
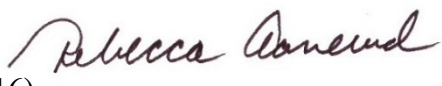


May 4, 2017

To: Robert Stacey, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences
George Lovell, Divisional Dean of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences

From: David L. Eaton, Vice Provost and Dean 
Rebecca Aanerud, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs 

RE: Review of the Law, Societies, and Justice Program (2015-2016)

This memo outlines the recommendations from the review of the Review of the Law, Societies, and Justice Program in the College of Arts and Sciences. Detailed comments on the review can be found in the documents that were part of the following formal review proceedings:

- Charge meeting between review committee, program, and administrators (October 6, 2015)
- Self-study (February 16, 2016)
- Site visit (May 16-17, 2016)
- Review committee report (May 26, 2016)
- Program response to the review committee report (August 22, 2016)
- Graduate School Council consideration of review (May 4, 2017)

The review committee consisted of:

Saadia Pekkanen, Professor, Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies (Committee Chair)

Sarah Elwood-Faustino, Professor, UW Department of Geography

Cal Morrill, Associate Dean, Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program; Professor, Law; Professor of Sociology, University of California Berkeley

The Law, Societies and Justice Program offers the Law, Societies, and Justice Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) degree program and the Graduate Certificate program in Law and Society Studies. The Graduate Certificate in Law and Society Studies is offered by the Comparative Law and Society Studies (CLASS) Center in the College of Arts & Sciences.

The Graduate School Council considered findings and recommendations from the review at its meeting on May 4, 2017. A summary of this report, composed by Graduate School Council Members, is attached to this document.

Graduate School Council Recommendations

The Graduate School Council commends the Law, Societies, and Justice Program on the strength of its programs, faculty, and students. After discussion regarding the attached general recommendations, the Council recommended the following action items:

- Full academic program review in 10 years (2025-2026)
- If moving to a Department would support the Program's efforts to continue growing and diversifying, the Council urges this as a consideration.

We concur with the Council's comments and recommendations.

cc: Gerald Baldasty, Provost and Executive Vice President
Patricia Moy, Associate Vice Provost for Academic and Student Affairs, Office of the Provost
Jason Johnson, Associate Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs
Steven Herbert, Director, Law, Societies and Justice Program and Professor, Department of Geography
UW Members of the academic program review committee
Members of the Graduate School Council
Wesley Henry, Associate Director, Academic Affairs and Planning, The Graduate School
President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate

Attachment

Summary of Program Review

Graduate School Review – GS Representative report

Academic Unit Name: Law, Societies, and Justice

Degrees/Certificates Included in the Review: Law, Societies, and Justice BA degree program and Graduate Certificate program in Law and Society Studies

Strengths. Reviewers noted that LSJ is a fabulous program and an astonishing success. They likened it to a jewel in the crown and what liberal arts should look like at big public university. They are seeing increasing student credit hours. Quality is uniformly high in both curriculum and administrative structure.

Faculty are “excellent” and include first-rate researchers who are well-respected in field. LSJ contributes to a lot of undergraduate and graduate programs on campus and provides a methodological supplement. It is a good model in terms of the number of graduates who get jobs in a variety of fields. It contributes to the health of other PhD programs on campus. Professors reportedly love to teach in this program.

Students love this program for many reasons. Undergrads are uniformly excited about this major, especially about the content and moral aspects of liberal arts education (which is “hard to get” at an R1 university). Undergrads talked about innovative pedagogy, interaction with alumni, and workplace readiness. Undergrads who were interviewed used the same conceptual language that the program frames itself in and stated that knowledge attained through the curriculum is cumulative.

In terms of diversity, the program was said to be a model for UW in terms of under-represented minorities (URMs) and first-generation college students (numbers and experience) at both undergraduate and graduate level. Much of the success in this area is facilitated through advising from staff and what faculty are doing in classes. This clearly aligns with race and equity work on this campus.

