

UNM School of Law
Faculty Meeting
April 7, 1980

Conference Room
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Adamson, Desiderio, DuMars, J. Ellis, W. Ellis, Fink, Gonzales, Hart, Henry, Hermann, Kovnat, MacPherson, Minzner, Muir, Nathanson, Norwood, Occhialino, Parnall, Romero, Schwartz, Simson, Stelzner, Teitelbaum, Weihofen, Winograd; Student Representatives Carabajal, Otten, Valdez; Camp

The meeting was called to order; minutes of the meeting of March 24, 1980, were approved.

After hearing explanation from Nathanson and MacPherson of the proposal for an Elderly Law Clinic next summer, the faculty voted to accept it. (See the attached 1980 Summer Clinic: Legal Problems of the Elderly Program.)

Continuing discussion on summer offerings, MacPherson suggested waiving the preference for present second-year students in order to allow first-year students now enrolled in Legal Problems of the Elderly to continue in the program.

Discussion from a previous meeting on the proposal on part-time legal education was continued, centering on the limitation of 12 students per class per semester, administration of the program, and work loads of present students. The vote was postponed pending draft of a more defined policy by the committee. *PT-Time*

Teitelbaum presented a report of the Curriculum Committee. The report referred to the first year curriculum. It was agreed that Criminal Law be moved from the second semester to the first. The discussion then centered around what course is to be put in for second semester. Because of the departures of Jim Ellis and Teitelbaum during next academic year, Family Law will not be offered. The Curriculum Committee asked for guidance as to spring semester offerings, i.e., which "upperclass" courses could be taught in the spring as first-year courses. Suggestions included adding one hour to each course normally taught, inventing a new course, and allowing students to take another elective. The problem was returned to the committee. Distribution of courses will be influenced by the choice of visiting faculty, about whom the dean will have further information.

Hart brought out the possible elimination of two legal education programs (CLEO and the Clinical Legal Education Program) because of governmental cut-backs. He asked faculty members to contact the staffs of our U.S. senators or anyone else who might be of aid in the continuation of the funding of these programs.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise R. Camp
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Sec'y

4/7/80

PROPOSED FACULTY RESOLUTION TO EXPAND
PART-TIME LEGAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT UNM LAW SCHOOL

A. INTRODUCTION

The Law School presently requires that all first year students be full-time students and that after the first year a student take a minimum of twelve hours a semester. A number of exceptions to this rule exist, some formal, such as final semester students who need less than twelve hours to complete their degree requirements, some semi-formal, such as students with emergency situations who register for less than twelve hours of credit with the permission of the Dean or the Associate Dean, and some totally ad hoc and unapproved. A need for formalizing exceptions to the rule is presented by the current state of affairs. A recent survey by Ms. Camp reveals that over the past few years an extraordinary number of students have taken fewer than the required number of credit hours per semester. Although most of these students have either needed less than twenty-four hours in their third year or less than twelve hours in their last semester to graduate, a sizable number do not fit this category. It is disturbing that many of the remaining group are students who have registered for more than 12 credits a semester and later dropped below the minimum without permission.

The need for more formal exceptions is also supported by evidence of an impressionistic sort that some students currently enrolled in a full-time program would benefit from an expanded part-time legal education opportunity. Additionally, it is possible that some persons are deterred from applying to U.N.M. because of the lack of any formal part-time legal education opportunity, and that at least some of those so deterred would be students we would like to attract and to accommodate.

The A.B.A. rules require that a full-time student take a minimum of ten hours a semester and receive credit for at least nine hours. The A.A.L.S. rules are essentially the same. For part-time students, the A.B.A. rules require eight credit hours and the A.A.L.S. rules require six credit hours.

Although A.B.A. and A.A.L.S. rules require that major changes in operation be reported, and in some cases that such changes receive prior approval, the changes which would be made by the proposed resolution do not seem to be such major changes in operation as the rules contemplate.

B. PROPOSED RESOLUTION

All first year students must be full-time students. After the first year every student must take a minimum of twelve hours a semester except that students who meet the following criteria may be permitted to register for as few as eight hours:

(1) Students who need fewer than twenty-four hours to graduate in the regular three year program may take less than twelve hours in either the first or second semester of their third, year, or both, on the condition that the student's program satisfies residence requirements. Ordinarily, such students will be students who have received credit for courses taken during the summer or intersession.

(2) (a) Students who are in the process of completing their first year may petition the Part Time Legal Education Committee for permission to complete the balance of their law school program in as many as four additional academic years. A few students, selected by this Committee, will be permitted to elect such a program. Their number is not to exceed twelve per year without the consent of the full faculty. The Committee will select those students who will benefit from part-time attendance and whose participation will not jeopardize the Law School's commitment, generally, to a full-time law school program. Illustrative situations which might merit participation in a part-time program include:

- (i) Students whose financial situation requires that they work while pursuing a legal education;
- (ii) Students whose family responsibilities make it difficult for them to pursue a full time legal education;
- (iii) Students who for continuing medical reasons must take a longer period to complete the law school program;
- (iv) Students who have a job opportunity or commitment which justifies extension of the normal three year program;
- (v) Students whose educational experience would be substantially enriched by an extended law school program.

(2) (b) Prior to commencing their third year, students who are in the process of completing their second year of legal education may petition to complete their academic program in more than one year. Procedures and criteria established in (2) (a) shall be applicable to these petitions. No more than twelve part-time third year students shall be approved without the consent of the full faculty.

(2) (c) In unusual situations and for compelling reasons, the Committee may consider a request for part-time legal education in advance of the enrollment of the student at the law school, but in no event may the Committee dispense with the requirement that all first year students be full-time.

(3) Appeals from adverse decisions of the Committee may be made to the full faculty.

(4) Nothing in this rule shall restrict the discretion of the Dean or Assistant Dean to authorize less than a full credit load in student emergencies or to authorize a leave of absence from the Law School for one semester or one academic year.

(5) No student may take more than five academic years from the time of matriculation to complete all requirements for graduation without the prior written consent of the Dean. Consent shall be given only for compelling reasons.