

# OBITER UPDATE



## SLS Election - Winter 2017



Hello everyone!

By Elections Committee

It is election time! The deadline for nominations has closed, and the voting can begin. The following positions are up for grabs:



- ◆ **President**
- ◆ **Internal Vice-President**
- ◆ **External Vice-President**
- ◆ **Treasurer**
- ◆ **Academic Director**
- ◆ **Events Director**
- ◆ **Sports and Clubs Director**
- ◆ **Development Director**
- ◆ **Outreach Director**
- ◆ **Alumni Director**
- ◆ **2L Student Representative**
- ◆ **3L Student Representative**



Voting is by ballot. You can vote throughout the next week by visiting the Elections Committee booth set up in **OM Atrium**.

The Elections Committee booth will keep the following hours:

<b>Wednesday:</b>	9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
<b>Thursday:</b>	9:00 AM to 6:00 PM
<b>Friday:</b>	11:30 AM to 6:00 PM
<b>Saturday:</b>	10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
<b>Sunday:</b>	12:00 PM to 3:00 PM
<b>Monday:</b>	2:00 PM to 5:00 PM

On behalf of the Elections Committee, the Obiter team has put together this special Elections Update. Candidates for SLS Executive positions were invited to submit a brief write-up in order to inform you, the voter, about their qualifications, goals, and experience. We hope that this update helps you inform yourself and assist you in casting your votes.

Final voting will take place at the **SLS AGM** on **Monday, March 6, 2017**. Announcement of the 2017-2018 SLS Executive will take place at the conclusion of the AGM.

If you have any questions, please direct them to the Elections Committee members via email at [trulawelections@gmail.com](mailto:trulawelections@gmail.com).

# OBITER UPDATE



## SLS President

**Nominee: Ike Birk**



Dear TRU Law,

I am asking for your vote because I want to be your advocate. I have spent the past year listening to students, faculty, and the administration and it clear that despite our successes we face a host of challenges. We pay the fourth highest law tuition in Canada, yet our course selection is not improving, our faculty is under-staffed, and student concerns are not being heard. As students we cannot afford to be complacent or apathetic. We should demand more of ourselves and of our school.

Broadly speaking, I want to increase **transparency, accountability, and student influence** at TRU Law:

- ◆ I will zealously defend student interests in every arena
- ◆ I pledge transparency of information so that students are informed and engaged
- ◆ I will work with students, faculty, and the administration to develop a strategic business plan to chart the next five years of TRU Law
- ◆ I promise to lobby the administration for the responsible use of student tuition dollars so that students get the most for their money
- ◆ I will push for more practical learning experiences

I love this school, and I am committed to building on the foundations laid by students that came before me. I want to continue to raise the profile of TRU Law. Bring me your concerns; bring me your ideas. Together, there is much that we can accomplish.

**Vote Ike Birk for SLS President, and let's get to work.**

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**Nominee: Jesse Olynyk**



My name is Jesse Olynyk, I have considered Kamloops home since 2004. I chose TRU to pursue my law degree because I love the school and Kamloops as a whole. I believe that TRU has a unique opportunity in front of it. As the curriculum, faculty, and student body develop their identity we have the ability to help shape the direction of that identity. During my undergrad, I was on the executive for two separate student groups, I was the president for the Prince George women's rugby club before moving back to Kamloops, and since starting at TRU I have been involved in the Student Conference media committee, executive of the law rugby team and most recently sat on the SLS as the Communications Coordinator.

If elected as the next SLS president I would set out an action plan with the other elected SLS members in order to present a unified and organized front in presenting student priorities within the faculty. I would also like to work within the university community, the city, and outside of Kamloops to promote our student body and increase the reputation of our student body.

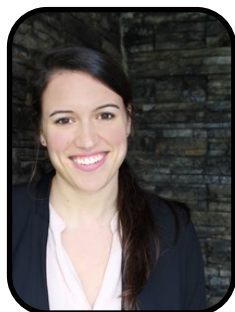
I am extremely proud to be attending TRU and I want to work towards having the entire student body feels the same pride and ownership over the TRU name as I do.

