

ALSS Executive: Minutes

Tuesday, January 19, 2016 at 12:30 pm in ALSS Office

Present: Allannah, Jen, Scott, Kristy, Ben F, Carly, Catriona, Matthew, Joshua, Mischa, Benjamin I

New Business

1. Strategic plan (attached)

a. Student consultation

- We must actively encourage people to participate in the survey soliciting student feedback
- Kristy, Matt, and Josh will be setting up a table to facilitate student discussions
- Town Hall on January 28th for students to talk about it
- Student awards, curriculum, RA positions should be pointed out to students
- A lot of the projects/goals are lofty and not concrete metrics
- This is a “to-do” list rather than a “to-accomplish” list
- This is still a very fluid process; the initial consultation resulted in the first draft – **but this is not the end (even if it’s not on the list, it does not mean that it’s not a priority)**
- **NB:** the Strategic Plan is something that will be shared with the world

b. Guests: Bruce MacDougall and Nikos Harris

CONSIDER:

- Broad-base admissions & discretionary category – concern that moving too far in the discretionary category would be a disservice to students (setting them up for failure)
- Enough ‘hard choices’? But everybody has their own particular “hard choices” that they want to have made. **We don’t have the time to make the hard choices at this time, rather it would be more appropriate to create a formal means of making hard choices.**
- **Project 2(a):** are there more specific metrics that should be achieved (first-generation university students, Vancouver communities, etc)
- **Project 3(g):** review should be more broad-based than just first-year
 - ➔ Students feel there should be more structure about what is expected of them (particularly in first year)
 - ➔ Expectations of students outside of the classroom – letters of reference, office hours, the summer program, etc
- Are professors expected to teach too much? Should professors have more leave?
- Hiring vs budget

ALSS FEEDBACK

- Curriculum review: no concrete metric – what would this look like?
 - ➔ What we’re teaching, what’s required, etc.
 - ➔ Class sizes
 - ➔ How many assignments? How is assessment conducted?
 - ➔ Size of ‘small groups’?
 - ➔ Course content?
 - ➔ Summer offerings? There is a general disappointment about how little is offered, particularly with increased clinic opportunities.
 - ➔ Online classes? Recording?

- Schedule overlap
 - Social Justice courses are missing
 - Ongoing formal evaluations of student satisfaction & curriculum (LESEE & student services)
 - ➔ Concern about standardization about the core courses
 - ➔ Lack of knowledge about what courses will entail in the upper years (workload, curriculum, etc)
 - There is a lot fewer supports for upper-years
 - **Project 2(a):** focus on young alumni
 - Improving on the concentrations – what do we want our specializations to be? (Environmental, social justice, feminism, etc)
 - Student funding
 - ➔ Professional student programs?
 - ➔ International students?
 - ➔ LLMCLs?
 - “Intro to law” course for 1Ls
2. Feedback from letter to Law Societies of British Columbia (attached)
 - ➔ A-ok!
 3. Executive members’ report