

**Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
American Bar Association
Council Meeting, Open Session
June 2, 2017
Portland, OR**

Council Members present: Professor Jane H. Aiken; the Honorable Rebecca White Berch; Diane F. Bosse, Esq.; Mr. David Byers; Professor Roger J. Dennis; Dean Emeritus and Professor Antonio Garcia-Padilla; James J. Hanks, Jr., Esq.; Professor James M. Klein; Dean Emeritus and Professor Jeffrey Lewis; Professor Paul G. Mahoney; Professor Leo Martinez; Gregory G. Murphy, Esq. (Chair); Dean Emeritus and Professor Cynthia Nance; the Honorable Jequita H. Napoli; Vice Chancellor Charles Ray Nash; Dean Maureen O'Rourke; Raymond C. Pierce, Esq.; the Honorable Mary R. Russell; Mayra Salinas-Menjivar (Law Student Division Member); Mr. Edward N. Tucker; and Joseph K. West, Esq.

Council Member absent: The Honorable Christine M. Durham (Section Liaison to the House of Delegates); David L. Morrow II, Esq. (Young Lawyers Division Liaison); the Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr. (Section Liaison to the House of Delegates); E. Fitzgerald (Jerry) Parnell III (Section Liaison to the Board of Governors)

Staff present: Director of Operations Carl Brambrink; Manager, Program Administration JR Clark; Managing Director Barry Currier; Accreditation Counsel Stephanie Giggetts; Deputy General Counsel Lauren Robinson, Esq.; Section Director Erin Ruehrwein; Accreditation Counsel Becky Stretch

Guests and Affiliates present: Professor Maritza Karmely (CLEA); Greg Lambert (AALL); Don LeDuc (Western Michigan University Cooley Law School); Megan McKalpine; Denise Roy (SALT); Professor Wanda Temm (ALWD); Lyssa Thaden (AccessLex Institute); Professor Rebecca Hanner White (Chair, Accreditation Committee)

Minutes

The minutes of the March 10, 2017 Open Session Council Meeting were approved as submitted, by voice vote without dissent.

Questionnaires

The Council unanimously approved the revisions to the Annual Questionnaire and expressed its appreciation to the staff and members of the Standards Review Committee.

The Council unanimously approved the new Bar Passage Questionnaire. The bar pass questions will be moved from the AQ to this new questionnaire so that bar passage information can be obtained and reported in a more timely information. Under the current system, the 2017 AQ would collect first-time bar pass information for the 2016 graduates because information is not

available from many states about the July 2017 examinations until after the October deadline of the AQ. The new Bar Passage Questionnaire will be circulated in December 2017 or January 2018 to collect first-time bar passage information for 2017 graduates as well as ultimate pass rates for graduates from 2016 and 2015. First-time bar passage information for 2016 will also be collected in the first Bar Passage Questionnaire. After that, first time bar passage information will just be collected for one year at a time.

The Council unanimously approved the 2017 Employment Questionnaire. The Council then considered a change proposed by Council member Paul Mahoney to the form of public reporting of law school employment outcomes. A memorandum from Dean Mahoney discussed the complexity of the current report form and the fact that “0” was the most common data point entered in most of the cells in that report for most schools. Most students and most third parties, the memo observed, rely on a small number of entries and treat the remainder as uninformative. The memo suggests that a simplified form would be less confusing and more helpful. After discussion, the Council approved the form that was offered by Dean Mahoney and attached to the memorandum.

Standard 316

The Council unanimously agreed to defer action on sending the revision of Standard 316 back to the ABA House of Delegates until the November meeting of Council. The Council asked the Managing Director to solicit data from schools about the ultimate bar passage rates of their recent graduates. The data will be requested to be submitted by Sept 15th.

Affiliate Reports

The following representatives of affiliate organizations presented brief reports on the work of their organizations and responded to questions from the Council: Association of Legal Writing Directors (ALWD) and the Society of American Law Teachers (SALT).

Discussion on Proposal to Restructure Council

Chair Greg Murphy and Managing Director Barry Currier presented a proposal to combine the Council, Accreditation Committee and Standards Review Committee into one body. The Council discussed both the positive and negative aspects of this approach and agreed to move forward with the discussion. A working group will be assigned to develop the proposal further and will present at the next Council Meeting in August.

Budget

Ed Tucker presented the 2017-18 budgets for the Section and the Accreditation project. The proposal includes a 9% increase of law school fees, a newly funded position for a Data Analyst, and funding from capital reserves for Phases 1 & 2 of a technology project to improve the operation of the accreditation process. The “Section-side” portion of the Section budget will see a revenue drop of \$125K because the ABA general revenue appropriate to support Section

activities will not be provided for FY18 (those funds will go to the newly formed Commission on the Future of Legal Education as part of a strategic initiative developed by ABA President-Elect, Hilary Bass). By unanimous vote, Council approved the FY 2018 as presented.

Reports

Section Director's Report

Section Director Erin Ruehrwein reported on the Section's membership and provided an update on upcoming Section programs including the Associate Deans Conference, webinar on the Uniform Bar Exam, Annual Meeting Student Debt program and 2018 Law School Development Conference. She also discussed the work of the Conferences and Programming and Publications committees as well as the various programs the Section has co-sponsored and the recent publications the Section has published.

Law Student Division Report

Law Student Division Council member Mayra Salinas-Menjivar reported on the Division's current focus on debt, bar passage and employment. She also mentioned the student debt program the Division is co-sponsoring with the Section at the Annual Meeting.

Chairperson's Report

Council Chair Greg Murphy reported on the proposal of ABA President-Elect Hilarie Bass. A request by President-Elect Bass to form a commission for her year was approved by the Board. The Section will continue to operate as is.

There being no further business to be conducted in Open Session, Chair Murphy adjourned the Open Session of the Council at 11:30 AM.