

# MLSA | MANITOBA LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## MANITOBA LAW STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION MEMBER REPORTS AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2020 5:30 PM VIA ZOOM

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**President – Nick Noonan**

### **1. Fall Term**

- a. We are still awaiting final guidance regarding what the MLSA, our committees, and student groups, as well as the law school in general can do for in-person activities this year. This is still evolving, but our current understanding is that we cannot have in-person events on campus, but there is a chance we may be allowed to have some in-person events off-campus in a safe, socially distanced environment in sizes and spaces that conform to public health guidelines.
- b. In any event, the University has formed a committee which will need to approve any requests to have in-person gatherings. The line between what is an 'official' gathering needing to be approved, and what is not, remains unclear, and the MLSA and specifically Dean Asper are on the university to provide clarity on that. In the meantime, the advice we have is that if you want to request approval of an event, get it in early as the university is a bureaucracy. Feel free to contact myself or the relevant VP (external events – Braeden, internal events – Meghan) for assistance if needed.

### **2. MLSA Social Media Policies & University of Manitoba Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment Policies**

- a. In recent months there have been a few incidents on the MLSA Facebook page. The purpose of the Facebook page and the various years and sections Facebook pages exist for the efficient transmission of information – specifically, Robson Hall/ or your year/or your section related events, outreach, inquiries, or events that foster community. I want to remind everyone of the MLSA's social media policies (posted on our website) and the University's respectful workplace and learning environment policy. In short, just be respectful. Don't harass, threaten, abuse, spam, or troll people online (or offline, for that matter). Doing so will result in your comment being deleted and you being removed from the page. 99.999% of the time, the Facebook page is a wonderful and positive source of information, and following these policies is how it can stay that way.

### **3. Technology Survey on Facebook**

- a. One of the Dean and the MLSA's major concerns during our upcoming online learning environment is ensuring equal access to technology. As such, I shared a survey on Facebook to be filled out, and will be passing the concerns onto the Dean

to discuss remedial action. If you haven't filled the survey out, or want to reach out about your specific situation, please feel free to contact me to discuss.

#### **4. Outline Bank**

- a. To make things easier for your peers, especially the incoming 1Ls, please send your outlines to Maddy Laval to be uploaded to the outline bank! Help your peers survive law school.

#### **5. Endowment Fund Meeting**

- a. The Endowment Fund Committee has met, and applicants should be notified shortly of the result of their application if they haven't already been.

## **Manitoba Bar Association Representative – Michael Badejo**

### **1. Update on MBA-MLSA event plans**

- a. After meeting via Zoom with MBA Executive Director Stacy Nagle, I expect to have more concrete details as to whether the initial event will be a virtual or physical one. Given the timeframe for this, I'll submit additional documentation soon after the MBA meeting for those who did not have the benefit of attending and would like to know where it stands.
- b. As it currently stands, I should have an update on what format the events will look like based on the MBA and University/Admin's allowances. With COVID case count on the rise and other factors in play i.e. reputation and safety, one can likely lean towards virtual, but a robustly safetied, socially distanced and responsible outdoor event is a possibility.
- c. I'm looking to have a date and lineup finalized for soon after this meeting as well; expect a follow-up report within 7 days of the MLSA meeting (August 25).

## **2L Representatives – Celyna Yu, Shawn Singh**

### **1. Buddy Program: Partnering upper year students with newcomers to build lasting relationships and support transition management**

The Buddy Program for 2020-2021 is underway! Our team launched the Buddy Program intake survey on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020. We currently have 105 upper year buddies and 90 1L sign-ups – Registration for the Buddy program closed on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. If any students are still interested in joining the buddy program, they are welcome to contact Shawn Singh at [umsin248@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:umsin248@myumanitoba.ca) or Celyna Yu at [yuc34568@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:yuc34568@myumanitoba.ca).

Matches for the Buddy Program will be completed by August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Further information about the buddy program and the role of participants will be sent by email shortly afterwards.

### **2. August Class Registration**

Class registration for 2L students was on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A number of students shared questions about how to use CRNs during registration, as well as requests for information about course changes and reserved courses. 2L representatives shared the appropriate information with requesting students, and shared publicly available information with Robson students via social media.

### **3. LFC Motion: Inclusion of BIPOC Representatives on all Law Faculty Council Committees**

The Law Faculty Council (LFC) identified an issue with the size (number of members) of committees created by the Nominations Committee and its progress reports on July 21, 2020; . They carried a motion to direct each LFC Committee to consider its optimal size, with an eye to reducing its size, and to report the outcomes of its deliberations at the December 10, 2020 meeting of the LFC. The 2L MLSA Representatives abstained from that vote on July 21, 2020.

The 2L MLSA Representatives raised concerns with the July 31, 2020 motion to accept the Nominations Committee Report to the LFC on July 29, 2020. Specifically, concern was raised about the limited inclusion of Black, Indigenous, or Person of Colour (BIPOC) individuals as nominated members of each LFC Committee. The 2L MLSA Representatives believe that each LFC Committee should include, at minimum, one representative from BIPOC communities to ensure these perspectives are meaningfully included in LFC decision making.

