OVERVIEW

• General issues facing Law students across the Country
• Enrolment/Tuition/Job Prospects
• Student Concerns/Other
• Where to now?
DEFINITIONS

Common Law Degree (J.D. or L.L.B)- The accredited degree which allows individuals to practice law in jurisdictions with a common law legal system

Civil Law Degree (B.C.L.)- The accredited degree which allows individuals to practice law in jurisdictions with a civil law legal system

Articling- In Canada, before someone can be accredited, they have to complete a ‘training year’ or a ‘paid internship’. Once this year is complete, they can take their bar exam to become a member of a provinces law society
**GENERAL ISSUES FACING LAW STUDENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

Snapshot of the Canadian Legal Job Market

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year*</th>
<th>Canadian Citizens per Lawyer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>449</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In 2010, the current ratio in the United States was 1 lawyer for every 256 citizens**

---


“Some disgruntled lawyers are suing their alma maters for exaggerating employment prospects. That seems fitting for a litigious lot with buyers’ remorse over a $120,000 (U.S.) education.”

*Jobless grads are suing U.S. law schools*

“[I]n an interesting twist, thousands of lawyers now find themselves drowning in the unemployment line as the legal sector is being badly saturated with attorneys.”

*No more room at the bench*

“Less than 65 percent of law school graduates hold positions requiring a legal degree, down from nearly 75 percent four years ago”

*Unemployed lawyers sue schools over promises of jobs*

---

* 2012 The Globe and Mail March 18 by Reynolds Holding
** 2010 LA Times Jan 08 by Mark Greenbaum
*** 2012 The Washington Times June 17 by Ben Wolfgang
ARTICLING CRISIS IN ONTARIO

In 2008, 5.8% of students in Ontario were without articling placements*
In 2012, 12.1% of students in Ontario were without articling placements
In 2013, 15.5% of students in Ontario were without articling placements

“Part of the problem is that enrollment at Ontario’s six law schools rose by a combined total of 15.5 per cent between 2001 and 2011, but the number of articling positions at law firms has remained largely static.” **

“New alternative to traditional articling requirement approved

November 22, 2012

Convocation approved a three-year pilot project on November 22, 2012, that will allow lawyer licensing candidates to either article or complete a Law Practice Program (LPP), starting in the 2014-15 licensing year.

... Under the pilot project, candidates may either complete the traditional 10-month articling term with enhanced documentation, or an approximately four-month long LPP, which will also include an additional four-month co-operative work placement.” **

*National (Canadian Bar Association’s Magazine)
Students 2012 Carol Neshevich [CBA Article] citing Law Society of Upper Canada Articling Task Force
** CBA Article Ibid.
*** Law Society of Upper Canada
NATIONAL MOBILITY OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION*

- In 2002 the Federation of Law Societies of Canada approved a National Mobility agreement between the 10 provincial jurisdictions making it easier than ever for lawyers to practice in other provinces both temporarily and permanently.
- In 2010 the National Mobility agreement was extended to include the Barreau du Québec.
- In 2011 this National Mobility agreement was extended to include the three territories.
- In 2012 the National Mobility agreement was extended to include the Chambre des notaires du Québec.
- Full National mobility is very much a reality now.

*Federation of Law Societies of Canada <www.flsc.ca>
COMPENSATION BASED ON YEAR OF CALL*

*Canadian Lawyer’s 2013 Compensation Survey
WHAT THIS MEANS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LAW STUDENTS

Current Student Placement Rates*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2012-13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of graduating students</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of students for whom we have placement information</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of students that we know have jobs or are pursuing graduate studies</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of students for whom we have information who have jobs or are pursuing graduate studies</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td>94%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Faculty of Law Career Services
ENROLMENT/TUITION/JOB PROSPECTS

Three things you need to know:

