



Student Priorities Allard Law Strategic Plan

FACULTY COUNCIL FEB 16TH 2017

Summary of Priority Areas



- ▶ Financial Aid and Awards
- ▶ Diversity & Inclusion: Review of Admissions
- ▶ Wellness
 - ▶ In-House Counsellor
- ▶ Grading Policies
- ▶ Implementation of TRC Report – Curriculum

Work In Progress



- ▶ Diversity: Admissions research
- ▶ Wellness initiatives
- ▶ Review of Grading Scale

Wellness and Mental Health

Review existing policies, practices and procedures to develop and implement strategies to support students' well-being and mental health, including strategies to help students manage stress arising from workload and assessment processes.

- ▶ Students expressed the need for wellbeing and mental health to be addressed comprehensively.
- ▶ A lot of interest in having an in-house Counsellor
- ▶ Gather data on JD student Workload
- ▶ Linkages: Academics (Grading System) and Financial Aid and Awards

Wellness and Mental Health

- ▶ *“I think the approach to student well-being and mental health needs to take a long-term view, one which helps build students' resilience and capacity to succeed in the practice of law. The professional drop-out rate is shockingly high, in large part because the practice of law does not support lawyers with families or adequate work-life balance. This needs to change, but law students also need to be prepared for the reality ahead of them. I would certainly not want to see approaches to student well-being that shelter law students from these realities, as we would be turning out mentally-healthy graduates only to see them crash in the workplace.”*

Wellness and Mental Health



- ▶ *It would be great to have an in-house career coach/counsellor (like Osgoode hall currently does). Its difficult to obtain help elsewhere at UBC because counseling services doesn't seem to understand the unique pressures facing law students and external counsellors are cost prohibitive for many.*
- ▶ *Provide some sort of immediate, drop-in sort of service for mental health at the law school. I was in desperate need and called campus counselling at Brock Hall, only to find they did not have a slot at their "DROP IN" for TWO WEEKS! When you suffer from anxiety, you need help immediately.*

Reform the Grading Scheme



- ▶ General consensus among students that we should change our grading scheme
- ▶ Linkage to wellness and mental health

University of British Columbia (101)

Numerical

0

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100%

University of Saskatchewan (13)

A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- F

Thompson Rivers University (12)

A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D F

University of Victoria (10)

A+ A A- B+ B B- C+ C D F

University of Toronto (5)

HH H PWM LP F

Diverse Student Body & Inclusion

Conduct a review of the J. D. admissions process, including assessing the desirability and feasibility of broad-based admissions and what measures can be taken to ensure students are drawn from across society

- ▶ Inclusion:
 - ▶ ALSS feedback: change the way law school is done in terms of events: timing, affordable, variety
 - ▶ Ensure measures are in place to enable students to thrive
 - ▶ Bringing the legal profession on board: recruitment, retention and career progression

Financial Aid and Awards

- ▶ *Ensure that financial aid for J. D. students adequately addresses barriers to legal education and facilitates freedom of career choice after graduation*
 - ▶ Debt-load constrains freedom of career choice
- ▶ *Improve the administration of student financial aid and student awards for the needs of law students and prospective law students, so that an optimal level of financial aid and awards advising is provided*
 - ▶ **Review Awards Criteria**

Implement TRC Recommendations

- ▶ *We call upon all law schools in Canada to require all law students to take a course in Aboriginal people and the law, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous Law, and Aboriginal-Crown relations. This will require skills-based training in intercultural competency, conflict resolution, human rights and anti-racism.*
- ▶ Review first year curriculum courses
 - ▶ Caselaw that is taught in that class does not really give as full of a picture of colonialism and its effects on Aboriginal people in line with the TRC recommendations