

**From:** Mae Kuykendall

**Sent:** Friday, April 01, 2011 11:32 AM

**To:** Stretch, Charlotte (Becky)

**Subject:** Comment on Proposals on Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools

Hulett H. Askew, Consultant on Legal Education  
Section on Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar  
American Bar Association  
321 N. LaSalle Street  
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To the Standards Review Committee:

I am writing to express strong concern about the proposals by the ABA Standards Review Committee and the Consultant's office in connection with the Standards for Approval of Law Schools. I write in my capacity as both a law faculty member for the last 19 years and as President of the Michigan State University Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

I am particularly concerned about any dilution of a strong role, with significant faculty control over the format and capacity for independent judgment and deliberation, of Faculty in the governance of law schools. As the letter submitted by President Michael A. Olivas on behalf the Executive Committee of the AALS emphasizes, the Faculty of a law school has a guardian role with respect to education. This is consistent with the location of most law schools within universities, which are governed by a commitment to academic freedom as long expressed and protected through the work of the American Association of University Professors. It is critical that Faculty maintain the citizenship capacity that can be damaged by administrative manipulation designed to achieve the appearance, without the substance, of faculty's discharging their responsibility as guardians, in the diligent exercise of their governance role, of the mission of law schools.

I have attached the letter of the AALS to convey my support for the general tenor of the letter, and most especially for the critical need for law faculties to maintain a strong, mission-driven governance role.

Sincerely,

Mae Kuykendall