

## MEMORANDUM

To: The Faculty

From: Michael Browde

Date: March 8, 2011

Re: Structure of the Law Review Only Seminar

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Carol has presented a report on the unanimous passage of her Committee's proposal concerning the seminar requirement for Journal students, coupled with the reduction in Journal hours. In support thereof, and at the request of the Committee, I agreed to provide this explanation of the kind of seminar the Law Review anticipates as complying with the "journal only" seminar in the Committee proposal.

First, a bit of background:

1. You will recall that when the faculty voted on the new seminar-based writing requirement, and the rejection of the Law Review request for an exception that would allow the Law Review note/comment to continue as satisfying the writing requirement, that discussion raised the concern about Review/Journal credits, thus joining the two issues. Both issues continued to be joined in the discussion of the Committee leading to the proposal now before you.

2. Several years ago, when credits for the Law Review were increased to mirror the credits for the NRJ, I, as faculty advisor, was tasked with conducting a 1 hour, Law Review only seminar. In doing so, I tried to emulate the highly successful NRJ seminar conducted by Em Hall focused on writing skill development. It is only because I was unable to succeed at that task to my satisfaction, that the one hour session was transformed into an Editorial Board-run session (including occasional presentations by me, by library staff and others).

Second, the Law Review is undergoing an internal transformation, rededicating itself to its founding mission of focusing on issues of importance to the development of New Mexico Jurisprudence.

Third, in the course of the Committee's deliberation, and the path to adoption of the proposal before you (first developed by Reed Benson), the Law Review saw in the proposal a way to reestablish a substantive faculty-led seminar that would:

- a. Provide a substantive seminar experience dealing with key developments in New Mexico law that meets all the requirements of the seminar experience adopted by the faculty, while enhancing the Law Review's recommitment to New Mexico jurisprudence.
- b. Aid in the development of casenote and comment topics more directly attuned to issues of significance to New Mexico jurisprudence, while providing a much better process for writing topic selection and identifying further expert faculty and lawyer assistance;
- c. Maintain and improve the importance of the student editing process as a significant educational experience for both student writers and student editors.

Thus, in urging the adoption of this Committee proposal, the faculty advisor to the Law Review (who should be given course teaching credit for the seminar) will be responsible for:

1. Formulating and conducting (with the assistance of members of the Law Review Board) a mandatory, substantive seminar dealing with *Current Issues in New Mexico Jurisprudence*, to be given in the fall semester for second year students recently accepted as Law Review staff members .
2. The seminar will involve a 14 week curriculum, with appropriate reading assignments designated in a syllabus, together with the preparation and presentation of seminar papers by the students—papers that will meet both seminar and Law Review requirements, and may then be considered for Law Review publication.
3. The seminar will be graded in accordance with the decision of the faculty instructor, consistent with law school policy.
4. The seminar will also likely involve the participation of experts in particular fields of New Mexico law, who may also provide assistance to the student-writers as they progress with their papers.

Finally, it should be noted that Law Review students would not be granted any additional course credit for this seminar beyond those credits listed in the Committee's proposal.