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Educational Policy Committee Meeting - Minutes 05/11/2017

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**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
HASTINGS COLLEGE OF THE LAW**

**EDUCATIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2017**

1. Roll Call

Chair Marci Dragun
Director Simona Agnolucci
Director Claes Lewenhaupt
Director Mary Noel Pepys
Director Chip Robertson

Chair Marci Dragun called the meeting to order and the Secretary called the roll for the Educational Policy Committee meeting.

2. Public Comment
None.

- *3. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2017
Chair Dragun called for approval of the February 9, 2017 minutes. The minutes were approved.

4. Report on 2016 – 2017 Bar Passage Initiatives
Presented by Interim Provost & Academic Dean Evan Lee

Interim Provost & Academic Dean Evan Lee began his report on 2016-2017 bar passage initiatives by discussing current bar programs available to the class of 2017. The class of 2017 may benefit from expanded bar sweeps programming, a strategy-sharing panel of students who passed the bar, and special sessions dedicated to helping with memorization techniques. Interim Provost & Academic Dean Lee noted that while all students are signed up for a bar review course, a significant problem is that students are having difficulty completing their commercial bar review coursework. A question was asked about how to incentivize students to attend their bar review courses in person, even if the classes are not “live.” Interim Provost & Academic Dean Lee said there will be designated space to watch the bar review videos on campus in order to encourage

students to attend these video streams together. Additionally, because students have struggled with the MBE portion of the bar exam, the College will offer a free online MBE module. Special emphasis will be placed on making MBE instruction available to students through expanded bar exam training taught by UC Hastings faculty.

For currently matriculating classes of 2018 and 2019, there will be a number of programmatic innovations and curricular reforms aimed at better preparing students for the bar exam.

Programmatic innovations include:

Outcome Assessment. There have been methods developed to gather data on students' grasp of legal skills. There will be skills instruction during 1L orientation and throughout the semester through the SAC teaching fellow program. The program involves students completing multiple assignments over the course of the semester. These assignments will be assessed by student teaching assistants who are at the top of their class. 1L students will receive feedback about how to improve their legal analysis, how to better apply rules to facts, and how to improve issue-spotting.

Training on MBE Questions. Students will receive more testing on and exposure to MBE-style questions through course exams. Faculty will receive training in order to learn how to draft MBE-style questions for their exams.

Curricular reforms include:

One-Unit Teaching Fellow Modules. One-unit modules in which the SAC teaching fellow program will be in practice. As Constitutional Law is now optional in the first year, two units will be available—one in the fall semester and one in the spring semester—to be appended to a core first year class. These one-unit modules will be used to implement the outcome assessment program described above. Upper-division courses of Constitutional Law II, Evidence, and Criminal Procedure are all now mandatory.

Continuous Legal Analysis. Interim Provost & Academic Dean Lee further discussed how students better learn legal analysis when it is integrated into all coursework, rather than existing as an independent class. As such, throughout all three years, professors will be teaching legal analysis skills through their coursework.

Elimination of Credit/No Credit Option for Bar Courses. Lastly, Interim Provost & Academic Dean Lee noted that data analytics have shown that when students take bar courses for a grade there exists a significant improvement in bar passage. As such, bar courses will no longer be offered as credit/no credit.

A lengthy discussion then ensued about the duration of 1L orientation.

5. Report on Employment Outcomes for Class of 2016
Presented by Interim Provost & Academic Dean Evan Lee

Interim Provost & Academic Dean Lee presented his report on the employment outcomes for students from the class of 2016. He reported that the number of students who are employed nine months after graduation has increased by one percent to 66.7 percent. Nine months after graduation, 200 out of 300 graduates from the class of 2016 had jobs that either required bar passage or a J.D. degree. This one percent increase is significant considering the bar passage rate had decreased in the previous year. For purely J.D. advantage jobs, the number of students employed in those positions increased by over six percent. Interim Provost & Academic Dean Lee acknowledged that the Career Office has worked diligently to track down each student from the class of 2016 to inquire about their employment. This is critical because if graduates are not contacted to report their employment status, they are marked as “unemployed” for the purposes of these reports. He also noted that the employment rate of recent graduates is just slightly behind in comparison with other University of California law schools.

A lengthy discussion ensued about JD advantage jobs and clerkship opportunities.

6. Report on Visiting Scholar Fees
Presented by Interim Provost & Academic Dean Evan Lee

Interim Provost & Academic Dean Lee discussed the visiting scholars program. He noted that the price of the UC Hastings program can be prohibitively high, compared to other institutions, and thus, discussed lowering the price of the visiting scholar program.

A lengthy discussion ensued about the LLM program and its growth in a competitive market. Chancellor & Dean David Faigman noted that there may be a finite number of people interested in LLM programs, but said he will be traveling to Europe and Asia next year in order to attract LLM students from those areas.

*7. Adjournment
There being no further business to come before the Educational Policy Committee, the meeting was adjourned.