

**MINUTES of the Faculty Council, Faculty of Law,
held Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 12:30 p.m. (FA2)**

Present: Dean Jutta Brunnée; Associate Deans Essert, L. Katz; Aidid, Alarie, Bédard-Rubin, Borrows, Dawood, Dyzenhaus, Fadel, Green, Iacobucci, A. Katz, Langille, Lemmens, Niblett, Ripstein, Shaffer, Stacey, Stern, Thorburn, Valcke & Yoon; Chief Law Librarian Gian Medves; Assistant Dean Dimitrova. Students: Meaza Damte (SLS President), Isabel Brisson, Julia Campbell, Naomi Chernos, John Metzger, Paul Mohan.

Observers: Assistant Deans Faherty and Orchard; Terry Gardiner, Annette Henry, Ada Maxwell-Alleyne, Bernadette Mount, Michelle Rosenstock.

1. Chair's Welcome (Jutta Brunnée)

Dean Brunnée called the meeting to order and provided a brief update on the Academic Planning process. Dean Brunnée noted that consultations will commence in the fall, with a view to completing the process by the end of the academic year. Dean Brunnée commented that she would like this to be an energizing opportunity for the community, providing an occasion to think about priorities, challenges, and opportunities for the next five years. Dean Brunnée recalled her three broad priorities as Dean: 1. Re-energize and strengthen community, 2. Promote inclusive excellence, 3. Think about how we can be a highly engaged and visible Faculty and contribute to tackling the big challenges societies face today.

In connection to the third priority, Dean Brunnée encouraged students, faculty and staff to participate in the Faculty's first biannual conference on "Law in a Changing World", March 2 & 3. Dean Brunnée noted that the upcoming conference will be grappling with the challenges of the climate crisis, the premise being that climate change is not only for experts to confront, but for all members of society, at all levels.

Dean Brunnée noted that she would be hosting a special J's Java on February 28th. At the invitation of the SLS, J's Java will be part of the Oakes' Week festivities and will provide an opportunity to "rationally connect" with colleagues and a special guest; our distinguished jurist in residence, Rosalie Abella, would be in attendance.

2. Approval of Minutes of January 11, 2023 (Jutta Brunnée)

A motion was put forward to approve the Minutes of the January 11, 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 and noted that recent SLS activities have focused on building community engagement, including activities with a group trip to the ROM After Dark. SLS also participated in a Valentine's Day Medical Malpractice Mixer at the Medical School. Meaza commented that February 14th, Valentine's Day, SLS will have a message board inviting the community to post notes about caring and kindness. Meaza updated members that Oakes' Week events will provide a student breakfast on Monday, February 27 and a trivia event on Wednesday, March 1. SLS is also working with the Academic Success Committee to provide a video for exams etc.

Dean Brunnée thanked Meaza for the update and there were no questions.

4. GLSA President's Remarks (Jasween Gujral)

Dean Brunnée advised that Jasween was unable to attend and present at this meeting.

5. Curriculum Committee Interim Report and Approval of Sessional Dates (Chris Essert)

Dean Brunnée invited Associate Dean Essert to provide an update on sessional dates and an interim Curriculum Committee report.

Associate Dean Essert updated members on behalf of the Curriculum Committee noting that they are continuing to convene for consultations and receive feedback from students and faculty with respect to modifications to the first-year program as they relate to the placement of Legal Process in the first year. Associate Dean Essert will provide an update at the March Faculty Council meeting.

Associate Dean Essert introduced the sessional dates that had been posted on the Faculty Council website. Associate Dean Essert noted changes from previous years. Associate Dean Essert advised that the off-campus interviews, OCI's, are scheduled for October 5 & 6, 2023, and to allow students to focus on their interviews, we will not be having any Upper Year classes on those dates. Associate Dean Essert remarked that the exam period in December is one day shorter, noting it is a compromise but will allow one additional day for the registrarial process to operate more smoothly. Associate Dean Essert pointed out that the winter term will start on Monday, January 8th, allowing a full week of classes for our intensive courses.

Assistant Dean Faherty commented that she wanted to draw attention to the add/drop deadline of January 31. Assistant Dean Faherty explained that many students have indicated that they need two full weeks of classes to decide about their course selections. Assistant Dean Faherty noted that this add/drop period is something that the Faculty has had for years, but it does complicate many things. Assistant Dean Faherty remarked that this year we are in a different situation. She noted that the proposed add/drop deadline was too long, and some students had indicated they would like to finalize their courses sooner.

Student and faculty members discussed the pros and cons of having the add/drop deadline of January 31 and discussed the longer than usual waitlists this year. Assistant Dean Faherty proposed an earlier date of Friday, January 26 as the new add/drop deadline for selection of second term courses. Faculty and student members concurred that students would benefit by finalizing their courses by this earlier date, allowing students to finalize registration in their courses.

A motion was put forward to amend the proposed add/drop deadline for course selection from Monday, January 31 to Friday, January 26 @ 5pm and was seconded. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

A motion was put forward to approve the amended Sessional Dates and seconded. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

Dean Brunnée thanked Associate Dean Essert for the update and there were no questions.

6. Graduate Program Admissions Report (Larissa Katz & Emily Orchard)

Dean Brunnée invited Associate Dean Katz to provide comments on the Report of the Graduate Program Admissions & Financial Support.

Associate Dean Katz informed members that the report had been posted on the Faculty Council website for review and provided highlights of that report:

- For the 2022-2023 academic year, the Graduate Program has 191 students registered in all programs.
- LLM Admissions 2022-2023
Received 307 applications and extended 78 offers. Associate Dean Katz noted that more offers were extended this year than last year and that approximately one-quarter of our offers were accepted.
- SJD Admissions 2022-2023
Received 108 applications and extended eight offers with five students accepting. Associate Dean Katz noted that number annually is between 5 – 8 students.
- GPLLM Program 2022-2023
Associate Dean Katz noted that we have 120 students enrolled in the GPLLM Program, with Canadian Law in a Global Context being the largest concentration.
- Graduate Funding
Associate Dean Katz commented on the funding for our LLM students and noted that the average award for domestic students is \$6,000 (1/2 of tuition) and international students receive an average award of \$16,000 (1/3 of tuition).
Associate Dean Katz advised that SJD students receive a package (tuition, incidental fees, and a living stipend of \$17,500 per year) and apply for external grant funding.

Dean Brunnée thanked Associate Dean Katz for the update and there were no questions.

Dean Brunnée commented that before she closes this meeting, she wanted to warmly welcome Associate Dean Larissa Katz as Associate Dean, Graduate Programs as of January 1, 2023. Dean Brunnée also thanked former Associate Dean Malcolm Thorburn whose term ended on December 31. Dean Brunnée commended Associate Dean Thorburn for his outstanding work in stewarding the program and mentoring our graduate students.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:06PM.