

**University of New Brunswick Law Students’ Society**

**COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA**

**Friday, November 24th, 2017**

**4:00PM –** Room 28

1. **Call to Order—** Lucas MacArthur

The Chairperson called the Regular Meeting of Council to order at 4:04 pm and welcomed those present.

**In Attendance:**

Ben Lord

Des Duplessis

Genviève Gangné

Molly Murphy

Natalie Feltrin

Adam Foote

Savannah DeWolfe

Kathleen Adams

Ciara Jerrett

Jacob Greenslade

Lucas MacArthur

1. **Motion—**Adoption of the Agenda

*Lucas MacArthur (Chairperson) calls for additions*

Addition: Jacob Greenslade

That the Agenda be amended with the addition of item 5: Student question and alumnus letter forwarded pursuant to a class petition)

Moved by: Jacob Greenslade

Seconded by: Natalie Feltrin

Motion CARRIED as amended

1. **Executive Reports**

President - Ben Lord

1. Coffee cups and supplies have been purchased for the exam season
2. Congratulations on the success of semi-formal and Santa photo's
3. CAN's committee determined that the utilization of the TWEN page would not be the most effective database for the storage and dissemination of the CANs.
   1. Open to discuss LSS TWEN page for the management of minutes and calendar
   2. Encourage students to sign up for Martha's TWEN page, will be useful for information regarding upcoming OCI's
4. The remainder of my speaking points will be delayed until items 4 and 5

Vice-President - Desiree Duplessis

1. Last minute reimbursement questions are directed to cheque requisition
2. Email received concerning intramural softball and a number of missing gloves We've been informed if they are not returned *as soon as possible,* each team will be deducted a cheque (75$)

Treasurer – Geneviève Gagné

1. Endowment trust: Martha has uncovered 10 000 $ of LSS money that was set aside a decade ago to be used toward an LSS award for students. With interest this account has grown to 18 000$. Criteria for this award will be set in the new year with the hopes that the award can be given in the spring.
   1. Martha has suggested that the account may have enough to award one student 500-750$ a year.
   2. Looking to have this LSS award have a extra-curricular, 'school spirit' oriented scope rather than a narrow academic focus, however we have not discussed much beyond this.
2. In talks with Tammy Moore to have the payment of LSS fees moved to the registrar's office as opposed to the bookstore. This way the fees will be included in the tuition breakdown. This allows a larger portion of the funds to be freed up for next year's LSS to use.
3. As Ben stated, Halloween and Semi-Formal were hugely successful. Halloween was profitable, and it looks as though Semi-Formal will break even, which is good news as it normally operates at a loss.
4. Deadline for cheque requisition forms and deadline for the payment of LSS fees is December 1st.
5. Cable box in the lounge was stolen. In the process of replacing it and should hopefully be replaced by early next semester.

Discussion

* Jacob Greenslade (3L Representative) stated that he had received a student suggestion for a potential way to cut costs on coffee cups. Tim Horton’s may be interested in providing free cups if the LSS offered exclusive use of their coffee pods in return.
* Desiree Duplessiss (Vice-President) suggested that contacting the bookstore to prompt last minute Exam4 purchasers to pay their LSS fees may be an effective way to remind those who have not yet paid to do so while they are already there.

First Year Representative – Molly Murphy

1. Working on getting weekly Ludlow announcements represented in a cleaner and clearer format on the chalkboard every Sunday night. Contact me if you have anything you would like posted, otherwise I will find the announcement if it is posted on any of the official UNB law student Facebook groups.

1. **CANs Committee Update –** Ben Lord

* Can's database is currently hosted as a google drive
* Mandatory courses covered as well as many of the electives
* CANS committee editing, uploading, and strategizing for the new term
* Exploring a more permanent database
  + Student suggested Amazon domain
  + Issue of recurring cost for maintenance of a domain name raised as a concern

