

MLSA | MANITOBA LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

MANITOBA LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION COUNCIL AGENDA

January 20, 2015

12:00 pm

308 - Robson Hall

Attending:

Jena Colpitts – *President*
Josh Bokhaut – *Vice President*
Kevin Mehi – *Treasurer*
Miranda Grayson – *Executive Director*
Meghan Pohl – *Chair*
Orest Suchy – *Communications Director*
Jason Stitt – *MALSA*
Dana Gregoire – *MBA Representative*
Mason Broadfoot – *UMSU Representative*
Tyrone Krawetz – *Senator*
Aaron Maister – *Third Year Representative*
Eric Freedman – *Second Year Representative*
Jesse Epp-Fransen – *Second Year Representative*
Genevieve Mushaluk – *Social Committee (Chair)*
Sacha Nelson – *Social Committee*
Mark Walker – *Social Committee*

Jessica Isaak – *Strategic Relations Committee (Chair)*
Sara McGregor – *Strategic Relations Committee*
Lane Foster – *Professional Development*
Heather Wadsworth – *Marketing Committee (Chair)*
Nicole Drayton – *Marketing Committee*
Hilary Taylor – *Grad/Yearbook Committee (Chair)*
Alex Robertson – *Community Outreach*
David Meier – *Community Outreach*
Tyler Derksen – *Sports Committee (Chair)*
Kevin Schur – *Sports Committee*
Melody Burke – *First Year Representative*
Richard McCrae – *First Year Representative*

Not Present:

Jessica Barlow – *MALSA*
Tiffany Monkman – *MALSA*
Andrew Torbiak – *Third Year Representative*
Andrew Chambers – *Strategic Relations Committee*
Jessica Davenport – *Professional Development Committee (Chair)*
Sunnie Chung – *Professional Development*

Ariadna Dlugosh – *Grad/Yearbook Committee*
Alyssa Priestly – *Grad/Yearbook Committee*
Rita Katsanos – *Grad/Yearbook Committee*
Kelly Riediger – *Grad/Yearbook Committee*
Stephanie Chan – *Community Outreach (Chair)*

Stacy Senkbeil – *Tuition Review
Committee (Chair)*
Kassy Baker – *First Year*

Representative
Scott Birse – *Tuition Review Committee*

1. Call to Order: at 12:11

1.1 Approval of August 25, 2014 Minutes: Bokhaut/Mehi Carried

1.2 Approval of Agenda: Epp-Fransen/Bokhaut Carried

2. Reports

2.1 President – Jena Colpitts

1. Elections 2015

- a. We need to start thinking about an appropriate date for MLSA Elections 2015
- b. Traditionally, the second week of March - but we can look at alternate dates. Results were sent out on March 13th last year.
- c. At the next meeting the Executive will recommend dates and we will vote on it then.

2. No Referendum to be held in Winter 2015 Semester

- a. Dean's Town Hall Meeting held on January 14, 2015
- b. Stacy will be writing a final report to be presented at Faculty Council. We want to have a final statement on the record.

Questions/Comments: None

2.2 Vice-President – Josh Bokhaut

1. Call for volunteers to re-write the constitution.

- a. We've noticed that it is unclear and poorly written. I will be striking a working committee to fix the constitution. Stacy would like to be involved and if anyone else is interested, please let me know via email.

Questions/Comments:

- Colpitts stated that if anyone is interested in running for Executive next year they should be interested in getting involved.

2.3 Treasurer – Kevin Meh

1. I sent out the financial records, please ask me if you have any questions or comments.

Questions/Comments:

- Gregoire asked why some were shaded in red.

- Mehi responded that those are the amounts that he did not have a hard record for yet.
- Epp-Fransen asked what the unreasonable demand was.
- Bokhaut responded that there was a confusion about which Pitblado ad was supposed to go in the package for the law banquet. The Head of Marketing at Pitblado requested \$100 reimbursement. In the interests of maintaining a relationship with the firm, we felt we should pay the reimbursement.

