

Date: May 14, 2012

Submitted by: *Lori McMillan x1874*

SUBJECT: LL.M. in Global Legal Studies

Description: *Short overview of the proposal*

The mission of Washburn University School of Law is to “serve our local, national, and global communities. We do so by preparing students of diverse backgrounds and learning styles to be effective lawyers with the knowledge, skills, and values necessary to serve their clients, our profession, and society at large. Through our scholarship and service, we enhance student learning, contribute directly to the legal community, and set an example of lifelong intellectual inquiry and professionalism.”

This program will be aimed at foreign lawyers, providing areas of study that will help prepare them for practice, teaching, and policy making in a global legal marketplace. The program will include a number of different options for specialization, with the initial tracks being in U.S. and international corporate and commercial law, public law, and U.S. legal analysis, writing, and advocacy skills training. More tracks may be added over time. As well, students interested in teaching law in their home countries will have access to the specialized teacher training that is available at Washburn. The program will provide the kinds of substantive learning and skills training increasingly necessary for success in a global marketplace, while at the same time attracting a diverse body of foreign trained lawyers who will bring global perspectives and experiences to the classroom, thereby adding to the diversity of the learning experience of our J.D. students, and enhancing their understanding of the increasingly global practice of law.

Rationale: The objective in establishing the program is to enhance the credentials and brand of the School of Law by offering a high-quality international graduate degree in law, while at the same time generating additional revenue for the School, both through tuition and the development over time of loyal international alumni donors. Both of these will ultimately contribute to enhancing the School’s competitiveness within the domestic market, and increase its reputation influence both domestically and globally.

As indicated above, an added rationale is that the growth of such a program within the School will increasingly expose our domestic JD students to diverse legal and cultural perspectives that will enrich the educational experience the School can offer its American students, and contribute to preparing them for employment in an increasingly globalized and transnational marketplace.

There is demand for American LL.M. programs among lawyers and recent graduates of law programs in a wide array of countries. These include those countries that are increasingly engaged in trade and commerce with the United States and other Western countries; those with legal systems

undergoing fundamental reform, and which look to the United States legal system as a model; and those countries that are experiencing a shift in the educational model underpinning their legal system, and which similarly look to the US legal education system as an example to be emulated. The explosion of LL.M. programs among law schools in the United States reflects the growth of this market, and countries such as China and India, in particular, are perceived as deep growth markets. The program is aimed at a variety of potential students, including those hoping to write the bar in a US jurisdiction and practice in either a US or a transnational law firm, those intending to return to practice law in local firms in their home countries, and those intending to pursue a career in legal academia.

Financial Implications: The program is projected to be revenue generating after three-five years, and to be self-sustaining from the outset. It is not anticipated that new faculty will be required to teach the program as currently designed. Students will be integrated into currently existing J.D. classes in a manner that minimizes the extra work load for any one professor. Once established and generating sufficient revenue, it is anticipated that additional dedicated academic support staff will be employed by the School to administer the program. Initial cooperation from International House will be necessary in the first years of the program.

Proposed Effective Date: *Summer 2014*

Request for Action: *Approval by Faculty Senate*

Approved by: *Faculty Senate on date*

Attachments Yes No