

SEMESTER 2, WEEK 11- Monday 9 November 8:00 am

Present: Amer, Donna, Oscar, Dani, Daniel, Deaundre, Eden, Patrick, Sarah P, Natalie, Alison, Rosie, Barry, Max, Alex

Late: Sinem, Flick

Absent: Miriam, Mark, Abbey, Sarah T, Ibrahim

Shoutouts

- Ibby & Alison - mosaic launch
- Rosie & Alex - helping out with comps dinner
- Rosie & Alex - selling out FYD
- Amer, Nat, Deaundre & Donna - organising & helping out re: election debates
- Sinem - women's picnic
- Eden - LGBTQIA+ Rights Policy Panel

Portfolio Updates

- Eden mentioned that his zoom panel didn't have much attendance. Amer asked about this and also about attendance at other zoom events.
 - Oscar: zoom fatigue, don't be discouraged.
 - Deaundre: free food was a huge incentive for in person events
 - Amer: That's right, as I'm sure we can all agree, staying long hours on zoom can be quite exhausting. It has definitely been tougher for students who are now reaching exam mode too, to be involved in online events.
- Amer: Electoral Review Committee
 - Check out SGM attachments
 - Feel free to contact Amer or anyone in the ERC if you have any questions or thoughts.
- SGM is scheduled for 20 November at 5PM - please all attend!
- Patrick
 - This week is NAIDOC Week!
 - I would like to thank everyone who went to the Redfern, Then and Now Tour and encourage you all to check out some of the University's events (I think there's a food stall) .

What's on this week

- Today: College of Law Practical Legal Training 1pm.
- Wed: Student Staff Consultative Forum 1pm - see below.
- Thurs: Possibly an EOY celebration (More information on Slack!)
- Friday: Legal Careers in Asia 8pm (SEALS x SULS x KLUS)
- Sat: First Year Guide editor applications closing!

Elections (AN)

- Voting starts today 9am for 2 days

- Sending out a positive note to everyone in the exec involved in elections - we all know how stressful it is so please be kind to yourself and others and look after yourself!
- Feel free to reach out to Amer to chat.

Student Staff Consultative Forum (AN + NL)

- What is it:
 - Place where we try and address concerns re: mainly education
 - Trying to push for a better representation
 - Been a really good forum - still developing given it's only started this year (have had 2 sessions this year)
 - We represent student body & its important we discuss these ongoing issues in meetings
- 4 things we'll be discussing this week are:
 - *Exam Timetables*
 - Dani: 3 hour exam at the same time as a 2 day take home
 - Amer: faculty has responded - Rita sent out a message to students on this topic. Please read this and refer people to it.
 - Nat: I also wrote a dear faculty for this topic.
 - *Winter and Summer School*
 - Amer: something interesting i noticed was that winter & summer school for law subjects are quite limited in other unis. We will be requesting an update from faculty this year.
 - *Attendance Requirements (esp for international students next year)*
 - Amer: current understanding is that attendance will be required next sem for most courses (c.f. this year). Idea is going back to normal. I personally think mandatory attendance isn't a great idea at all and assessments spaced throughout the sem (like real prop) works as well.
 - *Coursework flexibility in 2021*
 - Amer: Calendars for 2021 are all out for classes. LLM courses won't be much online which is problematic. We'll advocate for students re: this issue as well.

International portfolio

- Daniel: What's happening with the international portfolio? We're severely letting down international students atm and we haven't been doing anything to help.
- Amer: We struggled this year because of the absence of our International Student Officer in many of our meetings. Having said this, this isn't an excuse. I've tried my best in representing students by advocating w faculty in many regards. Although it's not clear because we haven't been hosting events that are publicly facing, advocating for overseas & international students have been happening. For example, we've been advocating for international students to have access to CAPS or finding alternatives for them in that space. We also started peer support & mutual aid groups. Regarding careers, have organised things with other societies (e.g. panel this week)

- Daniel: I started putting together a student questionnaire (kind of like a FAQ) for international students. Many international students don't know who to ask or where to ask questions. Thought it could be a good place international students could ask questions - but who should I take these questions to?
 - Amer: could try funnel it straight to faculty. An alternative also exists - maybe a matter of disclosing this to students? Law Professional Teams have a system & also established office hours to organise a call with them to discuss anything students may be facing.
 - Daniel: Sounds like the main issue is marketing (e.g. reaching out via WeChat and other social media channels)
 - Amer: I believe we have been reaching out via WeChat (e.g. international moot) although we have been struggling in that arena
- Amer: How can we better support students who are overseas?
 - Amer: possibilities of organising student calls different times during the day? Could extend to campus reps. Doing something similar like the wellbeing week for international students.
 - Dani: We could do an "across time zones" zoom event hosted by the campus reps?
 - Amer: Could listen to international students concerns & funnel them to the relevant parties
- Amer: Just as a note, I don't necessarily think that we're not doing anything. In my eyes, advocacy is a big part which we have been doing since the end of last year. Unfortunately the extent we can provide support has been quite limited.
- Amer: We have a buddy program as a result of the Summer Support program too. Could extend to overseas (virtual buddies). If anyone has better programs please reach out.
- Daniel: not saying we're not doing enough but we don't have a team looking after international students. The main issue I see is that the international portfolio is non-existent - this is what I've been hearing on Wechat and it's not good enough that the President and I are answering such queries and bringing this up.
 - Amer: Have had many instances trying to catch up with Abbey but she has been MIA. It's gotten to a point where nothing is happening so I asked things in the international portfolio to be passed onto me. For the few weeks remaining in the semester, I'll try my best to keep in touch with Abbey but I'm more than happy to be the point of contact for international students.
 - Daniel: Also happy to help re: international portfolio.
- Summary:
 - Questionnaire for international students so we can best deal with it.
 - Better marketing, support & events on WeChat
 - Extending mutual aid programs to virtual buddies.
 - Making sure there's a social aspect to it.