# OBITER UPDATE



## SLS Vice President

### Nominee: Alicia Catalano



I believe I am a strong candidate for the position of VP External because of my time management skills, organizational skills, and past experience.

In the last year of my undergraduate degree I was the Director of External Relations for the Human Resource Management Association at Capilano University. In that role, I was the primary contact for the BC Human Resource Management Association. I communicated with them regarding our events and shared with the student body information about their upcoming events. Furthermore, I attended weekly meetings where we organized and coordinated speakers for on campus events. At the same time, while taking a full course load, I was also a member of the woman's volleyball team at the university, a twenty hour a week commitment. I was also a member of a student led initiative on campus to raise \$30,000 for a local charity and increase on campus student participation. I was one of six students, who succeeded in achieving this goal by hosting on and off campus events and conducting classroom visits to raise awareness for the charity. Through this process we were involved in meetings with the teaching faculty at the university, the Dean of Business and the President of the university.

I enjoy working with people and I thrive in a team environment. I am passionate about getting involved in the university where I study and I would love to get the chance to do that as SLS VP. I believe my experience and my enthusiasm make me an excellent candidate for this position.

### Nominee: Charlene Scheffelmair



My name is Charlene Scheffelmair, I'm from Medicine Hat, AB, I love the feeling of cruising down a mountain on my snowboard, country music is what is usually on my stereo and I hope to become one of your Vice Presidents!

I just finished my Bachelor of Education in June and during the past 5 years, I was actively involved in our Education Undergraduate Society (EUS) which is a student branch of the Alberta Teachers' Association. I acted as Treasurer for the past 3 years as well as helping out both the President and Vice Presidents with events and other initiatives. Therefore, I am quite familiar with the demanding nature of positions such as Vice President and don't shy away from those responsibilities or challenges.

I feel that I have a skillset that would be well aligned with the responsibilities of the Vice Presidents as I am very organized, detail oriented and have an outgoing personality. I will give this position my all and be a voice for our student body. I have already begun attending faculty council meetings and will use that as a forum for exploring issues and concerns that are important to you such as our on-going battle to reduce tuition. It is important that we have a voice and that it is heard. I believe it is crucial to work collaboratively and as part of a team because the Vice Presidents are working with all members of the student body, executive and represent the TRU SLS outside of our program across TRU.

Maintaining a balance between my family, extra-curricular activities, work, and school has always been a strength of mine. I have always viewed these commitments through this quote by Hunter S. Thompson, "Anything worth doing, is worth doing right." I am confident that I will be able to effectively balance the demands of my classes with the privilege of being one of your Vice Presidents.

# OBITER UPDATE



## SLS Academic Director

### Nominee: Steven Shergill



Hey Everyone,

My name is Steven Shergill and I am running for Academic Director for the 2017-2018 academic year. For two years now I have seen our school continuously change; we are adding more courses, offering more research positions, and providing more academic support for students. However, these are ongoing goals for TRU Law, and I would like your support in furthering them.

As Academic Director, I promise to voice the concerns and wishes of all students on Faculty Council. I am very approachable and open to everyone's concerns. This is our tuition, and we need to ensure that it is providing us with the best academic experience possible. This includes adding more "Black Letter" courses, re-structuring the Dispute Resolution course, and working closely with the Associate Dean to ensure students' concerns are heard and addressed.

As an Academic Advisor at the Sauder School of Business at UBC, I sat on academic boards and influenced many policy changes. I became a resource for all students to voice their opinions, concerns, and ideas on how to keep improving the program. I promise to bring those skills to TRU Law and ensure we keep moving forward in restructuring our grade policies, growing our course selection, and ensuring course quality is of highest importance.

Thank you for your consideration and good luck to all candidates!