2.4 Executive Director – Miranda Grayson

1. Nothing to report

Questions/Comments: None

2.5 Communications Director – Orest Suchy

1. My ability to update the MLSA website was compromised by a virus for the past 3 weeks but that is now fixed and if anybody has any events they would like to have added to the website or calendar, please email me.

Questions/Comments: None

2.6 MALSA Representative – Tiffany Monkman, Jessica Barlow

1. The 3rd Annual MALSA Round-Table Event – For the past 2 years, MALSA has created a forum for a multi-disciplinary conversation between experts in various fields on a current topic in Aboriginal law. This year we have chosen the topic, “How can Aboriginal environmental concerns impact Canada's economic development?” The topic was chosen democratically from within our group via a Facebook vote.
2. MALSA Articling prep seminar – For at least the past 2 years, maybe longer, MALSA has offered a forum by people in 3rd year for those in 1st and 2nd year who are interested in pursuing an articling position with their law degree. The meeting basically consists of small do's/don'ts that those with interview experience can offer to others. This service is open to members of MALSA.

Questions/Comments: None

2.7 MBA Representative – Dana Gregoire

1. One meeting of the Manitoba Bar Association (“MBA”) Council has occurred since our last MLSA Council Meeting. It took place on Thursday, December 4. Unfortunately, I had an exam that day, and another exam the next day, so I gave my regrets. Nothing of major substance relevant to students occurred at the meeting. I can share the minutes with anyone on request.
2. The next MBA Council meeting will occur on Saturday, January 24, as part of the annual Mid-Winter Conference. I can circulate the agenda from the meeting upon request. Nothing of substance relevant to law students appears

- to be on the agenda.
3. The MBA/MLSA Mentorship Spring Event is scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 18, at Luxalune Gastropub. Cheyne Hodson and I will be there, and the MLSA President or her designate is also invited. Thanks to Josh for his help with planning.
 4. The Canadian Bar Association's (CBA) Legal Futures Initiative ("Initiative") is a complicated topic that is not easily summarized, and things are constantly changing. So please read carefully what I have set out below and forgive the length.

I believe the MLSA Council has a responsibility to RH students to at the least take note of proposed reforms to the legal profession. It will affect the kind and number of jobs available, who our employers will be, who is allowed to practice law, etc.

You may recall that I have in the past circulated information related to the Initiative. I have also drafted a Primer for RH Students about the Initiative that may help you understand who the major players are and the context for the Initiative. I strongly recommend you read the Executive Summary for an overview of the Initiative's recommendations, and read the complete report to understand in moderate detail what informs the recommendations.

In summary, the Initiative is a series of major proposals for change to the legal profession, and these changes will in the future be considered by the councils of the CBA and its provincial branches. I stress that this is an extremely important project that will impact your future as practicing lawyers. Many of the changes are ultimately aimed at improving access to justice. It is difficult for me to summarize the entire Initiative report, but I note in particular that it contains a recommendation to relax the current rules prohibiting ownership of law firms by non-lawyers in favour of "alternative business structures" ("ABS") where, say, a for-profit corporation could offer legal services to the public. The ABS model is in use in other jurisdictions, but there are concerns about disruption to the market, and also the conflict between the fiduciary duty of a lawyer to her or his client and other duties inherent to an ABS, such as in the case of a corporation where the board has a duty to act in the best interests of the corporation. Partnerships and sole proprietorships are, currently, the only means by which that a lawyer can be hired: imagine the impact on the current model if Wal-Mart enters the legal industry. The report also contains various recommendations regarding legal education.

Previously, I indicated that the MBA Council was going to hold a vote on whether or not to support the Initiative, and that I requested input on how I should vote. In a change of course, the MBA Council has decided to NOT proceed with a vote on the Initiative at this time. This appears to be because the Law Society of Upper Canada (i.e. Ontario) has recently put out a discussion paper about ABS and until recently was accepting requests for comment. The CBA wants to see how this proceeds before deciding for itself whether to support ABS as part of its Initiative.

Because the vote has been postponed, I am again open to your feedback on the Initiative.

Students generally have not had a strong voice in the Initiative. This is unfortunately since it will impact students more than established lawyers who necessarily have fewer years ahead of them. For this reason, I strongly value your informed opinions, and I will share them with the MBA when the time comes to vote.

