

Title of meeting: **SLS Executive Meeting**

Date: January 13, 2021

Time: 4:00 PM

Location: Online zoom meeting link

(1) Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 4:04 pm

(2) Roll Call

Celina Bell
Emily Dishart
Jaicee Payette
Jana Chouinard
Azat Perengliyev
Arwatn Kang
Kimia Jalilvand
Lucas Johnson
Alex Johnston

(3) Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

All in approval: Motion passed and seconded to approve the minutes.

(4) President Report (Celina)

1. BLSA Black History Month Write-up

- BLSA sent email out to club leaders to encourage clubs to choose a black lawyer, activist, or individual that has furthered the interest of their club.
- The SLS will be happy to do one as well.
- If any members have an individual in mind, they are welcome to give their suggestions. Write ups should be done by the end of this weekend.

2. Job Descriptions

- Some SLS positions have not been able to be fulfilled in COVID era, but members will still come up with one paragraph that describes what the roll will normally entail.
- This will be valuable for the call out for elections.
- Each member will be responsible for doing the write up for their own roll.

3. Position CANs

4. Articling and Summer Articling Shortage

- Celina has been in meetings this week to address the inquiries about whether or not there is a shortage of articles for 2021.
- The short answer is that no one knows yet, and it will not be known until the end of the year when targets can be analyzed.
- For articling currently, however, TRU is on the normal trajectory.
- There is normal enrolment in PLTC (cannot enrol unless you have secured articles).

-What we are unaware of, is in April when everyone graduates, whether those April numbers are accurately going to reflect what would normally be seen (approximately 80% have found articles by April). This number usually climbs to 99% 6 months after graduation.

-Because 2L OCI's have been pushed, there is no data available yet due to the delay.

5. Calling the SLS elections

-It is proposed to the board that the election is called earlier than in normal years.

-An election will be called in the February meeting, and in order for the SLS to properly follow all the election policies the election will drag out for nearly a month due to reading break.

-This is 20 days earlier than in normal years.

-It was suggested that it would be better to have them earlier due to the overlap in exam periods, and the difficulty of moving people into new roles during that time.

-It is proposed that the transfer of power will be on March 2nd.

(5) Reports from Internal Directors

(a) Vice Presidents

(a.1) VP fundraising—Courtney Mclaughlin

(a.2) VP Academic Alexandra Johnston

(b) Class Representatives

(b.1) 1L (Azat)

6. Budget for contests, prizes and events

-What is the number for a budget?

-The SLS approves contests for the 1L class, and will supply gift cards and small gifts for those contests.

-Azat will poll the class first to see if there is interest.

7. How can we promote the clubs?

-If there are game nights established, and small contests, each club will be invited and they will be given a small space of time to let the students what the club is about and what events they are planning.

-The idea is great, but some help will be needed so that the responsibility doesn't fall on Celina.

-Further conversation will be needed to iron out the details.

8. Moot prep

-Kimia has already been spoken to about this. Upper years will host a session to help the 1Ls prep for the moot.

-Would like to connect this to the Oral Advocacy club in hopes that students will be made aware of that club.

9. Questions about financial situation proposed earlier in the school year

-Some 1L students are asking for an update.

-The underlying problem was that there was nothing proven to be untoward, and it's difficult to investigate and move forward with something that has no illegalities.

-To solve this issue properly and thoroughly it would take many years before any payback is seen by the students.

-This SLS board is not currently planning on striking a committee.

(b.2) 2L (Maximillian)

(b.3) 3L (Arwant)

9. Graduating Class

- There have been a lot of questions about what graduation is going to look like, what the grad gift is going to be, how the photos will be done, etc.
- Would like to throw a class of 2021 big meeting, and have a town hall and see where people and admin are at.
- This townhall will be a place where people can ask questions and get answers.
- Stephanie B., returns from vacation soon and Arwant and/or Celina will touch base with her in order to organize the town hall.

(c) Chair of student life (Will)

(d) Events (Kimia)

(6) External Reports

(a) ILSA (Jana)

- BC access to justice week is coming up.
- There were a few 1L's in the planning committee for this event, and they had thought that the TRC debrief was cancelled and it is in fact not cancelled.

Coffee dates (monthly)

- Would like to see the deans continue with the monthly coffee dates with each year.

(b) Communications and Marketing Officer (Jaicee)

(7) Financial Report (Lucas)

10. Proposal for starting the endowment fund

- Lucas would like to see the endowment fund instituted as soon as possible.
- Society is going to contribute 12.5 thousand dollars, to bring the total up to 25,000. The total of 25,000 will start to earn interest.
- Close to 46,000 is available in the SLS savings/chequing accounts.
- Lucas would like to do this over a 2 year basis, leaving 30,000 dollars of expendable money.
- Ideally, future boards would continue to contribute to the fund on an ongoing basis in smaller amounts.
- Nina has prepared the draft terms of reference.
- Lucas will check with Nina as to what the differences between a Trust and Endowment are, and move forward from there.
- Lucas would like to implement a percentage basis for future takeaways from donors that would go towards an endowment, so that there isn't a hard number that any future board has to meet.
- This endowment fund will need to be approved during the next SLS meeting.
- It will be renamed as the "society of law students" endowment fund.
- The SLS has a financial advisor at Scotia Bank, and it would be helpful to have her look over the plan and have her input.
- How liquid is the money once it's committed to the endowment? Lucas believes that you are able to withdraw it at your discretion, but it will have to stay above 25,000 in the count to collect interest. The funds will not be frozen.
- The terms of reference will be left open enough that future boards can ensure they have some kind of say over where the money would go if used.
- Lucas would like to add a clause that states a certain amount of time that the funds must sit in the account unused and only added to.
- The future SLS board may have to make a new financial policy.
- It seems that most board members will support this endowment/bare trust.

(8) Conference (Emily)

11. Conference report

- Conference is in 3 weeks time, more details will be available by the Friday of this week with a schedule and list of speakers.
- Zoom links will also be available hopefully by the end of the week.
- Good opportunity for the 1Ls to get involved.
- Tech support at zoom has been spoken to, and the tech support said that the conference zoom account should be able to support around 300 students.

-UVIC and UBC will be notified about the conference and asked if students wish to attend. It's likely that UBC and UVIC students will have to register to ensure that there are enough spaces for TRU students.

-Once all the of the conference materials are put together, Emily would like to reach out the SLS groups of the other two schools.

-SLS and Conference bank account were joined last year, and a grant was received for the conference this year that will not be used because of the online format.

-Emily would be interested in perhaps using that grant money and putting it into a high interest account to accrue interest as well (similar to the endowment that Lucas mentioned).

-It was suggested that the hypothetical endowments for the conference and the general SLS fund be joined in order to create more interest, and allocate that a certain amount of that money goes towards the conference each year.

(9) Other Business