1. This inquiry into the potential of a tuition increase is not entirely a response to the budget cuts
2. This is currently a student driven fact-finding exercise
3. This is not an endorsement of an increase in other students’ tuition rates
## SPECIFIC COSTS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LAW STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Fees</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Law Faculty Fee</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Undergraduate</td>
<td>$2,634.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law(LLB) Program Diff Fee</td>
<td>$2,250.30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### SPECIFIC COSTS FOR UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA LAW STUDENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cost of First year Law</th>
<th>$11,548.40</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cost of Second and Third year Law</td>
<td>$11,226.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STUDENT CONCERNS/OTHER

- Increased class sizes
  - Increase in enrolment leads to diminished availability of professors
  - Increase in enrolment leads to further strain on already strained career services
- Reduction in professors
- Reduction in course offerings
- John A. Weir Memorial Law Library closed throughout the summer months
- Reduction in Scholarships
HOW HAVE WE ENGAGED OUR STUDENT BODY/EXAMINED THESE BUDGETARY CONCERNS

-March 21\textsuperscript{st}–22\textsuperscript{nd}, 326/538 (60.6\%) of law students voted for the current executive team

-Organized a town hall for our student body April 11\textsuperscript{th}, 2013
  -Invited members of the Students’ Union to attend this townhall
  -Colten, Petros, and other members of the Students’ Union were kind enough to join us

-Reached out numerous stakeholders in the legal community

-Engaged in substantive talks with Faculty administration
Where to now?
DIFFERENTIAL TUITION

Financing formula for differential tuition is:
- 60% of the revenue goes to the Faculty for operating expenses;
- 20% of the revenue goes to student support/scholarships/bursaries; and
- 20% goes towards central administration
POST-SECONdARY LEARNING ACT*

7. An Association shall not advocate on issues in contradiction to Students’ Union political policy, unless they have first presented to and received approval from Students’ Council. **

XXI. TUITION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Students’ Union will not support the Board of Governors of the University of Alberta increasing tuition. ***

*Post-Secondary Learning Act, RSA 2003, c P-19.5
** Bylaw 8100- A Bylaw Respecting Faculty Associations and Campus Associations
*** Students’ Union Political Policies
POST-SECONDARY LEARNING ACT

• Post-Secondary Learning Act
  • Corresponding regulation, *Alberta Public Post-Secondary Institutions’ Fees Regulation*
  • An increase in a program’s tuition has to first be approved by the Minister of Enterprise and Advanced Education

• Alta Reg 273/2006
POST-SECONDARY LEARNING ACT

Market modification for tuition fees for specific programs

5.1 (2) In addition to any increase in average tuition fees in accordance with section 5(2), a board of an institution may request in writing in a form and at times determined by the Minister that the Minister approve an increase in tuition fees in respect of a specific program of study for the purpose of establishing a market modification in respect of that program of study.

(3) For the purpose of achieving the market modification referred to in subsection (2), the Minister may by order

(a) approve an increase in tuition fees for that specified program of study in the amount and for the period of time that the Minister considers appropriate,

(b) specify to which students the increase in tuition fees applies, and

(c) specify any other terms and conditions applicable to the increase in tuition fees that the Minister considers appropriate.
BYLAW 8400-A BYLAW RESPECTING THE STUDENTS' UNION FACULTY MEMBERSHIP FEES*

Short Title
1. This Bylaw may be referred to as the "Faculty Membership Fees" Bylaw.

Purpose
2. The purpose of a “Faculty Student Fund” is to provide financial support for the improvement of teaching and learning in a Faculty. Student contributions are collected and used to fund projects which enhance the quality of undergraduate education in the Faculty.
MITIGATION OF CUTS
WHICH OPTION DO WE CHOOSE

- Continue to engage relevant stakeholders from the legal community
- Formally meet with Kevin Stenner, President of the University of Calgary’s Society of Law Students
- Another possible town hall
- Get a formal proposal from the Faculty about how the money will be spent (If we decide to go with a tuition increase)
- Possibly have a plebiscite to get a better understanding of what our student body wants us to do