To learn more about ABS in particular, please join the CBA Twitterchat scheduled for 11:00am Winnipeg time on Wednesday, Jan 21. This Twitterchat is especially relevant because it's being hosted by students. Doug Judson, a 3L student at Osgoode Hall and the head of the Law Students' Society of Ontario (LSSO), is hosting the chat. To take part, follow @dwjudson and search for the #cbafutureschat hashtag. To best prepare for the report, read over the LSSO submission to LSUC on ABS, as well as a few reaction pieces in the CBA National Magazine and Slaw. For balance, read this piece critical of the ABS proposal.

Canadian Law Students' Societies

5. Concerning the proposed Canadian Law Students' Societies / Société Canadienne des étudiant(e)s de droit (CLSS/SCED), we missed a December deadline to formalize the CLSS/SCED. I imagine we will re-start discussion, hopefully soon, about a governance structure. I am happy to discuss this matter in greater detail upon request.

Questions/Comments:

- McGregor asked whether highlights of the chat could be posted after the event by Dana.
- Gregoire stated that if anything interesting was discussed he would inform us of it.

2.8 UMSU Representative – Mason Broadfoot

1. After a long delay in receiving the final financial reports from Frosh Fest, UMSU has confirmed that a profit was turned which is a major success and step forward after the troubles the event suffered in 2013.
2. Look for the rolling out of a reward program and various other upgrades at The Hub, along with the introduction of the new eatery UMSushi.
3. UMSU has requested that we start using Degree's for pizza lunches and also that since we are a Coca-Cola exclusive campus we can't have Red Bull at events.
4. January 15th will be Frost Fest, which will feature local entertainment, food and beer all of which will take place inside of a heated tent in the quad.
5. The endowment fund is undergoing a restructuring with a new financial management company. UMSU hopes that will lead to the restoration of previously offered services which had to be cut

6. The Manitoban is looking for story ideas, specifically on any campus charity organizations. If you would like more information please contact the paper directly.
7. UMSU executive has pledged their support in our ongoing tuition talks, whether that be financial or otherwise.
8. Next UMSU meeting is January 26th, 2015.

Questions/Comments:

- Grayson asked whether there would be free breakfast this semester.
- Broadfoot stated he did not think they were providing free breakfast this semester.
- Epp-Frasen asked if we were compelled to order Degrees or stop drinking Red Bull.
- Broadfoot responded that it was just a suggestion and that we were not compelled at this time.

2.9 Senator – Tyrone Krawetz

1. I sent out an email earlier this month regarding the proposed changes to the requirements to be admitted to law. The proposal was passed by the Senate. Please email me if you have any questions.

Questions/Comments: None

2.10 Third-Year Representatives – Aaron Maister, Andrew Torbiak

1. Andrew proposed the idea of doing a sections trivia night.

Questions/Comments:

- Mehi asked how the sections would be matched up.
- Maister responded that he did not know how the matching would work yet.

2.11 Second-Year Representatives – Eric Freedman, Jesse Epp-Fransen

1. Nothing to report

Questions/Comments: None

2.12 First-Year Representatives – Kassy Baker, Melody Burke, Richard McCrae

1. Nothing to report

2.13 Marketing Committee – Heather Wadsworth, Nicole Drayton

1. Nearly all Robson Hall clothing has been picked up. We will have final pick up times this week for clothing on Wednesday and Friday during the noon hour. After this time students will be asked to seek out Nicole or Heather to arrange to pick up their clothing.

2. There were a few issues with clothing, for example 2 of the orders were mixed up by the printing place. The students involved have been contacted and they should receive their clothing items in the next few weeks.
3. We are hard at work on the poster and ticket design for Carbolic.

