

FACULTY ADOPTS CHANGES IN THE FIRST YEAR CURRICULUM, CONSIDERS MORE

The Law School's Curriculum Committee Report on proposed changes in the first year curriculum was discussed at the Law School's faculty meeting on October 15, 1975.

The proposed changes adopted by the faculty were as follows:

(1) A combined legal writing-legal research course with a legal bibliography component during fall semester for 2 credit hours. (Presently there is a separate legal bibliography course for 1 credit hour and a separate legal writing course for 1 credit hour).

(2) The present 1 credit hour Legal Reasoning course is abolished beginning fall 1976, and substituted in its place is a course called Legal Perspectives, which is to be offered each semester for one credit hour with evaluation based on some writing submitted by the student.

LEGAL PERSPECTIVES COURSE

The Legal Perspectives course will be designed to include contact with professionals from other disciplines relevant to law but not otherwise available to law students. The course will be a year long perspective study of a variety of legal areas including:

- (1) Jurisprudence, comparative law and legal history,
- (2) The legal profession,
- (3) Development and function of courts and judicial procedure, and
- (4) Law in non-legal literature.

FIRST YEAR CLASS LOAD

The faculty, by a 6 to 9 vote, rejected the proposal that the freshmen seminars (spring electives) be truly elective. Under the rejected proposal a student could have elected not to take any of the freshman seminars and thus reduce his spring semester load by 2 hours.

As revised by the faculty, a first year student, starting 1976-77, will be carrying a total of 32 hours in the first year, 16 each semester. In 1974-75, first year students had a load of 30 hours. With the increase of L.A.P. from 2 to 3 hours, beginning students have a total of 31 hours this year. (Comment: After the first year, law students may need two years to recover.)

85 HOURS NOT ENOUGH?

The faculty did not discuss the Curriculum Committee's proposal that the number of hours necessary for graduation be increased from 85 to 90.

The Curriculum Committee proposed that: "In order to receive a law degree from the University of Oregon, a student entering after August 1, 1975 must successfully complete at least 90 credit hours of law school courses."

The 90 hour recommendation was made by the Curriculum Committee in late spring, 1975. This issue was discussed again by the Curriculum Committee this fall and a motion was made to delete this recommendation to the faculty. The motion for deletion failed on a 3-3 vote.

This item may be on the faculty agenda at its next scheduled meeting, which should be 3:30 p.m. Wednesday November 12 in the faculty lounge. Since the faculty is abiding by Oregon's Open Meetings Law, faculty meetings are open to the public, which occasionally includes interested law students.

COMMENT

It seems unlikely that the faculty is apt to adopt an increase to 90 hours. When the law school changed over to the semester system, there was a gradual step up of hours required to graduate from 82 for the class graduating in 1974 to 85 starting with the graduating class of 1976.

It is likely that the faculty may adopt a one(86), two(87), or three(88) hour increase in the number of hours needed for graduation. Some faculty members consider the increase in the first year, with L.A.P. and Legal Perspectives, as extra free hours, and if the graduation requirements are not increased, students may carry lighter unbalanced loads in their second and third years.

---Darrel Johnson

SPEAKERS GALORE IN NOVEMBER

Newly elected SBA Vice-President Merrill Schneider has been busy lining up speakers for the month of November. Except for one, all speakers are scheduled for 3:30 p.m. in Room 129.

Nov. 3, Mon.---Frank Wilkinson, Field Director of the ACLU, will talk on repression in America today. His discussion will center around controversial Senate Bill 1, which is a proposed revision of the U.S. Criminal Code.

Nov. 5, Wed.---Medical Malpractice Seminar. A panel discussion with Dr. Glenn Gordon, physician, and Windsor Calkins of the defendant's bar. A member of the plaintiff's bar is to be announced.

Nov. 12, Wed.---Jim Redden, State Treasurer, will speak on the state attorney general's job.

Nov. 19, Wed.---Leonard Boudin, attorney for Daniel Ellsberg, the Berrigans, and Dr. Spock is the featured Speaker.

Nov. 20, Thurs. 12:30 p.m.---Norma Paulus, State Representative, will speak on environment and womens' rights. Rep. Paulus is an unannounced candidate for Secretary of State in 1976.

MINORITIES IN LAW SCHOOL ARE STILL QUITE A MINORITY AT THE U. OF O.

Oregon's three law schools are struggling to increase minority student enrollment with varying degrees of success.

All three schools are participating in the Council on Legal Education Opportunity (CLEO), a federally funded program, that helps minorities, with less than average scholastic records, into accredited law schools. CLEO also offers financial assistance of \$1000 per year per student.

U. of O.'s CLEO PROGRAM

The U. of O. Law School has a five year history of working with CLEO, which was started nationally in 1968 by the Ford Foundation. It has had 19 students attend the law school under the now federal program. Three have graduated, five failed, three withdrew, one transferred and there are now seven enrolled.

In the first year, Oregon tried formal tutoring. But the minority students resented being singled out. Variations have been sampled, including special assistance in examination writing techniques.

A minority U. of O. law student labeled this approach as being outmoded. He indicated that the present minority student is likely to accept that he has had a disadvantaged background and takes pride that he is working to overcome it.

A group of about 10 minorities have formed their own committee at Oregon to tutor the two minority freshmen. Oregon has no freshmen CLEO students this year.

WHY NO CLEO STUDENTS THIS YEAR?

There were no CLEO students in this year's entering class, because no CLEO institute was held in the Northwest. The institute is six weeks of summer school where each CLEO candidate receives pre-law instruction before entering law school.

Oregon hosted the institute in 1972. The University of Washington has hosted it for the last two years, but refused to host it for the 1975 summer. Besides the summer school, the hosting school is in charge of getting CLEO students placed in law schools. Any CLEO students unable to be placed elsewhere are absorbed by the hosting school.

A spokesperson for U. of O. minority law students indicated that if Washington, D.C. funds the CLEO programs this next year, the minority students have an oral commitment from Dean Clark that Oregon will submit a proposal for a CLEO institute.

HELP FROM THE OREGON BAR

At its 1974 annual meeting, the Oregon State Bar passed an Affirmative Action proposal aimed at enlarging minority enrollment at the state's law schools, but funding was left on a voluntary basis. Last year's voluntary contributions of about \$4,000 was divided among the three state law schools, where it was used as financial aid for minority law students.

This September the Oregon Bar increased its annual dues \$10 (for members of the bar more than 3 years) and \$6 -- for members of the bar less than 3 years. These extra dues, which should amount to about \$40,000 annually, are earmarked for administration expenses to gain large scale foundation grants for affirmative action education.

Minority students are asking that the Oregon Bar's Affirmative Action plan be changed, so that the \$40,000 fund would be pipelined immediately to student aid.

THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Minority students from the U. of Oregon Law School will be attending a state wide meeting of minority law students at Willamette University on Saturday November 1.

The purpose of the meeting is to nominate one Black, one Chicano and one Native American law student for the so-designated positions on the Affirmative Action Steering Committee of the Oregon State Bar.

By submitting these nominations to the Oregon State Bar, minority law students hope to "urge" the Board of Governors to start forming the steering committee. It will be the steering committee's responsibility to decide how the funds from the extra-assessed dues will be used and distributed.

IN THE MEANTIME, BACK AT THE RANCH...

The U. of O. law school is just starting to wrestle with its own development of an Affirmative Action plan. A committee has barely been formed including four law students (the SBA even allowed a first year student on it--will wonders never cease). Maybe sometime next year you might hear of some recommendations.

--Darrel Johnson