



The Official U of S LSA Social Group

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Kane Fritzler uploaded a file.

January 26 · 🌐



Hey all,
Here are the minutes for the January 24th LSA Meeting!



PDF

LSA Meeting Minutes - January 24th.pdf · version 1



Kane Fritzler, Paul Cavin and 4 others

18 Comments



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Julia Stonechild

Hi Karim Ismail, I was under the impression that information regarding students who receive accommodations is confidential. Where would I be able to find stats for



our school and other schools that you mentioned? I am also extremely concerned as to why access and equity services and accommodations in general are being discussed by the LSA, especially as an "issue of equity."

Like Reply 22w



Karim Ismail Admin

Hi Julia,

Great question, thank you for bringing this to light so I can clarify. Personal information about students who receive accommodations are very much confidential. I know this is a very sensitive topic, and I hear you. However, I was relaying many concerns that were brought to the LSA about the College-approved Accommodations (including extra time on exams provided through the Indigenous Law Centre) and not the exam accommodations through AES. AES accommodations are a human rights issue and would never be discussed by the LSA, College-approved accommodations are what is being discussed. Most neighbouring law schools do not have college approved accommodations (UofC, UofA), only AES so that is likely where that concern came from.

I totally understand this is a touchy subject for many, but as LSA president, it is my obligation to let LSA council know that these are discussions that are being had, by many. The LSA is NOT taking a position on this issue, we are simply making council know that these discussions are being had and the ways we can rectify this. It is not the popular thing to do, but that is something that comes with my position as President. I hope you can understand my position, and I dislike the fact that this the position I am in, but feel free to reach out to me anytime! 😊

Like Reply 22w Edited



**Jacques Toupin-McGillis**

Karim Ismail Are you aware of the College's commitment to the TRC calls to action? The duty of the president would be to direct these concerns to administration and not a public forum. This is creating an environment where Indigenous folks and folks with disabilities DO NOT feel safe.

If students have a problem with the grades they are receiving they should look towards how law school performance is evaluated rather than punching down on marginalized populations

Like Reply 22w

**Kristyn McDougall**

Karim Ismail I would just like some more clarity when you are discussing "college-approved accommodations" but only refer to the ones provided to Indigenous students. Can you please provide examples of what other accommodations people have concerns about, or is it in fact only the accommodations provided to Indigenous students? I am also confused by the statement that this is an "issue of equity." Is the entire premise of equity not to provide accommodations and resources to those who face additional systemic barriers? Further, the TRC has specifically made calls to action towards law schools and the legal profession to address areas of disparity as Indigenous people are currently underrepresented in the legal field, yet overrepresented in the criminal justice system. Please explain how providing tools to Indigenous students in any way interferes with other students' abilities to succeed. I agree with **Jacques**, many Indigenous students are now feeling alienated from our peers.

Like Reply 22w Edited

**Sarah Marie**

Karim Ismail you say you are protecting confidentiality, but yet you are saying that it is through the indigenous law centre. These accommodations were not common knowledge to the entire college. You not only let every reasonable person draw the conclusion on who you are referring to, but opened a dialogue to discuss a small group of people who already experience racism within social institutions like these. When I receive a grade that is not what I wanted I do not blame people who are part-time or have AES accommodations for my shortcomings. I am very disappointed that i supported this association through membership fees, events, clothing, etc.

Like Reply 22w Edited

**Jordan Luanne**

Karim Ismail I am also very interested in hearing how exactly the small percentage of Indigenous students within this College are affecting the curve so greatly. As **Jacques Toupin-McGillis** said, grade discussions should be taken up with administration and professors.

Like Reply 22w

**Kristyn McDougall**

Sarah Marie I would argue this is no longer "subtle racism." Everyone who participated in the summer law program now feels like we have a



target on our backs and we are finding out through a Facebook post that people have been complaining about us behind closed doors. It's also not hard to extrapolate this information and conclude that some people believe even our admission was unfair since we apply via a different process. We deserve to be here.

Like Reply 22w Edited



Sarah Marie

Kristyn McDougall so why is the lsa not only protecting the people who make these type of comments, but amplifying their voices while compromising indigenous students confidentiality when it comes to exam accommodations? It creates an uncomfortable work environment. Last time I checked we all paid the same amount to be here.

Like Reply 22w Edited



Justin Azevedo

I concur with everything said above by my colleagues, and I'd also suggest that the LSA should be taking a position on this issue - that of accommodation. It's ridiculous to me that some of my cohort at the college thinks that because people are given accommodations that they obviously deserve (or else why would they be given), that that is somehow harmful to those who don't get accommodations? In general, I would be stunned if the people complaining about the potential effect an accommodation has on their own grades have anything to blame except their own inability to identify issues or bring up relevant case law. It's embarrassing to me that there are individuals who are more motivated by self-interest than by the concepts of justice, equity, truth, and reconciliation at a College of Law. Kindly give your heads a shake.

