

Manitoba Law Students Association Council Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2009
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Robson Hall – Room # 309

MINUTES

Attended:

Davy Ireland	Connor Williamson	Kevin Eng
Cameron Wong	John Prystanski	Sophia Virji
James Wood	Kyle Lamothe	Sloane Bernard
Natasha Penner	Jason Roberts	Katelyn Clarke
Neil Goodridge	Selena Eng	Adam Nathanson
Loren Braul	Landon Miller	Brett Kodak
Rana Bokhari	Breena Murray	Danielle Rondeau
Celia Sherbo	Shannon Patterson	
Brendan Burns	Tina Petrick	

Regrets:

Heather Belle Guest	Amanda Faulkner
Joel Myskiw	Katie Brownell
Mike Jones	Sarah Rossman
Heather Mackie	

1.0 Approval of Agenda – approved

2.0 Approval of Minutes

2.1 September 24, 2009 – approved

2.2 October 22, 2009 - approved

3.0 New business

3.1 Carbohc Smoke Ball (S. Bernard & K. Clarke)

Hand out with venue and event info distributed

J. Roberts - thought millennium centre was great, look at cost

C. Williamson - are firms invited?

D. Ireland - preference is to invite firms independently from the MBA if they wish to come. He doesn't know if it will be something they focus on – but we have the capacity. Subject to anyone's great concern to not have them there he would prefer to invite firms.

B. Burns - getting firms to attend usually offsets costs – consider this price wise.

T. Petrick – asked about #'s

D. Ireland - we don't have a split between students and lawyers

3.2 Funding Requests

Funding request for WUSC (C. Wong)

Funding request was withdrawn – Applicant received funds from another source

Student funding info and funding motion (J. Wood)

- info about student groups which had been ratified – business, outlaw, curling,

- 5 requests for funding from e-mail request

MOTION: To allocate \$1000 of MLSA money from the general MLSA budget to the

MLSA student funding budget line

J. Wood – Moved

C. Wong - Second

K. Lamothe – How much was spent last year in total

J. Wood - \$1870.00

VOTE: Passes unanimously

3.3 JD/LLB (D. Ireland)

- history of the past vote - overwhelming apathy vote

- second wave of law schools which haven't changed, are now switching. 12 are either at or going to switch to JD

- The Deans concern is related to funding and generally he feels it is inevitable and he is going to start to push for it

- He doesn't require our approval, but we are going to need to take a position as an organization.

- He isn't inviting a motion or putting anything forward but, he just wants an idea of where people are on this.

L. Miller - it wasn't a majority in favour of the JD

In terms of an info session L. Miller ran one which was not well attended. There was somewhat of a debate on it – most people, despite the results, seem to have an opinion on it one way or another. If we have another info session he doesn't know how much will change in terms of views, but he is open to having a more advertised info session.

Perhaps it is worth doing. The more he speaks to the Dean the more he thinks it is inevitable. If the MLSA position is that we shouldn't change it then we need to solidify it quickly – we must be clear.

L. Miller - UVIC – 16 nov holding plebiscite on the issue and he couldn't find any results but they are talking about it in a serious way with a panel

UBC formally offering a JD and they have a fairly official process to retroactively change the LL.B. to a J.D. Handling by grad office/enroll service. Change your trans/parch for \$100. U of A - is talking about it but as of last year they offered a joint degree with U of Colorado and in order to maintain the distinct they may not change it.

U of C - all but a done deal, U of S – doing plebiscite, U of O - faculty voted to keep LLB, Osgoode – changing to JD, U of T – JD, Queens/Western – JD, Windsor – joint degree with Detroit, Dal – pleb passed in spring in favour of JD

Overwhelming response is to change to JD.

The info session last yr was the only real tangible critique if you change it to a JD One student thought that American law graduates may confuse Canadian employers and that American grads may try to flood the Canadian market.

Global market place is asking for this distinction.

N. Goodridge – last years results: in favour of llb 55, jd 86, no pref 67

K. Lamothe: Asked D. Ireland - you mentioned that the Dean thought he would get pressure for funding? What are you ref to?

D. Ireland: the Deans position is that he feels he would rather be assoc with the schools that are switching rather than the ones who aren't. Doesn't know how credible it is – but we will see who goes and who doesn't. He is doing a lot of comparing schools and this is just one factor for international recognition and money brought in for research. It would make his life easier if we had a more intl degree (doesn't want to put words in the deans mouth) he thinks this is the implicit angle he is taking. He doesn't think it aids the faculty to keep the LL.B. -

The faculty voted to keep the LL.B. at U of Ottawa.

Two step changes:

i) convert your degree to a joint w. a US school; or

ii) cosmetically change it

What would be proposed - you wouldn't have to be a graduate to enter the faculty.

Landon description of LLB/JD background

B. Murray – when the plebiscite happened a lot of people felt it came out of nowhere – a lot voted apathy b/c they didn't have enough information. We need to educate students more on the issue.

B. Burns - when we put it through it was a quick push and we had to coincide with spring elections. A well planned info session would be beneficial.

L. Miller - in your opinion, Davy, in speaking with the dean if there was a big push back from the students against the change, will the dean still change it? An info session is not a bad idea, but how are we framing it?

D. Ireland - wouldn't necessarily lead to a plebiscite – but it would be useful. A lot of people would like to know more about it. He doesn't feel it is completely inevitable and even if he did it would still be a good idea so that everyone is familiar.

B. Burns - Are we opposed to another plebiscite?

L. Miller - He hasn't seen any conclusive reasons why the change shouldn't happen other than history sake. As it moves forward in the years the majority of CDN law schools will be issuing JD's. He struggles to see the value in it.

Davy: Always a value in hearing what people have to say but he understands where L. Miller is coming from. If we choose as an org to base our position on what the students want rather than council then he honestly doesn't know where he is on it (think about it longer and make a decision as an exec and then vote on whether or not to have a plebiscite)

L. Miller - Plebiscite is useful if it is going to be helpful for people in the short term and this result will outlive us.

L. Brault - if it will change in the next three yrs and the MLSA doesn't have a position - If it is happening to us – then it undermines us. Anything but passive is good.

N. Goodridge - looked up other schools - a lot will let people in after 2 yrs if they are in the process of completing their third year

3.4 Legal Help Centre (C. Wong)

- attended info session on new arm of pro bono.

- it is a referral service. This would do the same thing, but also sessions through the city w. lawyers attending and people will call their line and direct them to see a lawyer at a certain time and location

- this is a legal centre

- Passionate lawyers that are behind this project right now

- Jan 2011 hope to be set up.

- Someone on the MLSA to be the student rep consultant

- Jan 16, 2010 – next meeting.

Anyone interested? First or second yr reps? Talk to C. Wong after the meeting

4.0 Reports

President:

D. Ireland

Faculty had a break-in in the general office they broke the office window and went through their office.

No direct impact on the MLSA - our office wasn't broken into.

Constant concern from the faculty perspective that there is a lot worth stealing, but there is also the idea of vandalism

D. Ireland met with the Dean – talked about # of things – incl. a fee increase. Not in terms of a proposal, but to be aware generally for the future.

Faculty council on Nov. 27th – last meeting cancelled

Lunch w. the dean on Nov. 27th with MLSA executive.

Vice-President:

Thanks to council for signing up for extended office hours

Executive Director:

Nothing new to add to information already reported

Communications Director:

NTR

MALSA Rep:

NTR

MBA Rep:

K. Lamothe

Mentorship all rolled out 74 students, 73 lawyers

Wine and cheese email went out. TDS well attended – with mba, mlsa, dean and assoc dean, K. Brownell and K. Eng volunteered to help set up

Senate Rep:

NTR

3rd Yr Rep:

NTR

2nd Yr Rep:

C. Sherbo – Waiting for Associate Dean Turnbull for data for examssoft - still doesn't have it. Getting info as to the comparison for marks b/w writing vs. typing and whether there is a statistically significant difference

1st Yr Rep:

L. Braul - followed up on examssoft. Talked to Associate Dean Turnbull and clarified the email. Everyone seems fairly pleased.

J. Myskiw asked about L lot.

R. Bokhari – library - our section seems to have an issue – 6 tables.

What about Slater Room? If we need it – may be able to book it.

Winnipeg Harvest – next Tuesday they are supposed to drop two food bins and coin boxes in the front office for tues. R. Bokhari's mom is going to cook food and donate

Future of the Profession:

NTR

Marketing Committee:

Clothing order designs are being finalized. Order form either by the end of this week and people will have next week to order. The order is due Nov. 27 of next wk

2 wks for delivery, possibly by December 11th.

- inventory in earlier this yr and after further discussion – order forms. That's why this is coming out later than we had anticipated.

Social Committee:

NTR

Graduation Committee:

Put in a contract with Fort Garry – GRAD BANQUET - April 26 - dinner and dance.

GRAD Social was suppose to be on the Feb 5 – but they are going to reschedule due to the Carbolic Smoke Ball

Sports Committee
NTR

Law Games:

Met with the dean and he is very supportive and has a long term vision. Trying to bring Law games to U of M and fund people who can't attend.

Yearbook:

Last yrs are ready to be handed out. They have a list for whoever is doing office duty D. Rondeau will send out an email saying they are ready for pick up.
Directions Check it off the list in the MLSA office. Prepaid

Grad photos are next week

J. Wood - event calendar on MLSA website – send dates to J. Wood

Space behind the men's washroom – psychology graduates using the space temporarily. Suggested by the faculty for us to move operations in future.

J. Prystanski – L. Brault mentioned study areas we cant get into b/c we don't belong to that faculty. Other students come to the law lib b/c its quiet - perhaps the library should also require that. Then not as many non-law students will come.

Thompson River opening a new law school in Canada.

Law games: \$300 fee/flight/food and drinks/looking to subsidize

5.0 Next Meeting

TBD

6.0 Adjournment

J. Wood – Motion to Adjourn

C. Williamson - Seconded

Meeting Adjourned

P.S. – S. Eng reported that the UMSU microwave is downstairs. S. Eng will also be getting together w. J. Wood to address issue of parking in L lot.