

Law School Committee Charges, 2020-21

Below are this year's charges for each committee. Committees will meet as necessary to carry out their charges. Each committee will be assigned to deliver progress reports on its charge at one or more scheduled faculty meetings. Committee chairs will receive this reporting schedule at the beginning of the academic year.

Admissions and Financial Aid

Work with the Assistant Dean for Admissions to develop and oversee the admissions and financial-aid policy to ensure that the admissions process meets the Law School's goals for the incoming class, including the admission and matriculation of high-performing students and a class that is diverse in all dimensions. Consult with the Assistant Dean for Admissions about any issues that arise and about her regular presentations to the faculty regarding admissions and financial aid policies, practices, outcomes, and concerns.

Clinical Appointments and Promotions

Present a revised Clinical Hiring and Promotions Policy to the Executive Committee and Dean for approval or further revision. Review applications for clinical-faculty promotions, and report to the Executive Committee and the Dean on any promotion applications by February 2021. For approved clinical-title hires, work with the clinic director and Associate Dean for Experiential Learning to recruit highly qualified candidates. Make hiring recommendations to the Executive Committee and Dean.

Curriculum

Consult on requests from the Dean for adjustments to the curriculum, including course name changes, course sequencing, new courses, credit changes, certificates, and concentrations, with due regard for overall curricular goals, offerings, and large-scale perspective. Continue the previous year's work, as appropriate, in reviewing options and proposing any possible changes to the 1L curriculum in light of the change to the spring 1L-elective requirement.

Employee Wellness

Devise programming responsive to our employees' wellness needs. Work with Human Resources staff, as appropriate.

Experiential Learning

Develop resources, speakers, or presentations on active-learning techniques and encourage all teachers to consider additional experiential-learning components for their courses. Propose creative ways to fine-tune current experiential learning offerings to meet students' experiential-learning credit needs. Consider how to adapt experiential learning methods during pandemic.

Graduate Programs

Oversee the Law School's Graduate Programs, including the LLM-LI and LLM/SJD degrees. Manage admissions to these programs.

Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center

Work with the Director of the Law School's Great Lakes Indigenous Law Center to guide and assist in implementing the Center's charter.

Hastie Fellowship

Support Hastie Fellows during their time at the Law School. Participate in solicitation and selection of Hastie Fellows as appropriate.

JD Grants

Review applications from student organizations, co-curricular activities, and individual students for funding academically related activities. Consult with the Dean regarding acceptable annual funding levels or budget, and allot funding in a fair, transparent, and consistent way. Ensure that students account for the proper stewardship of Law School resources. Work with the Business Office on revising funding forms and reporting procedures, as needed.

LEO Program

Make recommendations on implementing the goals of the 2018 Diversity and Inclusion Strategic Plan and addressing demands to enhance diversity, equity, and inclusion, reporting progress to the Dean's Office and other relevant constituencies. Work with student representatives from the LEO groups to provide support to students in the LEO program and respond to their needs and concerns. Assist with planning LEO events, including the LEO orientation and LEO banquet. Propose initiatives on inclusive pedagogy and the incorporation of race and law into the curriculum.

Moot Court/Mock Trial

Coordinate and oversee the activities of the Law School Moot Court and Mock Trial programs. Develop policies for these co-curricular activities, as needed.

Outcomes and Assessment

Finish designing, and make substantial progress on implementing, the Law School's institutional-outcomes assessment plan and process. Continue to educate faculty and instructional staff about the need for, and benefits of, formative assessment in all courses, as well as the overall institutional assessment of the Law School's "Learning Outcomes for the J.D. Degree." Prepare an annual report on institution-wide assessment that will form the basis for discussion for the Dean and faculty in Fall 2020.

Pandemic Response

Work with Dean to respond to challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Coordinate with other committees on pandemic responses in relevant areas.

Petitions

Consistent with Law School Rules 12.02 through 12.04, review and decide any student petition that requests an exception or relief from a Law School rule based on allegations of unusual hardship. Consult with, or request assistance or information as needed from, the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs.

Research Promotion and Visibility

Consider ways to promote Law School scholarship and promote its visibility, taking into account external scholarly assessment measures, and make relevant proposals. Develop and implement a checklist for promoting Law School scholarly publications and expertise. Coordinate efforts with staff Task Force on Scholarly Visibility.

Retentions

Consistent with Law School Rules 7.01 through 7.03, as well as 7.05, review and decide any students' requests for permission to continue their studies at the Law School. Consult with, or request assistance or information as needed from, the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs and the Associate Dean for Student and Academic Affairs.

Strategic Planning Task Force

In consultation with the Dean's Office, working with University administration, and soliciting the perspectives of Law School stakeholders, develop a five-year strategic plan for the Law School. Develop and follow the designated timeline for producing that plan.

Strategic Planning Task Force – Research, Recruitment, and Retention Subcommittee

Develop the portion of the strategic plan relating to Law School research endeavors. Consider challenges arising from scholarly citation metrics, and pay particular attention to scholarly promotion and visibility. Examine potential sources of funding for faculty research.

Strategic Planning Task Force - Teaching and Learning Subcommittee

Develop the portion of the strategic plan relating to effective teaching and learning, including experiential learning. Consider and evaluate how well the Law School meets students' curricular needs, including potential changes or adjustments to skills courses and clinical offerings. Make recommendations on creation or expansion of non-J.D. programs.

Strategic Planning Task Force – Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee

Develop the portion of the strategic plan relating to diversity, equity, and inclusion, including in admission and financial aid. Consider ongoing initiatives, programs, and resources to advance and implement the Law School's commitment to these core values, including community outreach.

Strategic Planning Task Force - Student Opportunities and Wellness Subcommittee

Develop the portion of the strategic plan relating to student opportunities, success, and wellness. Consider Law School priorities, initiatives, programs, and resources to enhance student experience, opportunities, and success.

Student Awards

Develop and follow a robust process of nominations and self-nominations for student awards and other recognition, and select recipients.

Student Evaluations of Teaching

Bring the Student Evaluation of Teaching form proposed by the 2019-20 committee to the faculty for approval, and evaluate its success over the course of the year. Consider changes as necessary, and propose them to the faculty in the spring.

Student Wellness

In consultation with the Dean's Office, and in partnership with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, devise programming responsive to our students' wellness needs, including challenges arising from the pandemic. Work with the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs to recruit student members of the committee.

Tenure, Promotions and Reviews

Conduct an annual evaluation of untenured faculty members, and prepare individualized written reports summarizing each one's progress toward tenure. Review and evaluate the merits of candidates for tenure by compiling tenure dossier(s) and making recommendations to the Executive Committee regarding the dossier(s). Create a template for five-year review in consultation with the Dean's Office and in accordance with the five-year review policy, and conduct five-year reviews of faculty for whom they are due. For chaired members of this committee: consider and recommend to the Dean appointments to open chairs, review the performance of existing chair holders at the end of any five-year appointment periods, and make recommendations to the Dean on chair renewals.

Tenure-Track/Tenured Appointments Committee

Make recommendations to Executive Committee regarding hiring priorities. Conduct any searches for tenure-track hiring following direction from Dean. Consider candidates for the Target of Opportunity program. Manage inquiries to the Law School with regard to tenure-track hiring.