

**DRAFT MINUTES of the Faculty Council, Faculty of Law,
held Wednesday, March 22, 2023, 12:30 p.m.
Michael J. Trebilcock Solarium, Falconer Hall (FA2)**

Present: Dean Jutta Brunnée; Associate Dean Essert; Professors Aidid, Bédard-Rubin, Borrows, Dyzenhaus, Green, Iacobucci, Langille, Niblett, Phillips, Prado, Ripstein, Shaffer, Stacey & Valcke; Chief Law Librarian Gian Medves; Assistant Dean Dimitrova.

Students: Meaza Damte (SLS President), Isabel Brisson, Julia Campbell, Matthew Chasmar, Naomi Chernos, Milano Grahovac, Akash Jain, Jane Jiang, Ben Kitching, John Metzger, Paul Mohan, Caleb Rae Goff.

Observers: Assistant Deans Faherty and Orchard; Theresa Chan, Terry Gardiner, Annette Henry, Bernadette Mount, Michelle Rosenstock.

1. Chair's Welcome (Jutta Brunnée)

Dean Brunnée welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted a full agenda.

Dean Brunnée called the meeting to order and provided a tuition update noting the Ontario government had indicated that they will be extending the current tuition fee framework for a 3rd year. There is a small chance that an expert panel assembled to "improve the financial sustainability" of the post-secondary education sector which will recommend an interim framework for Fall 2023. At the moment, however, it is likely that the freeze will continue for the 2023-24 school year for Ontario students, while allowing post-secondary institutions to raise their fees for domestic out-of-province students by up to five per cent. Tuition fees for domestic out-of-province law students will increase by 3%. International fees will continue to be unregulated. Dean Brunnée commented that in 2024-2025 it was indicated that there would be a modest increase.

2. Approval of Minutes of February 8, 2023 (Jutta Brunnée)

A motion was put forward to approve the Minutes of the February 8, 2023, meeting, and was seconded. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

3. SLS President's Remarks (Meaza Damte)

Dean Brunnée invited remarks from SLS President, Meaza Damte.

Meaza thanked the Dean for the tuition update. Meaza noted that students are nearing the end of year semester crunch and recalled the importance of a community of caring and kindness at the law school. Meaza updated members that they are wrapping up social activities for the year. Meaza reported that Law Follies had over 400 in attendance and the Law Ball had over 500 in attendance, raising \$8300.

4. GLSA President's Remarks (Jasween Gujral)

Dean Brunnée noted that GLSA President, Jasween Gujral was not in attendance.

5. Financial Aid Committee Final Report (Eleonora Dimitrova & Anthony Niblett)*

Dean Brunnée invited Professor Niblett and Acting Assistant Dean Dimitrova, co-chairs, of the Financial Aid Committee to present their report.

Professor Niblett thanked committee members for their contributions and thanked the members of the Financial Aid Committee (FAC), especially the active student community members (Isabel Brisson, Caleb Rae Goff, and Justin Kim), who all contributed so much.

Professor Niblett provided a walkthrough of their report which was posted online. Professor Niblett noted the report included the review and determination of six requests for reconsideration of financial aid awards. Professor Niblett thanked the Awards Office and Irene Aiello for updates of the planning tool that has been renamed “Estimator” (previously the “Calculator”).

Professor Niblett noted that the committee was mandated with the following:

1. Review of the Faculty’s Post-Graduation Debt Repayment Assistance Program (PDRAP) and creating a PDRAP calculator.
Professor Niblett noted that a full review of PDRAP will require more data about alumni need and the Committee recommended that this review of the PDRAP be completed next year.
2. Building Community Knowledge
Professor Niblett noted that the committee reviewed the financial aid website with a communications agency and with student members of the FAC. Professor Niblett noted that the Faculty is currently revising the website and recommended consulting with students as the new Financial Aid webpage is released.
3. Financial Aid Eligibility Support
Professor Niblett advised that the FAC continued to monitor the impact of the financial aid policy and noted that several policies were updated as a result of the review of parameters for eligibility.

Acting Assistant Dean Dimitrova presented the financial aid numbers and echoed Professor Niblett’s praise of the amount of input and work the students of the committee contributed.

Acting Assistant Dean Dimitrova noted that there are two financial aid programs. The JD Financial Aid Program for current students, and the PDRAP for alumni. Acting Assistant Dean Dimitrova provided financial aid information for the current year as well as, by way of context, the past two years. She highlighted that donor funding had significantly increased from the previous year by 20%. This point was important to note and thanks were due to Assistant Dean Lancaster and the Advancement Team for their efforts on this front. Acting Assistant Dean Dimitrova also advised that the average bursary amount students were receiving in 2022-2023 had increased to over \$21,000. She also noted that, as bursaries increased, the number of students receiving an interest subsidy on an authorized line of credit had decreased, as had the average authorized line of credit amount. Assistant Dean Dimitrova commented that there has been a slight decrease in students applying and those who are ineligible, which may be a result of the Estimator being able to predict in advance if they are eligible for assistance. Finally, Assistant Dean Dimitrova noted that the number of PDRAP applicants and number of eligible applicants have dropped over two years and that the median salary for PDRAP participants has increased since 2020.

