - o Reply: but didn't they got a lot of discounts for it because it was for charity?
 - o Reply: this event wasn't on Friday or Saturday, which made the venue cheaper
- 1L reps had already started to plan Winter Welcome
 - o Wanted to have a venue, photobooth and band
 - o They recognize less money needs to be spent, so they are offering some solutions:
 - No band
 - Alternative could be found for photobooth; potentially find someone to take photos, have some props, etc. and it would be cheaper
 - o Despite these compromises, it seems that from last year, it was \$1149 for venue and cleanup (this doesn't include drinks for 1Ls)
 - This is still over the budget they have been given now
 - o They think they might need \$2500 for an event to cover the venue, other things (i.e. yoga breakfast event), etc.
 - o It is important to have the second morning yoga breakfast event (or something similar) to include students who don't want to participate in evening/drinking event
- 1L reps also are trying to get a handle of what is expected from them with Winter Welcome Week, aside from getting a venue and just the one yoga event
- 2 years ago, the 1L event was much smaller and lowkey
 - o So a compromise could be that they would have a similar event like this
- Question: Can we dip in to the surplus for the Welcome Week budget?
 - o Reply: If we don't make that surplus last, the future will be stuck with a deficit
 - Supposed to stretch it out over the years
 - Shouldn't be spending it quickly

- What if in the future they're in a situation where they lose money and aren't supported by a surplus?
 - The definition of "society" is that we shouldn't carry a large surplus
 - Keep in mind that this is just an "outlier year" where something happened last year to affect the budget, but this isn't normal – so maybe if we need to dip into the surplus a bit for this year, can't we do that?
 - Some people are on board with taking from the surplus
- Question: Wasn't the goal for deficit to be brought down to \$2000ish? Is there leeway to give more to Winter Welcome?
 - Kurt says we could give maybe about \$1000 more to the Winter Welcome from this, but he's not comfortable having an even larger deficit than this
- Question: Can some of the money we fundraise go to other events besides grad? Isn't a lot of money going to grad?
 - Grad money isn't coming from our budget, they work to earn that money
 - Skits Night and Bonspiel are 2 fundraising events, but they don't make that much
 - Bulk of grad fundraising money comes from clothing sales
 - Grad clothing is a very large undertaking
 - Grad is a very fancy event at expensive venue, and it is part of their mandate
 - It would be hard to put on an event in hotel ballroom if we mess with their budget
 - LSS isn't putting money into grad events
 - Ticket prices of grad are set to offset the costs of the event
 - Last year, another grad fundraising event was held at the Armoury, but this was a lot of extra work for people
 - However, could potentially take a bit of money from one of the fundraising events and put it into 1L stuff
 - Maleika will talk to Lola about it
- Maybe we can work on another fundraising idea to help with 1L events
- Question: Can we raise ticket prices?
 - Last year faced extreme backlash by putting forward that suggestion
 - This could affect turnout and accessibility
 - But for events like Skit Night, will raising it \$5 more potentially cause people not to come?
 - This might be a good idea
- It is better to cut from budgets now to bring us to a reasonable point, and then hope that if we generate more through fundraisers, then we can make use of this
- Question: How many people attended last year's Winter Welcome?
 - Last year there were a little over 100 people
 - Timing of the event wasn't great which caused lower turnout, but 1L reps are aware of this now
- Leyla ran an event for 500-600 people with \$10, 000
 - This event may not be exactly the same as the Winter Welcome, but maybe they can do a bit of creative exploring to make this work
 - Leyla or anyone else can join in and contribute ideas

- Suggestion: Can we make the deficit larger and bring the budget for Winter Welcome up to \$2000-2500?
 - o The 1L reps could also increase ticket prices, and be able to make this work
- We should make sure to be more transparent and keep things more accountable, since people don't even know where last year's issues came from
 - o We should ensure this doesn't happen again in the future
 - o Last year's issues came from:
 - No one was keeping track of Fast account, and VP Finance was also mislabeling last year
 - Kurt did everything he could to cross-check and figure this out, but at the end of the day there were still #1000s missing that he couldn't figure out
- What if 1L reps get together and come up with expectations, their plans for a proposed budget (plan A and plan B based on what budget they will have)
 - o ILSA gets 10% of the budget so maybe this will help?
 - 1L reps will have a meeting on Wednesday about it which will clear things up
 - There should be some ILSA events too
- Decision: not going to vote on this today
 - o Still have to go through the math
 - o 1Ls would appreciate that if something is figured out by next week so that we can be mindful of their time for planning
 - o 1L reps will look at some options and what kind of budget they could work with so that we can work towards a compromise

IV. Other business if there is time:

a. SoCo updates

- Will come to this next week

b. Yearbook survey

- Will come to this next week