

**Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar
American Bar Association
Council Meeting, Open Session
February 9, 2018
San Antonio, TX**

Council Members present: Diane F. Bosse, Esq.; David Byers; Samuel Chang (Law Student Division Member); Dean Emeritus and Professor Roger J. Dennis; Dean Emeritus and Professor Antonio Garcia-Padilla; President Emeritus Robert Glidden; President and Dean Donald Guter; James Hanks Jr., Esq.; Associate Dean and Professor Joan Howland (Section Liaison to the House of Delegates); Matthew Kerbis, Esq. (Young Lawyers Division Liaison); Professor Emeritus James M. Klein; Dean Emeritus and Professor Jeffrey Lewis; Professor Leo Martinez; President Mary Campbell McQueen; Gregory G. Murphy, Esq.; Dean Emeritus and Professor Cynthia Nance; the Honorable Jequita H. Napoli; Vice Chancellor Charles Ray Nash; the Honorable Solomon Oliver, Jr. (Section Liaison to the House of Delegates); Dean and Professor Maureen O'Rourke (Chair); Raymond C. Pierce, Esq.; the Honorable Mary R. Russell; The Honorable Phyllis Thompson; Joseph K. West, Esq.

Council Members absent: E. Fitzgerald (Jerry) Parnell III, Esq. (Section Liaison to the Board of Governors).

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

Guests and Affiliates present: Various guests and affiliates attended the Open Session.

Minutes

The minutes of the November 3, 2017 Open Session Council Meeting were approved as submitted, by voice vote, without dissent.

Standards Review Committee Report

Proposed Changes to Standard 306

The Council heard a report from the Standards Review Committee (SRC), recommending a return to the structure of current Standard 306 (Distance Education) and increasing the number of distance education credit hours permitted to be counted toward the J.D. degree from 15 credits to up to one-third of the credits the particular school requires for the J.D. degree. Further, the SRC recommends that law schools be permitted to grant 10 of those distance education credit hours in the first year program. The SRC recommends that the Council

distribute the recommended changes for Notice and Comment. **The Council approved the recommendation to distribute the proposed changes for Notice and Comment.**

Proposed Changes to Standard 307

The SRC was asked to update Standard 307 and to consider how the Standard harmonizes with Standards 106, 304, 306, 311, and 505. The SRC recommends that the Council distribute for Notice and Comment proposed changes to Standard 307. **The Council approved the recommendation to distribute the proposed changes for Notice and Comment.**

Proposed Changes to Rule of Procedure 53

The SRC proposed changes to Rule of Procedure 53. The SRC recommends that the Council distribute the recommended changes for Notice and Comment. **The Council approved the recommendation to distribute the proposed changes for Notice and Comment.**

Revised Self Study

The Office of the Managing Director has continued to work with the SRC and other volunteers on improving and streamlining the various templates and questionnaires used in the accreditation process. A working group was created to review the Self Study Narrative questions. The revised Self Study was presented and approved by the Council for use in the 2018-2019 inspection cycle and beyond.

Bar Pass and Employment Outcomes Questionnaires

Bill Adams provided an update on the status of these questionnaires.

Standards Review Committee Report on Employment Outcomes Reporting Form

As requested, SRC review provided the Council with 4 options for the EORF for the class of 2018. The committee recommends Version 1 (current Employment Summary Form with Legend). The Council voted to accept the SRC's recommendation of Version 1 with an amendment to change "unemployed start date deferred" to "employed start date deferred".

Affiliate Oral Reports

The following affiliate organizations reported on various projects and initiatives: American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), Association of American Law Schools (AALS), Clinical Legal Education Association (CLEA), Law School Admission Council (LSAC), National Association for Law Placement (NALP), National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBE), and AccessLex.

Restructuring of the Council

The Working Group summarized its work thus far on the restructuring project that will merge the Council, Standards Review Committee and Accreditation Committee. The Working Group recommends it proceed on the revisions to the Rules of Procedure, Section Bylaws and Standards to merge the three bodies.

Section Director's Report

Section Director, Erin Ruehrwein, reported on Section activities and projects including membership; programs and conferences including the November webinar on law school diversity initiatives, upcoming Legal Career Central and Law Student Division webinars, and the 2018 Law School Development Conference; the work of the Publications and Conferences and Programming Committees; new publications including the joint Law Student Division Newsletter for Faculty, Winter 2018 issue of *Syllabus*, and the new edition of the *Sourcebook on Legal Writing Programs*; and provided an update on the new ABA website, expected to launch in March of 2018.

Law Student Division Report

Law student Council member, Samuel Chang, reported on recent activities of the Law Student Division including mental health week and Division resolutions.

Young Lawyers Division Report

Young Lawyers Division (YLD) liaison, Matthew Kerbis, reported on the YLD's interest in getting more young lawyers involved in the law school site visit process. He also suggested having a member of the Section staff speak to the YLD leadership at its Spring or Annual Meeting.

House of Delegates Report

Section Liaisons to the House of Delegates, Solomon Oliver, Jr. and Joan Howland, reported on their presentation of Standard 106 (b) to the House of Delegates during the Midyear Meeting in Vancouver.

Managing Director's Report

Managing Director, Barry Currier, reported on the Conference of Chief Justices Meeting, where he gave a report on the work of the Council, as well as the CCJ's continued interest in a conference for Deans and Chief Justices. He also reported on the hearing the ABA's Commission on the Future of Legal Education held at the Midyear Meeting, and the new proposed ABA membership model, currently called OneABA.

There being no further business to conduct in Open Session, Chair O'Rourke adjourned the Open Session of the Council at 5:00 p.m.