1. **Student Question and Alumnus statement** 
   * Jacob (3L Representative): I've been asked on behalf a student to ask "Is the LSS the proper forum for bring a petition like this forward?"
   * Ben (President): *Provides context before proceeding to answer the question*
     + September 28th, issues surrounding the nature of the comments being made in the third year mandatory Professional Conduct class taught by Professor Ed Veitch, were brought to the Dean.
     + November 15th, a meeting was booked with Associate Dean to bring matters to her attention, discuss student concerns, and seek advice as a student advocate.
     + November 21st I emailed Dr. Moore and reported student's concerns on what the outcome of this course would be regarding the pass/fail as we are nearing the end of term. We scheduled a meeting the next day.
       - Hillary Perry (Faculty Council Representative) joined me for this meeting, as another concerned classmate.
       - The Associate Dean advised that we formulate a petition outlining the issues in detail for the request of a pass/fail exam, so that the reasoning on behalf of the signatories will be clear when the petition is presented to the Dean. She advised that Prof. Veitch would not be returning to teach next year.
       - The Associate Dean added that the petition could be disseminated through class email, and that the petition statement could copied and resent to her from a student via email in place of a physical signature, for convenience as we are in the midst of a busy time of year.
         * Associate Dean was unable to provide a class list upon request, but suggested that the 3rd year list serve is accessible through the LSS.
       - I will read the letter drafted by Hillary Perry and I. We decided to circulate the petition ourselves, so that we knew the student response rate, and felt it important to alert the class via email as there was no other option to ensure everyone was privy to the petition.
         * *See Appendix A*
       - The petition was then circulated and has garnered twenty-six signatories, above 50% of the class.
       - In response to the question, the petition was circulated in this manner under the direction and suggestion of the Associate Dean, and as members of the LSS we act first as student advocates.
     + Geneviève (Treasurer): Reiterates that emailing the information regarding the petition were necessary since there were no longer any classes being held, and therefore no further opportunity to get together with those students.

* Jacob (3L Representative): An alumnus who wishes to remain anonymous submitted a letter and asks that it be read to council.

*Discussion of procedure and protocol in terms of how to move forward with this item*

**Motion—** To read the letter in the LSS November 24th Regular Meeting

Moved by: Savannah DeWolfe

Seconded: Molly Murphy

ThatCouncil read the letter forwarded by an alumnus who wishes to be kept anonymous

Against: Desiree Duplessis, Adam Foote

Motion CARRIED

**Motion—** To move In-Camera *(Closed Session)*

Moved by: Jacob Greenslade

Seconded by: Savannah DeWolfe

That, for privacy concerns and risk of publicizing identifying information, Council move into a closed session reading and discussion in reading the letter on behalf of the alumnus

Motion CARRIED

*Council enters in-camera (closed session) discussion*

1. **Motion—**Adjourn

Moved by: Kathleen Adams (Section Two Representative)

Seconded by: Molly Murphy (1L Representative)

That the regular meeting of Council dated November 24th, 2017 be adjourned at 5:06 pm.

Motion CARRIED

Appendix A:

**PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT STUDENT PETITION FOR A PASS/FAIL EXAM**

We, the students currently enrolled in Professional Conduct with Professor Veitch, urge Dean Kleefeld to implement a pass/fail examination in place of the graded examination taking place 8 December, 2017. At the advice of the Associate Dean, we circulate this petition. We make this request based on the following concerns:

1.     1. Due to issues brought forward by the class, Professor Veitch will not be teaching this course in the winter term as planned. This, however, does not address our concerns with the education we received, and we feel a remedy is essential in light of the poor quality of teaching we obtained in Professor Veitch’s classroom.

2.     2. Professor Veitch’s lectures largely lacked substantive material. For example, we never read the Federation of Law Societies rules of conduct or learned their practical application. We feel we were not taught the rules of Professional Conduct, which is essential knowledge for a lawyer, and tested on the bar exam. We do not feel we obtained the requisite skills or knowledge to write an exam on this material. Any grades obtained from his examination would not be reflective of our abilities or performance as students.

3.     3. Professor Veitch’s rhetoric contravened UNB’s policy on ensuring a safe learning environment. The University of New Brunswick mandates that it is “committed to providing a positive learning and working environment, one in which all members of the community are respectful and respected as individuals. We strive to foster a welcoming and supportive community where every person feels empowered to contribute”, as per the office of Human Rights’ mission statement. Professor Veitch made sexist, derogatory and hurtful comments, sometimes directed at students, which impacted attendance and participation in the course. His classroom was not a safe space for all, impacting many students’ ability to learn effectively. Students are further discouraged that these comments went unaddressed by the administration despite having been brought to their attention informally.

I, the undersigned, agree with this statement, and believe that a pass/fail exam is a fair remedy.