

LSS Meeting Minutes – October 30, 2018

Attendance

Laura Edwards	President	X	Julia Genovese	2L Career Options Rep	X
Leyla Salmi	VP Student Affairs	X	Jeeti Bhupal	2L Articling Rep	X
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	X	Emily Beggs	1L ILSA Rep	X
Steve Faryna	ILSA Rep	X	Laura Floyd	Accessibility Rep	X

I. Call to Order & Acknowledgment

II. Ratification of LSS Meeting Minutes from last week

- All in favour
- Motion passes

III. Wellness club proposal

- Lollipop sales currently happening
 - o They put the lollipops in locker 114 for now and put a lock on it
 - o They can keep them in that locker, just let Leyla know when they're done with it
- Merissa is bringing to us a proposal about new initiative to target mental health stigma:
 - o Confessions space for people to talk anonymously about mental health issues they deal with and get it out in the open
- What it is:
 - o Physical drop box in the school (lounge or on counter by the lockers)
 - o Cards available for people to write something they want to say
 - o Physical space where these cards will be displayed
 - o Messages will be posted on some sort of online forum too

- Wellness website, LSS website?
 - Not on Facebook because of privacy concerns
 - Subject matter is not restricted to just law school matters
 - Hoping to start up this initiative this term
- LSS jurisdiction over walls in Fraser: inside the lounge and outside glass facing the hallway is LSS space
- Wellness club requests:
 - Use of glass space to post cards
 - Promotion of the campaign through Deer Fraser and other LSS promotional ways
 - If included in Deer Fraser, content would be monitored
- Concerns/questions:
 - People might submit things that can be triggering for others
 - How do balance these messages vs. not triggering others?
 - Suggestion: maybe have a cover sheet on triggering cards so that people have a warning
 - Or cover sheet over all cards?
 - Even “trigger warning” cover sheet could be a trigger
 - Suggestion: digital form only?
 - Then people can seek it out only if they want to go look for it
 - But a physical space will make people aware of it
 - Prefers physical display because they think people won’t go look at it online, which defeats the goal
 - What are the faculty and administration reactions?
 - They haven’t talked to the faculty yet
 - What if dropbox isn’t secure? People who aren’t law students could access this
 - They hope to have a big box so it will be more secure
 - Suggestion: What about using one of the faculty dropboxes or a locker?
 - Why are messages posted publicly vs. just posting resources?
 - Idea is that people are suffering in silence, but through this people might see that others have a similar issue and get some bravery through this
 - Also, other people will be more understanding of these issues
 - What if people start discussing someone’s sensitive issues in the hallways, etc.?
 - Want to promote dialogue, but not make it unsafe for people
 - What if the physical space with the cards create a negative energy?
 - Will they filter for confidentiality (i.e. if a card describes a specific situation where people start talking about it, and it becomes a rumour)?
 - Will there be respectful conversations in the lounge?
 - Suggestion: It would be good to have a committee where there is a discussion about what to censor
- Thoughts:
 - Important that we promote resources people can contact for help on both physical and online spaces
 - Make sure rules are very clear, so that if someone’s card isn’t posted, they should understand why
 - What if we had a “wellness corner” of the lounge with the confessions box and a poster with resources?

- Would be a good idea to have an LSS mental health board with resources
 - Or could show wellness resources on the flashing TV at the front
 - If you share something and it's not posted, you might feel worse about this
 - Should probably get approval from admin before moving forward
 - From accessibility perspective, it is an important initiative, especially because of stigma around mental health
 - Allows people not to feel isolated
 - Maybe we should be optimistic that students will take it well
 - Suggestion: What about having people's posts online, and instead of having physical space where you post the actual cards, why not create prompt questions to put on the physical space?
 - i.e. "Have you eaten today?"
 - A lot of cases we read in class have pretty triggering situations, is that much worse than these posts where there would be warning signs?
 - Suggestion: What about a hallway display, like the 1L photo board?
 - This might be harder to avoid rather than corner of lounge
- Decision:
 - Mark and Merissa can continue this discussion, meet with the faculty, and then they can come back to another LSS meeting to discuss further
 - If anyone else would like to join the discussion, they're welcome to
 - We like the idea, but need some tweaks to the execution of it

IV. Budget – second edition for approval on Nov 6

- Laura emailed us all with the current budget and draft budget
- Changes are all highlighted in yellow
- If you have any changes, email Laura
- Will discuss this properly next meeting

V. JID program and attitudes within the school

- Concerns about attitudes of JD students towards JID program and students
- Trying to find a way to address the concern
- Leyla is meeting with Zubaida and Sharae tomorrow and will convey these messages
Address their class as a whole about how we are aware of some issues, and remind them to be respectful of everyone?
 - If people hear it to their face, it's more of a reminder they can't ignore
 - If we just address JD students, it may reinforce the idea that there is a division
 - Should make sure message goes to everyone evenly
 - If we have an unrelated person come in and talk about it, it might not have as much of an effect
- Could make announcement in a shared class
 - The only shared class is LRW, but those are done now
 - There is mixed LLP class, but there are 5 sections
- Committee might be beneficial, since it will be an ongoing approach to keep the dialogue flowing

- Allows us not to “sweep it under the rug” just by making an announcement to the class
- Many JD students don’t even know a lot of the JID students – might be good to have some recognition of who they are
 - Could personalize and enhance respect for the students/program
- Is the faculty doing anything?
 - JD faculty seems like they aren’t aware of how to talk about it
 - Can we recommend to faculty about it? Seems like that’s a big part of the issue, but is that our place to say it?
 - Laura/Leyla spoke to Deans last week, so it is on their radar
 - We should work together with the administration before addressing this
- Our role is to tell students they should be respectful of fellow students
 - We are within our rights to state that this shouldn’t be happening
- Sidenote: Facebook post made by job squad about being respectful for OCI process went a long way, so something like this would be helpful
- The problem is specifically about JID program, but should be about respect for everyone
- Motion to create a committee to address attitudes towards JID program (Laura); seconded by Emily
 - All in favour, no abstentions
 - Committee: Emily (lead), Brendan, Laura F, Steve, Leyla, Suzy

VI. LSS social event

- Get together for LSS exec members
- Opportunity to hang out and get to know each other
- Something for fun on the side, not out of LSS budget
- Ideas: bouldering, billiards, bowling, board game nights
- Tell Laura if we have any ideas
 - She’ll send out a poll

VII. Other business

- Social coordinators update re 1L potluck:
 - Would be great if LSS members can be there to support and help out

VIII. Adjournment

- All in favour