

To: Barbara Bergman, Interim Dean
Raylene Weis, Administrative Assistant to the Dean

Cc: Carol Parker, Chair, Self-Study Committee
Curriculum Committee

From: Steven Homer, Chair, Curriculum Committee

Re: Annual Report of the Curriculum Committee, UNM School of Law, 2012-13

Date: 10 May 2013

Dean Bergman:

This is a report of the Curriculum Committee's activities during the 2012-13 academic year.

- The major work of the Curriculum Committee this year was its charge from Dean Washburn: "Review and report to the faculty on the effectiveness of the new 1L electives, the drafting courses, and the changes to the research component of the ELA/LRW curriculum. Review the effectiveness of the upper-level writing seminar and drafting course requirements." This report is in its final draft and will be submitted separately.

- In 2012-13, the Curriculum Committee approved several new courses:
 - Adventures in Rhetoric
 - Civil Rights in Education
 - Common Law Concepts of Property
 - Comparative Advocacy
 - Comparative Human Rights
 - Constitutional Torts Litigation
 - Contemporary Topics in Psychology, Neuroscience & Law
 - Indian Children, Youth & Family Law
 - International Business Transactions Drafting
 - Law & Ethics of War & Peace
 - Overview of European Union Law
 - Prisoners' Rights

- Transitional Justice: Political Science & International Law Perspectives
 - Wrongful Convictions
- Through then-Academic Dean Bergman, the Committee provided data to the Faculty Appointments Committee on retirements and sabbaticals and the effect of these on curricular commitments for the next several years.
- We developed a template for course proposals to give guidance to the faculty as to the kinds of information that the Committee uses to evaluate course proposals. A copy of this template is attached below.
- The Committee advised Dean Jackson about potential conflicts in the proposed Spring 2013 and Fall 2013 course block schedules.
- We agreed that the Academic Dean could allow some faculty teaching writing seminars to permit some of their students to take the seminar as an exam course, rather than writing a paper. This is a test of what may become a larger policy if it accomplishes the goals of greater flexibility and increased enrollment without creating problems for the seminar requirement. The faculty voted to approve this proposal at its meeting on May 7, 2013.
- We discussed a proposal to eliminate the requirement that students earn at least a C- in ELA II or re-take it. This was presented to the faculty at its meeting on April 23, but no vote was taken. At the faculty meeting on May 7, 2013, I suggested it would be better to delay a vote on this proposal to allow for a broader conversation about the academic support implications of this proposal.

**COURSE PROPOSAL TEMPLATE
UNM SCHOOL OF LAW**

COURSE NAME:

INSTRUCTOR:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

SEMESTER:

CREDITS:

ENROLLMENT LIMIT:

Please identify any proposed pre- or co-requisites:

Is this course suitable as an elective for 1Ls? Y/N

Is this course intended to satisfy the upper-level writing requirement? Y/N
(If yes, specify: practice-related drafting course or writing seminar.)

Will this course be cross-listed or co-offered with another department? Y/N
(If yes, please specify.)

If this course is cross-listed or co-offered, will it be open to undergraduates? Y/N
(If yes, please indicate the extra work that law students must do to earn graduate credit.)

TEXT(S):

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

COURSE OBJECTIVES/EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS/METHOD OF EVALUATION & ASSESSMENT:

PLEASE PROVIDE ANY OTHER INFORMATION THAT MAY BE USEFUL (NON SCHOOL OF LAW FACULTY, PLEASE INCLUDE A RECENT CV OR RESUME):