1. Executive Summary

The Legal Studies program is very new to Loyola. While it was approved before fall 2009, because this is the first year the program has had a budget, this is the first year that we have been capable of advertising our existence to the Loyola community, thus this is the first real year of the program.

2. Unit Identification / Profile Summary

2.1 Name: Legal Studies

Mission Statement:
The study of law and justice is built on a long and diverse heritage, deeply rooted in the study of the humanities. Law is central to everything we do in life, and in many ways it defines who we are as a people. In keeping with the Jesuit tradition, the goal of this program is to encourage a sustained reflection on fundamental values.

This interdisciplinary minor program allows students the freedom to sample from a wide variety of courses to pursue specific interests within the organizing framework of the law. This program has four overarching objectives:

- Provide students with a broad knowledge of various judicial systems, laws, legal processes and procedures for a fundamental understanding of justice and the law.
- Provide students with the written, oral, and research skills to communicate effectively in the legal environment and the critical legal reasoning skills to analyze laws and legal opinions.
- Analyze and understand contemporary issues from an ethical, legal perspective.
- Provide backgrounds in ethics, humanities, jurisprudence in order to make students effective advocates of social justice.

It should be made clear that this program is not intended to be a pre-law minor. Pre-law students should continue to receive advice from the pre-law advisers in their departments.

2.2. General Statement and Descriptive Information

The Legal Studies steering committee includes the following representatives: Sara Butler (History), Fr. Stephen Rowntree (Philosophy), Lydia Voigt (Sociology), Ed Thornton (Criminal Justice), Dan D’Amico (Business). Representatives serve two-year terms, which are renewable by a majority vote of the Steering Committee.

The program consists of seven courses with the following limitations:

a) Spread across at least three departments
b) And at least two colleges
c) With no more than two courses from the same department
The following courses count as Legal Studies courses:

CLHU U238 Justice in Greek Literature  
CMMN A355 Covering the Courts  
CMMN A401 Law of Mass Communication  
CMMN A451 Media and American Courts  
CRJU C105 Introduction to Criminal Justice Systems  
CRJU C110 Criminology: Fundamentals  
CRJU C220 Recent Supreme Court Decisions  
CRJU C313 Criminal Evidence  
CRJU C345 Seminar: Constitutional Law  
CRJU C380 Ethics and Politics of Criminal Justice  
CRJU C405 Criminal Law  
CRJU C430 Legal Research and Writing  
ECON B330 Law and Economics  
ENGL V234 Literature and Justice  
HIST A230 U.S. Legal History I  
HIST A231 U.S. Legal History II  
HIST A232 Am. Trials  
HIST A305 Medieval Crime and Community  
HIST A360 Punishment and Power in Modern Japan  
HIST A394 The Origins of Law  
LGST B201 Bus. Law I  
LGST B205 Legal Environment of Business  
LGST B310 Law for International Business  
MUIN M205 Legal Issues in the Music Industry  
MUIN M420 Legal Issues II  
PHIL A225 Philosophy of Law  
PHIL V234 Medical Ethics  
PHIL V235 Philosophy of Right  
POLS A212 The Legislative Process  
POLS A218 Courts/Judges/Politics  
POLS A300 Constitutional Law I  
POLS A301 Constitutional Law II  
POLS A340 Law among Nations  
POLS X252 The Bill of Rights  
PSYC A294 Psychology and the Law  
RELS A400 Theology of Vatican II  
RELS U396 Law: Ancient World  
RELS V344 Social Policy and the Christian  
SOCI A215 Criminal Behavior  
SOCI A216 Law and Social Control  
SOCI A333 Correctional Institutions  
SOCI X252 Violence and Society  
SOCI X416 Gender, Law, and Social Control

2.2.1. Headcounts of staff: n/a

2.2.2. Headcounts of faculty: n/a

2.2.3. Headcounts of undergraduate students: 8

2.2.4. Headcounts of graduate students: n/a/

2.2.5. Retention rates: n/a

2.2.6. Graduate rates: n/a

3. Assessment

3.1. General Statement on Assessment
Because this is a new program, to date, our assessment has been focused on launching the program. In the initial stages, a “Call for Courses” went out across the university in the hopes of finding all relevant courses. Their syllabi were collected and put on a Blackboard site accessed by the steering committee for approval. The following provisions for assessment are envisaged by the committee, but have not yet been put into place:

a) Alternate Course Evaluations: each legal studies minor student enrolled in a legal studies class will be asked to fill out an “alternate course evaluation” in order to indicate whether this class fulfills the goals of the minor.

b) Exit interviews: The chair of the advisory committee will interview each legal studies minor student upon graduating from Loyola in order to form a good impression from the student’s perspective of whether this program is a success and is meeting its goals.

c) Annual Advisory Committee Retrospective: Once a year, after the course evaluations and exit interviews have been completed, the committee will convene to go over the results of both endeavors and to determine whether the program continues to meet its goals. At this point, existing courses may be ejected from the program and new courses may be added.

3.2. Program Goals for 2010-2011

We need to develop a full strategic plan.

3.3. Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain a broad knowledge of various judicial systems, laws, legal processes and procedures for a fundamental understanding of justice and the law.
- Students will gain the written, oral, and research skills to communicate effectively in the legal environment and the critical legal reasoning skills to analyze laws and legal opinions.
- Students will be capable of analyzing and understanding contemporary issues from an ethical, legal perspective.
- Students will gain a background in ethics, humanities, jurisprudence in order to make them effective advocates of social justice.

3.4. Assessment of Internal and External Factors Affecting the Unit

This year, the chair of Legal Studies, Sara Butler, was far too busy with service commitments in order to dedicate the necessary time to move the program forward. Instead, she focused primarily on recruitment. Next year, her time commitment will be much less and she intends to devote more time to getting this program off the ground. The committee itself will also have to be reshaped to include more people with available time to dedicate to launching the program.

3.5 Assessment of Community-Related Activities

N/A

3.6 Assessment Results

We have a long way to go.
4. Summary of Achievements

4.1. Unit as a whole
This academic year was devoted to recruitment. Sara Butler put together a pamphlet for the program and distributed it across campus; posters were also created, and advertisements were posted on the TV monitors in the Danna Center. Kathy Gros helped to identify those students with a particular interest in Legal Studies, and personalized letters were sent out to each of them telling them about the program. Although the program only currently has eight students, that is certainly a great improvement from the year before.

4.2. Faculty Achievements / Service: n/a

4.3. