

Faculty Board Report to Senate

Date of Senate Meeting:

Faculty: Law

Date of Meeting(s): 735th [November 29, 2013]; 736th [January 17, 2014]; 737th [February 7, 2014]

Discussion:

- **2008-2013 Summary of the Performance by Incoming International Exchange Students at Queen's Faculty of Law:** J. Emrich provided a document to address the concerns expressed by faculty members on how well our incoming exchange students were doing. She described the program put in place to assist these students, coming from common and civil law backgrounds, with legal research and writing. A. Manson indicated that the table was most helpful. He asked if poor performers would result in our exchange agreement being reassessed. J. Emrich indicated that this would happen. S. Corbett indicated he shared these concerns and was hopeful that this new legal research/writing program would prove most beneficial to these students. He noted it was too early to examine these new supports/safeguards to see if they have been successful. Similar to admission applications, all incoming exchange applications would be reviewed by J. Emrich for compatibility with our program (standards and course selections). A. Manson also indicated that his own experience revealed that continual one-on-one supervision of these students writing a paper for his course was necessary to keep them on track and from receiving poor grades. He hoped the new program would help address this.
- **Announcement about Queen's E-Reserves Pilot Project:** L. Taylor spoke about this initiative which started in the fall of 2013 and has already rolled out in Arts & Science. She described ARES, a system which allows for all course readings to be collected in one place for the benefit of instructors and students. She highlighted the benefits of the system: convenience, integration with learning management systems, scanning, copyright processing, accessibility and access to materials in the library collection. Queen's Law may become part of this initiative in the fall of 2014.
- **Notice of Motion for February 7th Meeting – Exemptions to Mandatory Grading Scheme.** A. Manson (L. Hanson) will bring a motion that all upper year classes with enrolments of less than 20 law students be exempt from the Mandatory Grading Scheme at the February meeting because of concerns with the current policy. Appeals indicate not every course, every time, can be accommodated fairly under the existing policies.

- **Notice of Motion for March 14th Faculty Board Meeting** – Seeking a Policy on the Reuse of Examination Questions. L. Dufraimont notified members that she would be bringing such a motion. This policy would discourage the reutilization of questions used on previous law examinations for reasons of fairness and academic integrity and because each year, after a course is fully graded, the official exam is released to the Law Library Exambank as a study tool.

Decisions:

- **2014-15 Sessional Dates:** *Moved by J. Emrich (S. Corbett) that the 2014-15 sessional dates be approved. **Vote on Motion. Carried.***
- **Expanding First Year Enrollment – Paper/email Balloting:** *Moved L. Dufraimont (D. Stuart) that any vote or votes held to determine whether to expand the enrolment of the first-year J.D. class held during the Board meeting of November 29th be held by paper ballot or by email ballot in the case of non-student members who participate in the meeting by telephone. **Vote on Motion. Carried.***
- **Expanding First Year Enrollment, Fall 2014:** *Moved M. Walters (L. Dufraimont) that the Faculty of Law expand its target enrollment for its first-year JD class from 165 to 200 students, beginning 2014-15. **Vote on Motion. Carried.***
- **Calendar Terms of Reference for the Law Public-Interest Internship:** *Moved J. Emrich (S. Corbett) that the calendar terms of reference for the Law Public-Interest Internship Award be approved as circulated. **Vote on Motion. Carried.***
- **Motion Requiring Approval of Calendar Terms of Reference of a New Bursary for Law students:** *Moved J. Emrich (S. Corbett) that the revised calendar terms of reference as provided be approved. **Vote on Motion. Carried.***
- **Motion to Amend the Mandatory Grading Policy:** *Moved A. Manson (B. Amani) that all upper-year classes with enrolments of less than 17 law students be exempt from the Mandatory Grading Scheme. **Vote on Motion. Carried.***
- **Calendar Terms of Reference:** *Moved that the calendar terms of reference for the Queen's Law Course Prizes, the David Sabbath Scholarship and the R.W. Leonard Scholarship be approved. **Vote on Motion. Carried.***
- **Motion Concerning the Accreditation of the Trinity Western University Law School Program:** **Moved M. Dias-Abey (K. Lahey) that:**
 1. *The Queen's University Faculty of Law Faculty Board is of the view that:*
 - *the TWU requirement that students and staff comply with the terms of the Community Covenant Agreement discriminates against LGBTIQ people;*

- *such discrimination offends the policies, values, rights, and freedoms protected under human rights legislation in Canada and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and*
- *such discrimination is also contrary to the notion of academic freedom and professional canons of ethics.*

2. *The Queen's Law Faculty Board calls on the FLSC:*

- *to reconsider its decision to grant preliminary approval to the accreditation of TWU's proposed law program, and*
- *to make a fresh determination on the basis that TWU's admission, hiring, and faculty appointment policies fall within the scope of the FLSC's mandate when deciding whether to grant accreditation.*

3. *The Queen's Law Faculty Board calls on the Law Society of Upper Canada to uphold the values of equity, diversity, and access to justice as matters of professional ethics, human rights obligations, and its duty to safeguard the public interest when deciding whether it will accredit the TWU law degree program for purposes of admission to the practice of law in Ontario.*

Vote on motion. Carried.

Deferred: (List deferred items)

- **None.**

Sincerely,

Bev Baines, Chair, Faculty Board

Bill Flanagan, Dean of Law