



The University of New Mexico

School of Law
Office of the Dean
1117 Stanford NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1431
(505) 277-4700

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: LAW FACULTY

FROM: LEO M. ROMERO, DEAN

DATE: DECEMBER 4, 1991

SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING AGENDA

**Faculty Meeting
December 9, 1991
Dean's Conference Room
4:00 p.m.**

- ✓ 1. Approval of minutes of November 18, 1991.
- ✓ 2. Dean's Report
- ✓ 3. Order of the Coif - Election of National Officers
Garrett Flickinger
- ✓ 4. Ad-Hoc Writing Committee Report - Ruth Kovnat
(**This report has implications for the whole
curriculum, therefore you should all plan to
attend the meeting**)

Next mtg

Next mtg

December 9, 1991

Faculty Meeting Minutes
School of Law
Dean's Conference Room, 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Bergman, Browde, Burr, Capowski, Desiderio, Ellis, J., Ellis, W., Fritz, Gill, Gonzales, Hall, Hart, Jenkins-Smith, Kelly, Kovnat, Mathewson, Morse, Occhialino, Price, Romero, Sanders, Scales, Taylor, West, and Winograd.
Student Representatives: Carrillo.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Leo Romero.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the meeting of November 18, 1991 were approved.

Dean's Report:

- Associate Dean Ruth Kovnat announced that Professor Peter Schuck of Yale Law School will be speaking at the School of Law on Thursday, January 16, 1992 at 8:00 PM in Room 2401. Professor Schuck's visit is sponsored by the Yale Alumni Association and all were invited to attend this event.
- Dean Romero announced that U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor has accepted our invitation to be the 1993 Simms Lecturer. Details will be distributed once her itinerary is finalized, but she plans to be available to meet with faculty and students during her visit.
- Vice President David McKinney has been alerted to the heating problems in the building and has taken a personal interest in ensuring that our problems are addressed. Apparently temporary repairs have been made in the past, and the Vice President is now focusing on permanently repairing the building's needs.
- Ruth Kovnat announced that the School of Law has nominated Professor Ann Scales for the UNM Research Lectureship for 1992-93.
- Provost Paul Risser has asked for faculty volunteers to serve as judges in the upcoming academic decathlon involving junior high and high school students. Interested faculty members should contact Dean Romero.
- Dean Romero reported that the proposed agreement between the Clinic and Continuing Legal Education has been approved and signed by both parties. This arrangement will allow a number of clinical students to volunteer to work at certain CLE events in return for free admission to those events.
- The School of Law has been presented with an award from the Roscoe Pound Foundation in recognition of our outstanding curriculum and program in health care law. In addition, third-year law student, Jamie McAlister, is the 1991 winner of the Elaine Osborne Jacobson Award for Women Working in Health Care Law. The faculty joined Dean Romero in congratulating Ms. McAlister.

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- Dean Romero reported that there are many visiting faculty positions currently available, as well as a two-year deputy director position with the AALS in Washington, DC. The folder with announcements and other information is available from Trish Bianchi.
- Provost Risser asked that the faculty be encouraged to give to the United Way Fund Drive.
- Dean Romero announced that Susan Cote has accepted the position of Development Director beginning in January 1992. A reception will be planned to welcome her to the School and introduce her to the faculty.
- The Dean was pleased to share compliments received about the recent mentor program held at the School. He expressed his appreciation to those members of the faculty involved in this successful event.
- The faculty were reminded that the Christmas Party is scheduled for Thursday, December 19, 1991 at Maria Teresa's Restaurant between the hours of 3:30 - 5:30 PM. Associate Dean Peter Winograd requested that all faculty attend this event. Additional faculty contributions were requested by Associate Dean Kovnat in order to purchase small gifts for the staff.
- Loren Kieve, Class of 1972, has an article on discovery in the latest issue of the American Bar Association Journal.
- Dean Romero requested that members of the faculty turn in their Spring Semester book orders to Ethel Ortenburger as soon as possible. Because the UNM Bookstore will be closed between December 24th and January 2nd, it is likely that faculty ordering books late will not have them by the beginning of Spring Semester.
- Peter Winograd reminded the faculty teaching first-year courses in the Spring Semester that an extra class meeting for each course has been scheduled every week so that class meetings may be cancelled later in the semester for Advocacy needs.