### Nominee: Megan Kuiper



My name is Meagan Kuiper and I am a second-year student at TRU Law. My experience at TRU so far has been fantastic and academics are a huge part of this.

To me, the Academic Director is an advocate for the student body who will bring their concerns to the faculty and administration. I believe I can be this advocate. Prior to beginning at TRU, I spent over two years working at a large charity in Toronto. In one of my roles, I worked as a support person for a visually-impaired individual and advocated for her needs while working with various stakeholders. I also had a role in planning large-scale youth events. This experience would be very valuable for helping me plan the Course Fair and IL Tips and Tricks Session.

Since we are beginning a curriculum reform, it is a very important time for TRU Law. I believe that the academics at TRU Law have a lot of room for growth. There are certain areas that we could use more courses as well as courses that can use improvements. I also want to make course selection easier by creating a centralized place where syllabi for previous terms can be found.

At the very minimum, I want to ensure that the students at TRU Law feel that their concerns about academics are being heard and taken into account. Thanks for your consideration!

# OBITER UPDATE



## SLS Events Director

**Nominee:** Laura Jochimski



As Events Director, I will make organized and memorable events that appeal to a wide range of students. With over three years of project management and coordination experience, I know how to work under pressure on large-scale projects. Organizing multimillion dollar projects and dealing with celebrity clients has left me with a unique skill set for planning events.

In the past 5 months I have noticed that there have been events that my classmates did not hear about. Next year, I will have a dedicated promotion and media assistant, ensuring that a larger subset of all 3 years of students has the opportunity to attend more events.

Lastly, I plan to put on a more diverse group of events throughout the year to cater to the wide range of interests in our program. I will strive to create a more inclusive events environment, make myself available for suggestions from any student, and build on the quickly growing social culture that TRU Law currently has.

## SLS Development Director

**Nominee:** Shane Hickey



I am a 2L originally from Calgary, Alberta and I believe that my personality, experience and passion for TRU Law makes me an ideal candidate for the position.

In order to succeed as the development director, the position requires a talent for networking. I was heavily involved in the mayor's office in Kelowna, and was selected twice by the city at the British Columbia Youth Parliament. I have an extremely outgoing personality that enables me to connect and communicate effectively with new people. Being able to comfortably walk into any room, regardless of whether I know the individuals or not, and excel is something I pride myself on.

Furthermore, I have worked in a wide variety of positions that required the ability to solicit information and support. Soliciting donations can be difficult, and I've worked soliciting monthly donations as a street canvasser. In that line of work, you only get a maximum of two minutes to convince someone give their money. I have a strong talent for demonstrating the benefit of investing in new opportunities.

Finally, I have a passion for demonstrating the quality of people enrolled in TRU Law. I want to develop TRU's connection to the legal community both in rural and urban centers. Our connection to the firms needs to go beyond donations but forming a connection where the firms feel like they have an active role in developing and promoting the future lawyers that will eventually work for their firms. I want to help build TRU's future.

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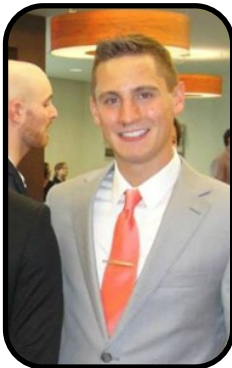
## SLS Sports & Clubs Director

### Nominee: Adam Shumka



I am honoured to have been nominated by my classmates for the sports and clubs position on the SLS. I believe I am a qualified candidate to represent my fellow classmates as both sports and clubs have been a huge part of my life to this point. I was fortunate to play four years of collegiate baseball in the United States giving me a unique and different perspective on sports and clubs and how they can be beneficial to a student's well roundedness. I am passionate to advocate for our student body to ensure that the clubs available to students represent the diverse interests of our classmates and are well supported. Having played multiple sports for the majority of my life, I am aware of many of the needs within this field. One of the changes I am most interested in seeing with this position is a better integration between the clubs and the events happening within our law community.

