

American Bar Association
Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
Standards Review Committee

Chapter 2

DRAFT FOR April 2011 Meeting

THE FACULTY

Italics show changes from the January 2011 draft.

Standard 106. Definitions

~~(#) “Faculty member” is an individual who teaches one or more courses or parts of courses in the curriculum of a law school. It includes “full-time faculty members” as well as part-time instructors.~~

(#) “Full-time faculty member” means an individual whose primary professional employment is with the law school and who devotes substantially all working time during the academic year to the responsibilities described in Standard 404, and whose outside professional activities, if any, do not unduly interfere with one’s responsibility as a faculty member.

Standard 401. Qualifications

A law school shall have a faculty whose qualifications and experience are appropriate to the stated mission of the law school and to ~~maintaining~~ carrying out a program of legal education consistent with the requirements of Standards 301, 302 and 303. The faculty shall possess a high degree of competence, as demonstrated by its education, experience in teaching or practice, teaching effectiveness and, ~~when appropriate, scholarly research and writing~~ scholarship.

Standard 402. Size of ~~Full-Time~~ Faculty

A law school shall have a sufficient number of faculty to fulfill the requirements of the Standards, and ~~advance~~ carry out its educational program. The school ~~should~~ shall maintain a faculty sufficient to provide stability and ongoing quality ~~improvement for the~~ of its instructional programs ~~offered~~ and to fulfill the obligations of Standards 403 and 404.

Interpretation 402-1

The number of full-time faculty necessary depends on the size of the student body and the opportunity for students to meet individually with and consult faculty members; the mission of the school; the nature and scope of the educational program; and the ability of the faculty adequately

to fulfill their responsibilities in accordance with Standard 404.

Standard 403. Instructional Role of Faculty

(a) The full-time faculty shall teach more than half of all student contact hours and substantially all of the first one-third of each student's coursework. ~~and more than half of the upper-class student contact hours.~~

(b) A law school shall ensure effective teaching by providing appropriate orientation, guidance, mentoring, faculty development and periodic evaluation of its full-time and part-time faculty members.

Interpretation 403-1

Efforts to ensure teaching effectiveness may include: a faculty committee on effective teaching, class visitations, critiques of videotaped teaching, institutional review of student evaluation of teaching, colloquia on effective teaching and recognition of creative scholarship in law school teaching methodology.

Standard 404. Responsibilities of Full-Time Faculty

(a) A law school shall provide written policies with respect to full-time faculty members' responsibilities. The policies shall require that the faculty, as a collective body, fulfill in advancing its educational program. ~~The policies shall address these core responsibilities:~~

(1) Teaching, preparing for classes, being available for student consultation, participating in academic advising, creating an atmosphere in which students and faculty may voice opinions and exchange ideas and assessment of student learning;

(2) Engaging in scholarship, including but not limited to keeping abreast in areas of legal specialty and publication of legal research, commentary, analyses of legal issues and advocacy; ~~Research and scholarship, and integrity in the conduct of scholarship, including appropriate use of student research assistants, acknowledgment of the contributions of others, and responsibility of faculty members to keep abreast of developments in their specialties;~~

(3) Maintaining scholarly integrity through the appropriate use and credit of student research assistants and other sources;

~~(3)~~ (4) Course and curricular development, including the preparation of students for emerging areas of practice and other professional innovations;

~~(5)~~ (3) Service to the law school and university community, including participation in the governance of the law school and other institutional responsibilities described in Standard 205(b);

(6) (4) Service to the profession, including working with the practicing bar and judiciary to improve the profession;

(7) (5) Service to the public, including participation in pro bono activities; and

(8) (7) Any other contribution deemed important by the law school for the achievement of its mission.

~~(b) Except for effectiveness in teaching, the policies permit faculty members to assume varying responsibilities.~~

(e) (b) The law school shall evaluate periodically the extent to which each faculty member discharges his or her responsibilities under these policies.