

MINUTES, of the Faculty Council, Faculty of Law
Held Wednesday, October 26, 2022, p.m.
FA2/Michael J. Trebilcock Solarium

Present: Dean Jutta Brunnée; Associate Deans Essert, Thorburn; Professors Alarie, Bedard Rubin, Dyzenhaus, Fadel, Green, Lee, MacIntosh, Niblett, Prado, Shaffer, Valcke; John Bolan, Eleonora Dimitrova.

Students: Meaza Damte (SLS President), Isabel Brisson, Julia Campbell, Naomi Cambell, Matthew Chasmar, Milana Grahovac, Akash Jain, Jane Jiang, John Metzger, Paul Mohan, Caeleb Rae Goff, Jasween Singh Gujral (GLSA President).

Observers: Assistant Deans Faherty and Orchard; Terry Gardiner, Ada Maxwell-Alleyne, Cheryl Milne, Bernadette Mount, Sandra Wisner.

1. Chair's Welcome (Jutta Brunnée)

Dean Brunnée welcomed everyone to the first Faculty Council meeting of the academic year.

Dean Brunnée commented that she wanted to begin her opening remarks by registering our collective sorrow of the [passing of Karen Knop](#) on September 26. Karen was beloved by all and the outpouring from around the world has been remarkable and appreciated. Karen was born in 1960, in Halifax, Nova Scotia. She joined the Faculty of Law as a Special Lecturer in 1990 and a full-time faculty member in 1992. Planning is underway for an event to recognize Professor Knop's contributions at the Faculty of Law. The details will be shared in due course.

Dean Brunnée noted some new faces in the room and welcomed three new Faculty appointments, Abdi Aidid, Jean-Christophe Bédard-Rubin (in attendance) and John Borrows. On the staff side, Dean Brunnée welcomed Eleonora Dimitrova, Interim Assistant Dean, JD Program; Ada Maxwell-Alleyne, Assistant Dean, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion and Sandra Wisner, Director, International Human Rights Program. Dean Brunnée also welcomed all new 1L students and remarked on this year's cohort: 56% women, 19% LGBTQ + students, 41% students of colour, 32% born outside of Canada. [The stats can be found on the Faculty of Law website at this link.](#) Dean Brunnée welcomed our new graduate students who hail from more than thirty-six countries, including Armenia, Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, China, France, Germany, Iran, Mexico, Philippines, Singapore, UK, Ukraine, and others and noted they are a highly accomplished group.

Dean Brunnée commented that the return to classes has been "joyful"; she has seen many happy faces and an eagerness to engage. Dean Brunnée commented on the many in person events that have been well attended since the beginning of term: the Dean's BBQ, J's Java, and public events such as the Goodman Lecture, events in honour of Rosalie Abella, an event on the occasion of Martin Friedland's 90th birthday, and, not least, the Grand Moot with Justices, Maxwell, Sossin and Thorburn. Dean Brunnée congratulated the Grand Mooters: Benjamin MacLean-Max, Ivy Xu, Laura Goldfarb, and Adrianna Mills and the Moot Court Committee Co-Chief Justices: Mackenzie Faulkner and Charles Ma. Dean Brunnée thanked Assistant Dean Faherty, the IT and Events Team who coordinated the event.

Dean Brunnée noted that over the past year our faculty have been very busy with research and publishing and wanted to acknowledge all their hard work by resuming the tradition of circulating newly

published books in Faculty Council. Dean Brunnée thanked John Bolan for compiling the impressive selection of books.

Dean Brunnée closed her remarks by highlighting some housekeeping items: she flagged new Faculty Council dates; updated council members that every five years we undertake Academic Planning to assess our goals in areas such as teaching, research, student experiences; consultations will begin in the next term. Dean Brunnée closed by commenting on faculty renewal, noting that the Faculty is looking to recruit up to five new faculty members (2 business law, 1 human rights and 2 general). Dean Brunnée noted that the Appointments Committee has been hard at work and asked everyone to stay tuned for various rounds of faculty visits before the end of the year.

2. Approval of the Minutes of March 30, 2022

A motion was put forward and seconded to approve the Minutes of the March 30, 2022, Faculty Council Meeting. Two abstentions. The motion was carried.

3. SLS President's Remarks (Meaza Damte)

Dean Brunnée welcomed this year's new SLS President, Meaza Damte, and invited remarks.

