To: Dean Edward Iacobucci and Faculty Council

From: Mooting and Advocacy Committee; Hamish Stewart and Sara Faherty, chairs; Ian Lee; Malcolm Thorburn (Fall); Lorraine Weinrib; Kim Snell; Morgan Watkins; and Alex Severance

Re: Final Report

Date: March 26, 2019

The Mooting and Advocacy Committee is tasked with serving as an ongoing forum that gathers information, makes recommendations, and responds to issues that arise in relation to the upper year moot and competitive mooting program; analyzing feedback from students and faculty advisors on the mooting program; and exploring developments in new competitive mooting opportunities. We submit this final report to Faculty Council.

**I. Recommendation on Mooting Invitations**

The Faculty was invited to join 10 moots during the 2018-2019 academic year:

1. Clara Barton International Environmental Humanitarian Law Competition
2. D. M. Harish Memorial Government Law College International Moot Court Competition
3. Hicks Morley Labour Law Moot
4. Model World Trade Organisation Conference
5. Nelson Mandela World Moot
6. Price Media Law Moot Court Competition
7. Stetson International Environmental Law Moot Court Competition
8. Trans India Law Association (TILA) International Moot Competition on Energy Laws
9. University of New South Wales Private Law Moot
10. William C. Vis International Commercial Arbitration moot

We briefly evaluated each invitation considering the factors of student interest; student eligibility; cost; pedagogical value, diversity of mooting opportunities and the faculty’s overall curricular priorities.

Your Committee is mindful that we currently participate in twenty competitions, and notes that the Upper Year Moot provides all students with the opportunity to moot. Many of these competitions have been considered by this Committee more than once in the past (see items 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, and 10) and declined. None of these opportunities met our criteria for accepting new mooting proposals, especially in light of the heightened expense of participating in overseas competitions.

**II. Converting the Walsh Family Law Negotiation Competition to a Credited Competition**

Presently, students working in the Walsh Family Law Negotiation Competition do not receive academic credit for this activity. The students and supervisors of this competition asked this Committee to consider allowing students to earn credit. The supervisors were aware that the primary barrier to granting credit was the limited amount of writing the students do for this competition. (The Competition requires students to produce a negotiation plan of approximately 6 pages, or 1500 words.) The advisors developed a reading list and proposed additional writing assignments that they would give to students that will contribute to their preparation for the event and require them to reflect on their work in the Competition. They have submitted a course proposal to the Curriculum Committee, and this Committee recommends that it be accepted.

**III. First Year Mooting Opportunity**

The student run Moot Court Committee created an additional mooting opportunity for first year students. The Mooting and Advocacy Committee is not directly connected with non-curricular oral advocacy activities. The Committee supports in principle the expansion of mooting opportunities, but we note that it is important that any activity created for first year students should be carefully structured to give priority to the extensive demands of the first year program. We recommend that the Associate Dean make it clear to students that their academic obligations must be prioritized. No excused absences, extensions on assignments, or exam deferrals should be expected on the basis of participation in this voluntary activity. We also note that any requests for support for this activity must, like all other student requests for support, be coordinated through the Advancement Office.