

Law School Faculty Meeting
November 14, 1988
Dean's Conference Room, 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Burr, DuMars, Ellis, W., Flickinger, Fritz, Hall, Hart, Kelly, Kohnat, Mathewson, Morse, Norwood, Occhialino, Parnall, Romero, Sanders, Scheible, Schwartz, Sedillo Lopez, Taylor, and Utton.
Student Representatives: Knight, Rasheed, and Scholl.
Others Present: Cohen, Hotsinpiller, Lester, and Price.

The minutes of October 24, 1988 faculty meeting were approved as written.

Dean's Report:

Dean Parnall thanked members of the faculty for recent professional activities.

- Professor Scott Taylor recently published an article on captive insurance in the October 24th issue of Tax Notes. He has also finished a final draft of a much more exhaustive article on the same subject.
- Professors Jim Ellis and Ruth Luckasson wrote the amendment and background material resulting in mentally retarded persons being exempt from the death penalty provisions of the new federal drug bill.
- Professor Chris Fritz was a member of the Program Committee of the 1988 annual meeting of the American Society of Legal History. In addition, he presented two papers at another legal history conference discussing the Spanish influence on the development of the West and the treatment of the Chinese under Western law.
- Professor Al Utton organized a U.S.-Mexico press seminar on U.S.-Mexican legal, political, and economic issues. Editors and associate editors from major newspapers attended the seminar which was held from October 16-18, 1988.
- Professor Fred Ragsdale, who will be teaching Conflict of Laws during the Spring Semester, gave a talk to the Children's Court attorneys for the New Mexico Health and Human Services Department.
- Professor Chuck DuMars presided over a panel at the New Mexico Water Conference on October 27, 1988.

Dean Parnall announced that the Judicial Reform Amendment to the New Mexico State Constitution passed in the recent election. Discussion ensued regarding the significance of this development and its impact on the School of Law.

Professor Rob Schwartz reminded the faculty of the upcoming Professional Responsibility Day to be held on Wednesday, November 16, 1988 from 3:30-8:00 PM. The seminar will begin at 3:30 in the Nursing/Pharmacy Auditorium at the Medical School. Professor Schwartz scheduled a meeting on Tuesday, November 15, 1988 at 4:00 PM in Room 2406 to informally discuss the issues being presented ahead of time. It was suggested that participating law faculty members invite their medical cosponsors to attend the informal meeting as well.

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The Dean announced that the position of Director of Women's Studies is open. A search has begun for a permanent director. Also many Law School deanships are open now, including those at the University of Arizona, Arizona State University, and the University of San Francisco.

The American Association of Law Schools annual meeting will be held in New Orleans this year. Dean Parnall reminded the faculty to seek competitive airfares and try to utilize the officially designated hotels, since special pricing arrangements have been made.

Dean Parnall announced that Jim Shannon, a 1973 graduate of the School of Law, has retired as Executive Director of the General Mills Foundation. Also, 1987 graduate, Kathy Snedaker, has just published a book on communication and litigation. She has invited the members of the faculty to a signing party at La Posada on Saturday, November 19, 1988 from 5:00-7:00 PM.

Law Library Report:

Professor Anita Morse summarized the discussion of the Law Library report which began at the last faculty meeting. Further discussion included the tax exempt status of the Friends of the Law Library, developments in fax and copy charges, and collection development efforts. Professor Morse reminded the faculty to include book money in contract or grant proposals, if appropriate. The Dean thanked Professor Morse and her staff for a tremendous job in providing information to the faculty on the status of the Law Library. The faculty joined the Dean in praising the Library for its efforts.

Curriculum Committee Report:

Professor Ruth Kovnat distributed a report (see attached) and proposal to permit discussion about the first-semester "Law" course. (The thesis requirement is still being investigated and the Committee will provide a report to the faculty on this topic at a later time.) The conclusion of the subcommittee studying the "Law" course was that there has been a failure to transmit the purpose of the course to the students due to the lack of a common curriculum between the sections of the course. Thus the Committee proposed that "Law" be restructured by designating "Law" instructors during the Fall Semester and asking them to meet during the Spring Semester to develop a common curriculum and syllabus, similar to the development of the Advocacy program. It was further recommended that such a curriculum be developed in conjunction with members of the Law Library staff and Roberta Price in order to strengthen the legal research component of the course. The proposal was extensively discussed. Issues raised included survey methods used to identify student perceptions and the relationship between the "Law" and Advocacy courses. The Curriculum Committee will leave this proposal open for several weeks and encourages further comment.

Proposal by the Committee on Student Suspension, Retention, and Readmission:

Professor Sheryl Scheible presented a proposal from the Committee that would change the School of Law's Policy on Academic Retention and Suspension to

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accommodate fractionated grading. The Committee proposed that effective with the entering class of 1988, the Policy's use of quality points to determine academic standing be replaced with the following:

"3. Automatic Probation

- A. A student whose cumulative grade point average falls within any of the following categories shall be placed on probation without further action:

<u>Credit Hours Attempted</u>	<u>Cumulative Grade Point Average</u>
0 - 18	1.30
19 - 36	1.75
37 - 54	1.90"

After clarification and discussion, it was moved and duly seconded to adopt the above proposal. The motion carried.

Announcements:

- The Main Campus Alumni Association is soliciting nominations from the various Colleges to honor outstanding graduates of the University. The faculty named Justice Mary Walters by acclamation.
- According to Peggy Lovato, Assistant to the Dean, School of Law participation in the United Way Fund Drive has increased and the total dollars pledged have increased 115% from last year.
- Professor Fred Hart suggested that the law faculty show their support for the Law Library and join the Friends of the Law Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.



E.A. Jenkins-Smith,
Faculty Secretary

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CURRICULUM COMMITTEE REPORT: FIRST SEMESTER COURSE IN LAW

Several years ago, the faculty approved a first-semester, first-year course called "Law." This year, the Curriculum Committee undertook to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the course through a subcommittee on which Em Hall, Suedeen Kelly and Leo Romero served. The subcommittee looked at both faculty and student perceptions of the course. The subcommittee found that while the various "Law" faculty members agreed that the central purpose of the course is to integrate legal analysis, legal research, and legal writing, that purpose had not been fully transmitted to students. The committee concluded that the major contributing cause of this student confusion is the lack of a uniform course curriculum. Other problems stem from the lack of a uniform curriculum as well. These include: differences in work-load, variation in timing of assignments, and unproductive overlap with other courses. In addition, the committee found general dissatisfaction with the legal research component of the course among both the faculty and students. On the positive side, the subcommittee noted that both faculty and students find great value in a course which integrates legal analysis, legal research and legal writing.

Therefore, the Curriculum Committee proposes to restructure "Law" by directing the six faculty members who will teach "Law" next year to produce a common syllabus for the course containing common assignments and common timing of assignments. "Law" teachers must be identified by the end of this semester so that they have the Spring semester to work together. The curriculum committee further recommends that the law teachers develop the curriculum for the course in conjunction with members of the library staff and Roberta Price so that the legal research component will be strengthened.

No formal action is required at this time. The Curriculum Committee is reporting to the faculty now to permit discussion.