

Report of the Committee on Law Reviews and Journals
March 8, 2011

Browde, Michael; Benson, Reed; Fritz, Chris; Gómez, Laura; Homer, Steve; Kelly, Susan; Norwood, Mike; Parker, Carol (Chair); Zuni-Cruz, Christine; Duprez, Jennifer (NMLR student); Lane, Maggie (NRJ student); Winston, Selesia (TLJ student)

Charge: (1) Evaluate the number of credit hours given for student participation on each of the three law journals; (2) Guide the reorganization of the administrative structure of the three law journals (Natural Resources Journal, New Mexico Law Review and Tribal Law Journal) in light of budgetary demands and the curricular purposes of the journals serve.

Context of Committee's Work

Spring 2010 the Faculty voted to require a minimum of two ULWR classes for graduation: (1) a drafting class, and (2) a seminar class. The Faculty also determined that journal students who are required to write a note or comment (currently NMLR) would still have to take a seminar class.

Several other concerns were expressed during the writing requirement discussion, primarily centered around the number of student credit hours (SCH) journal service provides. It was stated that the number of SCH earned are so substantial that they crowd out opportunities to take other classes, or can prevent students from qualifying for Order of the Coif. It was also stated that other law schools don't award as many SCHs, or limit higher numbers of SCH to managing editor positions. The faculty determined that an ad hoc committee should take up the matter of SCH for journal service and make a recommendation to the faculty in the 2010-2011 academic year.

2010-11 Journal Enrollment:

NMLR - 2L editorial staff: 13
NMLR - 3L editorial board: 16
NRJ - 2L editorial staff: 11
NRJ - 3L editorial board: 12
TLJ - 2L editorial staff: 10
TLJ - 3L editorial board: 6

2010-11 Student Credit Hours (SCH) Earned:

NMLR	3+3 (2 nd yr)	3+3 (3 rd yr)	12 total
NRJ	2+2 (2 nd yr)	3+3 (3 rd yr)	10 total
TLJ	1+1 (2 nd yr)	2+2 (3 rd yr)	6 total

Committee Process

The Committee met on November 3, 2010, February 15, 2011 and March 1, 2011. To ensure that students had ample opportunity to provide input, the committee asked the three journals to provide it with the following:

1. A proposal on the question of how many credits should be received for service on their respective journals (both as staff and later as board members).
2. A proposal on the question of whether or how a journal writing requirement might satisfy the current upper level seminar paper writing requirement
3. Share with the committee the reasons student decide to serve on their respective journals, i.e., what are the typical motivations for a modern law student
4. Suggest changes that could be made to ensure journal service remains an attractive option for students, given all of the competing co-curricular options now available.

The committee added #3 and 4 because of a strong interest in keeping journal service an attractive, viable option in the future to ensure the continuation of the journals. The student reports have been entitled Appendices A-C, and are available on the Intranet at:

<https://lobolaw.unm.edu/faculty/handbook/governance/committee-reports-archives/10-11/index.php>.

Charge #1: Committee's Recommendation for Student Credit Hours (SCH)

NMLR	2+2 (2 nd yr)*	2+2 (3 rd yr)	8 total
NRJ	1+1 (2 nd yr)**	2+2 (3 rd yr)	6 total
TLJ	1+1 (2 nd yr)**	2+2 (3 rd yr)	6 total

*Credits will be 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 for any journal that requires its members to take a specific substantive seminar that is open only to members of that journal, which includes writing a paper that meets the seminar writing requirement. Students meet the seminar writing requirement through the journal's seminar, but do not receive separate credit for the seminar.

**Credits will be 1 + 1 + 2 + 2 for any journals that does not require all of its members to take a specific seminar. Students meet the seminar requirement by taking a seminar that is not limited to members of the journals and receive separate credit for taking that seminar.

A proposal to create a substantive seminar on the topic of New Mexico jurisprudence that would permit NMLR to pursue the 2 + 2 + 2 + 2 option described above is entitled Appendix D on the Intranet. This proposal will be submitted to the Curriculum Committee for consideration.

Charge #2: Guide the reorganization of the administrative structure of the three law journals in light of budgetary demands and the curricular purposes of the journals serve

The committee functioned as an advisory committee with respect to recent changes in how the law school provides administrative support for the journals. Below is a list of administrative changes implemented in the past year:

Reporting Lines:

Administrative support for the journals was moved under the Law Library as of 5-1-10; Lynne Arany became a member of the library staff, and no longer reported to Prof. Reed Benson now that NRJ is no longer faculty edited; Jessica Leary retired and her salary line was eliminated. The business operations for NMLR and NJR previously provided by Jessica Leary was absorbed by the library business operations infrastructure. Administrative support of NMLR and NRJ is well developed; administrative support for TLJ is still developing, with TLJ students only recently moving into the journals suite inside the library.

Budget:

Staff support for journals is now completely subsidized by the law school's I&G revenue, subscription revenue having dwindled to the point that no staff salary subsidy remains. Subscription revenue for NMLR and NRJ barely covers costs of operations & print production and at present, there is no surplus in either journal's operating index to fund special events such as symposia (symposia funding would have to come from other sources were they to occur). There is little historical data for reference; cancellation rates were not previously tracked and royalty income was not segregated so it remains unclear whether print subscription revenue even covers the cost of print subscriptions. It appears likely that royalty revenue is providing a good portion of operating revenue. TLJ received no subscription or royalty revenue and its operating costs are wholly subsidized by law school I&G revenue.

Revenue enhancement strategies for the two print journals include more aggressive marketing to counter declining subscriptions, especially for NMRL (e.g., the recent decision to refocus NMRL as a publication focused on issues of NM jurisprudence should help). The recent shift of NRJ from four issues a year to two should also help reduce operating costs in future years.

Revenue enhancement strategies also include focusing on increasing royalty revenue associated with relicensing to online database publishers. This source of revenue will remain viable even if print publication should cease and the journals become digital publication (likely to occur when subscription revenue can no longer cover printing costs). New royalty contracts were negotiated with Lexis, EBSCRO and Gale Publishing in the past year, which would increase royalty revenue. Six new contracts are currently awaiting approval by the University Counsel's office.

Production Enhancements:

All three journals achieved 100% open access in the past academic year, with all issues now freely available on the journals' web sites.

Lynne Arany was charged with the goal of developing the capacity to produce camera-ready images in house to prepare for the possibility that we will one day abandon print production (other than to produce archival copies through print-on-demand production). Currently we pay our printer to provide PDFs.

The law school IT staff installed Open Journals System (OJS) software in the past year for the journals to use. OJS has the capacity to both manage students' workflow as well as publish digital issues of the journals (either as free open access publications, or as subscription based online journals). Lynne Arany was charged with supporting the students' transition to use of this software to manage production in the coming year. Library faculty member, Ernesto Longa, will serve as journal liaison to other digital initiatives in place on main campus and as a technical resource for OJS. Prof. Longa also continues to monitor initiatives on main campus to develop print-on-demand resources which might one day allow us to forego having an outside printer contract.

Facilities:

The journals suite was refurbished in the past year with new carpet and furniture upgrades. TLJ moved into the suite to join NMLR and NRJ.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Parker, Committee Chair