Questions/Comments: None

2.14 Social Committee – Genevieve Mushaluk, Sacha Nelson, Mark Walker

1. Carbolic
 - i. Detail overview
 - a. Menu set
 - b. Ticket prices – \$40.00
 - c. Ideally we would like everyone to come with a table of 10
 - d. Decorating budget - \$300
 - e. Photographer - booked
 - f. DJ – booked
 - g. Hotel rooms - \$119.00
 - ii. Promoting
 - a. Will be selling tickets on January 26th
 - b. Remember to have your group of 10 for a table ready
2. Coffee House
 - i. Dates
 - a. March 8th
 - b. Start time of 6pm

Questions/Comments:

- Grayson commented that there was a mooting team gone on March 8th.
- Drayton asked whether a menu could be posted for Carbolic.
- Mushaluk responded that an email would be coming out with all information regarding Carbolic.

2.15 Community Outreach Committee – Stephanie Chan, Alex Robertson, David Meier

1. Movember
 - i. Movember was largely unsuccessful this year as compared to last year. Unlike last year, we did not have those couple of team members who were a driving force for the campaign
 - ii. We still managed to raise \$756, though
2. Coffee Sale and Warm Clothing Drive
 - i. We got a lot of warm clothing/other necessities from the warm clothing drive
 - ii. The Coffee Sale itself was also went well and received positive feedback (big thank you to Jessica Davenport for lending us the Law Journal's fridge and HUGE thank you to Stacy Senkbeil and the

- librarians for watching over the Keurig station and pretty much running it when we weren't around)
- iii. After deducting a couple of expenses, we raised \$115 for Siloam Mission
3. Used Textbook Sale
 - i. We are just wrapping up the second semester used textbook sale. Not as popular as the sale for first semester, but we still had a couple of sales. Not sure where the proceeds will go quite yet.
 4. Upcoming events
 - i. Shiverball in February for Children's Wish Foundation
 - ii. 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
 - a. We will be speaking with the Sports Committee to see if they are interested in collaborating on this event once again. Will most likely take place in late February or March
 - iii. Mental Health Awareness event
 - a. Tentative plans to host some kind of fundraising event (perhaps a trivia night) to raise money for mental health awareness

Questions/Comments: None

2.16 Graduation/Yearbook Committee – Hilary Taylor, Ariadna Dlugosh, Alyssa Priestley, Rita Katsanos, Kelly Riediger

1. Thanks to all that attended the End of Term Party!
2. Grad photos take place Tuesday, Jan 20 - Friday, Jan 23 and Thursday, Feb. 26. Students need to bring \$15 as a sitting fee to pay to the photographer (in cash or cheque). It's only \$5 if you're not going to order pictures, just want your picture in the class composite. **Please read the information sent out in the e-mail from Debra Illsley.**
3. Convocation has been confirmed - Thursday May 28 (likely at 3pm, but TBA). The Graduation Dinner & Dance will be held that night, at the Metropolitan Entertainment Centre (The Met). Stay tuned for details.

Questions/Comments: None

2.17 Sports Committee – Tyler Derksen, Kevin Schur

1. Nothing to report

Questions/Comments: None

2.18 Tuition Review Committee – Stacy Senkbeil, Scott Birse

1. Nothing to report

Questions/Comments: None

2.19 Professional Development Committee – Jessica Davenport, Lane Foster, Sunnie Chung

1. Tomorrow we are hosting Interviews that Impress
2. January 28th we are hosting a resume and cover letter workshop
3. February 3rd is mock interview night.
4. February 4th there is a firm tour prep workshop.
5. February 19th is Toronto firm tours and Alumni event.
6. March 3rd is a small firm roundtable.
7. March 5th there is a CPLED workshop.
8. March 11th we are hosting a Toronto roundtable
9. March 18th is a Calgary roundtable.

Questions/Comments:

- Colpitts asked if tomorrow's event could be promoted.
- McGregor stated that there is a serious lack of information about the viPortal – she asked if an email could be sent to the 1L list.
- Lane responded that he could ask Marla to send an email with instructions.

2.20 Strategic Relations Committee – Jessica Isaak, Andrew Chambers, Sara McGregor

1. Nothing to report

Questions/Comments: None

3. Motions:

3.1 None

4. New Business:

4.1 None

5. Old Business:

5.1 None

6. Announcements:

6.1 None

7. Notice of Next Meeting:

7.1 Orest Suchy will contact MLSA Members with notice of next meeting.

8. Adjournment:

8.1 Maister/Bokhaut @ 12:39 pm

Carried