Order of the Coif - Election of National Officers:

This action was postponed to a future meeting due to Professor Garrett Flickinger's absence.

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Legal Writing Requirement:

Professor Alfred Mathewson distributed copies of the Committee's Proposed Changes to the Legal Writing Program (see attached) and discussed the development and process leading to these proposals. Extensive discussion included the following issues:

- the necessity or desirability of increasing graduation requirements to 89 credit hours,
- the impact of this proposal on student participation in moot court competitions,
- the need for incorporating remedial writing experiences into the curriculum,
- changing the focus from litigation to planning or advising in current first-year legal writing courses, and

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- the enhancement of legal research skills in writing courses.

Implementation questions about continuing the same Advocacy problem into Appellate Advocacy and the appropriate staffing of the proposed Appellate Advocacy course were also discussed. Concerns voiced included the cost of hiring additional adjuncts as well as the intensity of commitment that would be required from them. A straw vote confirmed that the faculty agreed with the Committee's recommendation that there should be a third semester in the required writing program, scheduled in the second year of law school, in addition to the existing requirement.

The faculty were asked to consider these issues and provide written comments to Alfred Mathewson as soon as possible. The Committee will present a final proposal at the first faculty meeting in February, 1992.

Other Business:

Clarification was requested regarding the requirement that third-year law students complete their writing requirement by the beginning of their sixth semester. Associate Dean Winograd responded that liberal extensions will be considered for those third-year students requesting an extension of their writing requirement into the sixth semester. Requiring students to make a commitment regarding their writing requirement plans in their fifth semester was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 pm.



E.A. Jenkins-Smith
Faculty Secretary

 THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: December 9, 1991

To: Law School Faculty
From: Ad Hoc Committee on the Legal Writing Requirement
Re: Proposed Changes to the Legal Writing Program

The Ad Hoc Committee was asked to review the entire writing program at the School of Law and report back to the faculty. The Ad Hoc Committee proposes the following:

First Year Writing. The Legal Reasoning, Research & Writing course now offered in the first semester is unchanged. The second semester Advocacy course shall continue to focus on lawyering skills in the context of a simulated problem. However, instead of focusing the writing component of the course on the writing of an appellate brief, the writing component shall include the drafting of complaints, motions, discovery documents, settlement agreements and other similar documents. Oral advocacy shall remain a part of the course, but a short memo in support of or opposition to a motion shall be the persuasive writing assignment. The course will also provide ample opportunity to explore alternative dispute resolution mechanisms.

Second Year Writing. A new course in Appellate Advocacy shall be required of all second year students in the first semester of the second year. The problem addressed in the course shall stem from the advocacy problem addressed by the students during the previous year. The staffing should follow the structure of Evidence/Trial Practice: that is, one full time faculty member shall coordinate six adjunct teachers who will be responsible for supervising students who are writing appellate briefs and preparing oral arguments. This course shall carry three credits.

Upper Class Writing Requirement: The upper class writing requirement shall remain as it is except that an advanced drafting course will be offered that will be an additional means of satisfying the upper class writing requirement.

These proposals shall apply to the class entering in the Fall of 1992 and thereafter. They are combined with a proposal to increase the number of credit hours required for graduation from the present 86 to 89 to

account for the new second year requirement of Appellate Advocacy.

The Committee is aware that the adoption of this proposal will require some adjustments in the scheduling of courses currently offered. For example, there might be an overload in the first semester, second-year curriculum caused by the presence of this required course, the required Con Law course and the very popular and time-intensive Evidence/Trial Practice course.

The Committee also began discussions on a remedial writing program but was not able to reach a consensus on a program prior to this meeting. The Committee proposes to continue its study of the matter.