Like Reply 22w Edited



Kristyn McDougall

Karim Ismail I am also struggling with why you edited your original comment to say that "AES accommodations are a human rights issue." I wholeheartedly support AES accommodations but am confused as to why Indigenous accommodations do not fall under the same category of a "human rights issue." I don't think comparing the U of S' policies to other colleges, who are making lesser attempts to fulfill the TRC's calls to action, is forward-thinking but is instead regressive. Considering current events surrounding the U of S and Indigenous representation issues.



which have gotten international media coverage, this is a really bad look and extremely tone-deaf.

Like Reply 22w



Sam Rzd

Karim Ismail also, a little bit research would be good before claiming other unis do not have that. Please scroll down on UofC's college of law page to see "Request for accommodation in academic courses" which offers additional support than the regular mental/physical disabilities through UofC Student Accessibility Services:

<https://law.ucalgary.ca/current-students/current-jd-students>

Link to the form: <https://law.ucalgary.ca/.../request-accommodation...>

And honestly, singling out the Indigenous students or other people who fall under the categories of college approved grounds are unethical on the LSA's part.

I hardly think that the whole LSA together has any jurisdiction on deciding people's academic outcomes, there are other offices with proper power to do so.



Like Reply 22w



David Werner

Karim Ismail I am very disappointed in the LSA. This has been a difficult year for you Indigenous peers and now you advocate for removing supports and making this an "equity" issue?

This week more unmarked graves have been found. The many of your indigenous peers have family who attended residential schools, including myself. Not all students have the same experience in law school as you and the LSA executive. You share a classroom with many indigenous students, who speak up about these issues regularly. I'd hope you (and the LSA team) would reach out and discuss before going after accommodations.

Like Reply 22w



David Werner

To my Indigenous peers, I see your academic excellence. I deeply respect the hard work, late nights, family responsibilities and the emotional labour those A's and A+s take (also C's, I've worked hard for a C). You're academic excellence is outstanding and hard earned! Your perspectives and insights are valuable to me and I appreciate all the work you do.

Like Reply 22w Edited



Reply to Karim Ismail...



**Sarah Marie**

I'd say these resources facilitate equity rather than hinder it. If everyone in the college had equal opportunities we wouldn't need AES. People already face systemic barriers within academia and then this organization makes comments like these that are divisive in nature.

Like Reply 22w



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**Kristyn McDougall**

Sarah Marie if anything, the fact that these "concerns" are being brought to the LSA by settler students suggests that as a college we are in need of actual equity training. The Indigenous students make up such a small percentage of the student body that our voices can easily be drowned out by the non-Indigenous demographic. I'm somewhat confused as to why non-Indigenous students would be concerned at all about policies that have zero impact on them.. the policies apply to Indigenous students, so it would follow that our views on the implementation of Indigenous policies should take precedence, no?

Like Reply 22w



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**Mark Clayton**

What the hell kind of advocacy is this??? How about the LSA advocate for students who need accommodation or struggle to succeed in their studies and not persecute them by creating a poll on how YOU FEEL this effects your success in law school.

This not only speaks to the blatant disregard for fellow law students that come from hardship and adversity to get where they're at today, but shows the true character of who people really are...

I'm done playing nice... and tell it as it is. I left and stop caring about anything the LSA does. They did nothing but to make themselves look good and pretend they advocated for students during my time involved. I learned real quick, it's actually filled with the ones who do alright and things just come a little bit easier for them. This is why I quit getting involved with the student governments at the college, and this is a contributing factor to why I second guess whether this study/profession is for me at all.

Sorry if this hurts or offends anyone but y'a know what? The truth hurts. One things for sure, I know with my life experiences, made me the person I am today. Regardless on what I do for the rest of my life, I will never stop and let anyone bring me down.

Like Reply 22w



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**Kristyn McDougall**

Mark Clayton it's completely problematic to have a poll on what the entire student body thinks should be the policies impacting a small



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entire student body thinks should be the policies impacting a small, marginalized portion of the student demographic. It's the complete opposite of reconciliation and good faith, and apparently nobody has learned about consulting the actual people who are affected instead of imposing things on us as Indig students?

I'm just a 1L, but so far LSA seems like a popularity contest and a way to pad your CV. People can calm down, we're not gonna steal your corporate law jobs 😬 most of us Indig students came here so we can actually go back into our communities and provide services to people who are lacking access to legal representation. We are filling a massive void, not encroaching on anyone.

Like Reply 22w



Cameron Christensen

Hello all, I know this comment section has had an appalling lack of LSA involvement. I don't want that to come across as everyone ignoring this criticism. I wanted to quickly comment to say that discussions, both reflective and with the assistance of ILSA, are occurring behind the scenes. We are aware and sincerely apologize for the insensitive manner this topic was brought up and the LSA's involvement therein. I know that this response is a far cry away from what you deserve but I want it known that we are meeting and discussing how to respond and take accountability as a collective.

Like Reply 22w



Write a comment...