### Nominee: Blake Storey



My name is Blake Storey, and I am running for the position of Sports and Clubs Director. I am currently involved in our school through being a member of multiple TRU clubs, being an active games room user, and being a proud TRU law student.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Nick James for doing an awesome job as our prior Sports and Clubs Director.

Sports and Clubs shape the identity of our Law School. As your Sports and Clubs Director, I will ensure that all students have an equal opportunity to advocate for their passions and join or create any clubs they wish.

Some things I will achieve as your Sports and Clubs Director include:

- ◆ Implementing intramural sports teams for all skill levels.
- ◆ Revamping the annual Santa Run and changing the date to better suit student needs.
- ◆ Resetting the Ping Pong and Foosball ladders and making it easier for challenges to take place through the use of a Facebook group as Nick wished to do.
- ◆ Providing an added student voice in the SLS.
- ◆ Partnering with the Health and Wellness Representative to encourage new incentives which ensure an active student body.
- ◆ Encouraging the growth of clubs and ensuring that the student body has an effective outlet to create clubs.

I am very open to suggestions and I look forward to being creative with this position and leaving our school better off as a result.

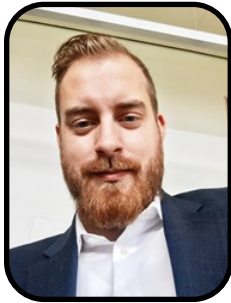
**Remember: A vote for Blake is no mistake!**

# OBITER UPDATE



## SLS 2L Student Representative

**Nominee: Sean Marzinzik**



Hey everyone!

I'm running for 2L representative because I love this law school and its student body. I've always enjoyed talking to people about issues and anyone from my section can attest that I can hold a position passionately. I'd like to continue the history of strong leadership the Class of 2019 has enjoyed thus far into the next academic year.

I've been able to be an advocate numerous times in the past. During undergrad, I was on the executive of UBCO's Political Science Student Association as Member at Large. I didn't have to do boring tasks like balance the books. Instead, I got to talk to students and see what their concerns were or see what direction they wanted our association to move towards. This was one of the most rewarding experiences I had during my time as an undergraduate student and I'd love to enrich my TRU experience in a similar way.

Before returning to school I was working in entry-level management at Shaw Communications. I had to regularly act as a liaison between employees and higher levels of management since corporate strategies can often have unintended consequences for those on the ground. The subject matter might have always been tantalizing but I always got a kick out of advocating for our front-line staff or trying to come up with creative solutions that worked for everyone involved. If you'll give me the opportunity, I'm eager to do the same for you next year.

Thanks for reading!

## SLS 3L Student Representative

**Nominee: Danica Beck**



My name is Danica Beck and I am running for the 3L representative.

I am very excited to be running for this position as I see it as an opportunity to represent my cohorts and our interests in our final year of law school. While we are entering our last year as students of TRU Law, I feel it is integral to remain motivated and engaged with the schools ongoing development.

This past year has shown that there are interests and concerns that my fellow classmates feel are being improperly addressed. My experience this summer working in community development emphasized the importance of communication and relationships in sustaining a thriving community. My focus as a 3L representative would be on these crucial fundamentals, the first being opening more efficient and effective channels of communication as well as developing a relationship between the 3L's, the school at large and the administration.

I am very proud to be a part of the TRU Law community and would be honored to continue developing our legacy through the opportunity of being your 3L Rep!

# OBITER UPDATE



*The following candidates couldn't make the deadline for platform submissions. Keep an eye out for them on the campaign trail. They're probably very eager to answer questions about their qualifications, goals, and experience.*

## **SLS Treasurer**



**Nominee: Karen Perry**

*Karen is running for the SLS Treasurer position.*

## **SLS Outreach Director**



**Nominee: Elizabeth Cunningham**

*Elizabeth is running for the SLS Outreach Director position.*

**Nominee: Madison Steenson**

*Elizabeth is running for the SLS Outreach Director position.*