6. Clerkships Advisory Committee Update (Martha Shaffer)

Dean Brunnée invited Professor Shaffer, Chair of the Clerkships Advisory Committee, to provide an update.

Professor Shaffer thanked committee members (Rachel Weiner, Theresa Chan and Professors Benson, Drassinower, Phillips, Roach & Valcke). Professor Shaffer commented they had a great committee and a strong group of applicants, noting that 28 of the Faculty's applicants' received clerkships across the country. Professor Shaffer advised that this was the largest number of successful applicants in her memory. Professor Shaffer listed the names of students who were successful: Supreme Court of Canada: Hannah Cinel, Mackenzie Claggett, Laura Goldfarb, Ema Ibrakovic, Sterling Mancuso; Ontario Court of Appeal: Laura Cameron, Martha Côté, David Côté, Katarina Kusic, Foti Vito, Ivy Xu, Ben Zolf, Jack Stewart; Federal Court of Appeal: Maguid Nicholas, Caitlin Salvino; British Columbia Court of Appeal: Benjamin MacLean-Max, Olivia O'Connor; New Brunswick Court of Appeal: Caeleb Goff; Federal Court: Jane Fallis Cooper, Rebekah Kim; Ontario Superior Court of Justice: Arly Abramson, Genevieve Citron, Noa Levin, Rhea Murti, Emily Rand; British Columbia Supreme Court: Charles Ma; Divisional Court: Gordon Milne; Tax Court: Lillian Liu.

Dean Brunnée applauded our future clerks and remarked that this result spoke to the caliber and qualities of these students. Dean Brunnée thanked Professor Shaffer, Rachel Weiner and Theresa Tam, as well as the entire committee, for their hard work and dedication in which we have all been rewarded.

7. JD/Master of Social Work Proposal (Sara Faherty)*

Dean Brunnée invited Assistant Dean Faherty to present a proposal for a new program.

Assistant Dean Faherty advised that this program, Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency, originated from the School of Social Work, which was introducing a new Field of Study in Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency into their MSW program. Assistant Dean Faherty commented that this combined program allows students to complete the two degrees in four years, rather than the five it would take to pursue them independently. The program gives students who wish to practise in the areas in which law and social work interact (for example, child welfare, mental health, social policy, human rights) an opportunity to participate leading to both the JD and MSW degrees. Assistant Dean Faherty remarked that both schools need to have sign off before it can be sent to Governing Council for approval. Assistant Dean Faherty noted that there already seemed to be interest in the new field they were hoping to start this program in September 2023.

A motion was put forward to approve the new program, JD/MSW (Social Work) Indigenous Trauma and Resiliency, and was seconded. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

8. Mental Health and Wellness Committee final report (Andrew Green)*

Dean Brunnée invited Professor Green to provide the Mental Health and Wellness Committee final report.

Professor Green commented that it was a pleasure to work with, Co-chair, Terry Gardiner, and all committee members. Professor Green noted that the Committee decided to form three subcommittees to address the Dean's mandate: 1) a subcommittee on the implementation of the Student Mental Health Action Plan; 2) a subcommittee on the Faculty's mental health training options; and 3) a subcommittee on the culture of compassion. Professor Green provided an update on the outcomes of the sub-committees:

1. Student Mental Health Action Plan Subcommittee

The plan included objectives in three areas: a. creating a healthy community, b. increasing mental health literacy, and c. provision of effective, accessible mental health services. Professor Green listed some of the activities and outputs in this portfolio, which are included in the committee report available online. Professor Green commented that the Faculty provides wonderful and helpful programs, but that it would be helpful to have benchmarks for assessment. He noted this would be something for the Committee to consider next year.

2. Mental Health Training Subcommittee

The Faculty has many training options available; however, there is room for improvement of the awareness of existing training opportunities for members of the community. One concern was the need to balance the importance of awareness of opportunities and the already busy schedules of students, faculty, and staff. The sub-committee discussed different levels in increasing awareness and participation of community members.

3. Community of Kindness Subcommittee

Professor Green noted that the sub-committee looked at and provided many ideas, contained in the report, on how we can build a community of kindness and compassion into our community. Professor Green commented that the law school has no shortage of examples of acts of kindness in the community and will continue to look at more ideas going into next year.

9. Motion to Delegate Authority re: Graduate Programs (Emily Orchard)

Dean Brunnée invited Assistant Dean Orchard to present on the next order of business.

Assistant Dean Orchard advised that from time to time there can be minor changes required for the LLM and GPLLM programs during the summer (new courses, credit weight etc.). Associate Dean Orchard requested Faculty Council's approval to delegate authority to Associate Dean Katz to make those minor changes if they are needed.

A motion was put forward and was seconded. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

10. Adjournment

The meeting then adjourned at 1:23 pm