Meaza noted that everyone is excited to be back in person. Meaza provided a land acknowledgement and commented on the importance of the acknowledgement and confirmed that she will be starting all meetings with the acknowledgement. Meaza commented on how the building has come alive and for many students, it is the first time they have been in the building in a post Covid world, making the return to normal a brand-new experience. Meaza welcomed all the 1Ls and introduced the newly elected SLS executive, and Admissions Committee members. Meaza noted that everyone is excited about the faculty hires.

Meaza commented that students are disappointed with the low number of course offerings available this year (comparison of 131 courses in 2013-2014; 76 this year). Meaza thanked administration for the new lecture recording policy but advised that the execution has created some issues. There has been much feedback from students and the SLS is happy to work with administration in making it possible to cater to as many students as possible.

4. GLSA President's Remarks (Jasween Singh Gujral)

Dean Brunnée welcomed this year's new GLSA President, Jasween Singh Gujral, and invited remarks.

Jasween thanked everyone and provided some updates: they are working on planning a resource website for law exams, equalization, articling positions etc. and noted that the bar exams are quite daunting and working together with JD students. Jasween, also advised that he is hopeful that with his experience as an international student, he will be bringing confidence to other students currently studying abroad.

5. Minor Modifications to the Master of Laws Program (Emily Orchard) * (June 1, 2023)

Assistant Dean Orchard provided rationale for the proposed minor changes to the LLM Program and was seeking council approval. The graduate program wishes to make two minor changes to its Master of

Laws (LL.M.) program requirements: (1) increase the length of the writing requirement; and (2) allow completion of a directed research project to satisfy the LLM Writing Requirement. Assistant Dean Orchard also sought approval of full-year directed research project, which would enable students to complete a directed research project either in one term, or over the full year.

Assistant Dean Orchard commented that each of the changes will be favourably received by students. Allowing students to complete a full year directed research project increases the options available to them. So, too, does allowing students to satisfy their writing requirement by completing a directed research project. Increasing the length of the writing requirement will ensure that students can tell employers and other academic institutions that they have produced a substantive piece of scholarship while completing their LL.M.

Questions were posed about the proposed minor modifications, including the difference between the short-thesis LLM program and directed research program, both of which require production of a piece of writing that is similar in length (David Dyzenhaus) as well as a question about how the graduate program will ensure that students don't undertake a short-thesis and a directed research project and rely on the research conducted for one project as the basis for a second (similar) project. Assistant Dean Orchard responded to the first question by indicating that the graduate program wants to provide as many opportunities for students to produce substantive scholarship as possible. She also noted that there are policies in place that prevent students from relying on the same work for credit in two different courses, as a result of which they do not see it being a likely occurrence and confirmed that they do not see any problems going forward with the modifications.

A motion was put forward to approve the minor modifications proposed for the LLM program and was seconded. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

6. Approval of new GPLLM Courses (Emily Orchard) *

Assistant Dean Orchard updated members on two new courses being proposed for the GPLLM and seeking council approval.

Trial Advocacy (effective May 1, 2023)

This course is designed to help students acquire basic skills in trial advocacy, by including lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on exercises intended to allow participants to put advocacy skills into practice. Students in the Canadian Law in a Global Context concentration of the GPLLM are pursuing the program to become licensed to practice law in Canada. This course is meant to provide students with an opportunity to hone their oral advocacy skills, which many will draw upon soon after commencing legal employment. This will be the first course focused on oral advocacy and the development of skills used by litigators and other lawyers. It will respond to a gap in our curriculum and provide an important opportunity for those of our students looking to pursue careers in litigation or advocacy to develop these skills.

Employment Law: (effective January 1, 2023)

This course will examine the statutory and common law principles governing the relationships between individual employees and their employers in Canada. Students in the Canadian Law in a Global Context concentration of the GPLLM are pursuing the program to become licensed to practice law in Canada. Employment Law is an area of law with which many lawyers will engage early in their careers and is a

course in which many Canadian Law students have expressed an interest. In addition, students in our Business Law and Innovation, Law and Technology concentrations have expressed an interest in better understanding their obligations as employers.

A motion was put forward to approve two new GPLLM courses and was seconded. All were in favour. The motion was carried.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:20pm.