In consideration of our belief, the 2L MLSA Representative are proposing a motion at the next Law Faculty Council (LFC) meeting to bind the Nominations Committee to provide committee membership recommendations that must include one (1) BIPOC representative on each committee, at minimum, by December 10, 2020. BIPOC is defined as Black, Indigenous, and/or People of Colour. This motion will be presented to the LFC at their next meeting on August 27, 2020.

**Clinical Experience Committee – Amber Harms, Keira Hasenack, Ryan Johnson, Keith Murkin**

The CEC has been busy this summer gathering and compiling information for law students on the clinical experiences available for them this year. It looks like everything except for the Davies Moot is going ahead in a virtual format for 2020-2021. The competitions held in Winnipeg (Mini Moot, Negotiations, Solomon Greenberg, etc.) will aim to be in person, but may also be online. We have also collected feedback from past moot participants and are working with the Moot Committee to implement some recommended changes in the upcoming moots.

Important dates coming up:

September 14 at 12pm: CEC Info Session and Q&A for 2Ls & 3Ls (via Zoom)

September 17 at 12pm: CEC Info Session and Q&A for 1Ls (via Zoom)

September 24-25: Moot Tryouts - 2Ls & 3Ls only (via Zoom)

**Graduation Committee – Erin Tramley, Meghan Leung, Carter Suski, Victoria Nash, Merissa Stewart**

- 1. Location for grad:** After contacting a few venues we have received the best response and information from the Delta Hotel. I have a call set up next week to talk details about scheduling the grad dinner and dance there on the first Friday in June in 2021 (June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021) (COVID permitting)
- 2. Clothing:** Have gotten in touch with Jeff from Floodway Print Co and will most likely be going with them. Currently looking over the catalogue and will be finalizing the clothing that we want to sell in the next few weeks so that the clothing sale can be held in early Fall to ensure that the clothing arrives before Christmas.

**Communications Committee – Maddy Laval, Larissa Campbell, Zara Kadhim, Steven Dressler**

**1. MLSA Website**

- a. Website Page Information:** The MLSA Website has been updated with current information. The Communications Committee would like Committee Chairs and Student Group Contacts to double check their respective website pages to ensure that the correct information for their Committee/Group is listed (such as the name of the Chair or Contact person, and correct e-mail address). Please let Maddy know if there are any inaccuracies or missing information.
- b. Website Photos and Bios:** The Communications Committee would also like to remind Chairs and Contact persons to send their headshots and bios to Maddy at [lavalm@myumanitoba.ca](mailto:lavalm@myumanitoba.ca). This is not a requirement – if Chairs/Contact persons do not want their photo and/or bio on the website, they do not need to send one! If a Chair/Contact person would like to use a photo from a previous year, please let Maddy know.

**Spirit Committee – Sue Ahn, Melina Venuto, Anna Siemens, Reid Girard, Dominic Peña**

Team members have touched base and determined initial action items. Currently have gotten quotes from various vendors with potential. Currently awaiting final decisions from MLSA and the U of M before proceeding.



**Social Committee – Alexis Alevizos, Micaela Levi, David Barbour, Kelsey Thain, Alex Broggy, Alan Lempert**

**1. 1L Meet and Greet**

- a. The 1L Meet and Greet is scheduled for Tuesday, August 25th at Assiniboine Park from 6-8pm. We are breaking the 1L's into their sections so that they can get to know the people in their sections better before learning virtually together. They will be 2m apart, and everyone will be wearing masks.

**2. Orientation Week**

- a. We will be hosting a virtual games night for the incoming 1L's on Thursday, September 10<sup>th</sup> (has not been announced to them yet). We are going to be doing a pick-up at the school on the Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday morning for the 1L's in order for them to pick up a "Welcome Package"/Take a "First Day at Robson Pic" etc.
- b. Based on the response from the survey we sent out to the 2L's and 3L's, no one is really interested in an upper years virtual event. Everyone that responded felt that it would not be a meaningful experience. We are looking into doing something with a local bar in Winnipeg that does "to-go" cocktails and seeing if we can send everyone a "Welcome Drink" on behalf of Robson to welcome them back this fall.

**3. Med-Law**

- a. We have notified the Med Social Committee that we are going to look and see what the provincial health guidelines are in about a month and go from there.

**4. Carbolic**

- a. We have decided to host Carbolic at the Fort Garry Hotel this year. They have the best social-distancing plan out of any venue we talked to. They have a capacity of 220 people, granted we may not be allowed to have a gathering size that large by then. The date we have requested is Saturday, February 27th, 2021. She notified me it was still available, and we are just waiting on her response to officially put the deposit down.

**No Report Submitted:**

- **Vice President Internal**
- **Vice President External**
- **Vice President Finance**
- **1L Class Representatives**
- **3L Class Representatives**
- **MILSA**
- **Gender and Sexual Minorities Representative**
- **Students' Living with Disabilities Representative**
- **Women's Representative**
- **Visible Minority Students' Representative**
- **UMSU Representative**
- **University Senate Representative**
- **Chief Returning Officer**
- **Academic Committee**
- **Accessibility Committee**
- **Community Outreach Committee**
- **Constitution and Policy Committee**
- **Professional Development Committee**
- **Sports Committee**
- **Governance Coordinator**
- **Council Chair**