Program administration by staff is very effective; advising is excellent from perspective of students. Advancement work is making great strides in cultivating a young alumni base. This is not only important for funding, but also for the alumni mentoring network. Students see the latter as especially important. Based on initial feedback from the review process, LSJ has already begun to bolster its efforts to track alumni data.

Challenges & Risks

1. The faculty situation is a concern.
 - a. There are too few faculty members and they are stretched thin. Of note were comments by reviewers that new FTEs might not be possible, but it is common knowledge between faculty and graduate students that one faculty member not being retained or unexpectedly lost could be “catastrophic.” Most LSJ faculty are in senior ranks, so hiring junior faculty would help with long-term growth. The unit might explore if any faculty from other departments are willing to move into LSJ.

Suggestions included adding one or two FTE(s) (this would be “huge”) and adding adjuncts or another lecturer. Additional faculty would allow moderate growth, more collective decision-making, more collaboration, and less stress. Such an investment would be worthwhile for the program, college, and UW. The external reviewer from UC Berkeley noted that this would also be important for the field, as this is an important training program for graduate students. The program is so nicely linked with major departments and so good at attracting majors that any additions or losses might have a corresponding positive or negative ripple effect on other programs.

- b. Students expressed concerns about lack of diversity in faculty both in terms of URM and discipline. For example, no one covers Asia or Africa, and there is apparently no historian. Perhaps improvement in this area could be connected to UW’s strategic plans.
2. Faculty appreciate the deliberative process in LSJ, and LSJ can build on this strength. The director regularized faculty meetings making it easier for them to attend. Perhaps processes could be streamlined as much as possible to facilitate faculty participation and engagement.
3. All units on campus are challenged by budget cuts and growth in undergraduate programs and development of new programs, especially in professional schools. Implications of changes across campus need to be kept in mind as LSJ manages its programs, budget, growth, and sustainability.
4. The review committee noted that the program accepts only 45% of applications and that it was hard to see 60% being turned away. This has implications for diversity. It would be ideal if LSJ could increase the number of applicants and, especially, reach out to URM. It was noted that LSJ is doing an outstanding job on diversity in the program, but could be more so with respect to prospective students. Modest growth could support continued emphasis on student diversity while providing opportunities for a wide spectrum of applicants.
5. The review committee noted a minor concern, in that modest incremental program growth could affect certain aspects of the program that are highly valued, such as student access to faculty and staff, cohort cohesion, outreach, and pedagogy. Institutional support for modest growth would be beneficial for both LSJ and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Areas of Concurrence.

The review committee members noted that many recommendations from 2009 were implemented.

The two Graduate School council representatives noted no areas of disagreement between the review committee and program representatives.

Reviewers agreed with the program decision not to pursue a PhD given the lack of bandwidth at this time and the desire to continue to support existing collaborations, especially under budgetary conditions. However, reviewers were in agreement that faculty can continue to be creative in linking with other PhD programs on campus and potentially do more with programs with which

they already collaborate. There is great nurturing of PhD students in line with the LSJ and UW mission.

There was also agreement that faculty, staff, and program administrators need to collectively brainstorm collaborations with other units on campus, alternative revenue streams, and continue to focus on advancement. Based on the Review Committee Report, the LSJ program has already created a committee to explore new options for revenue creation.

There is some thought to move from a program to a department. Becoming a department will increase status and recognition while decreasing LSJ vulnerability (in that they could hire directly into LSJ if a department). The reviewers support the justification for such a move, but the implications (including tradeoffs) will need to be fully considered. As of the writing of this summary report, the LSJ program has already initiated the bureaucratic process to attain departmental status.

Graduate School Council Recommendations.

Key recommendations include increasing faculty numbers, diversity, and breadth in disciplinary focus. The program should consider modest growth while also attending to maintaining the strong sense of community and “high touch” felt by students. The program should attend to budgetary and advancement concerns while also carefully evaluating a possible move from program to department. The timeline for review should be ten years.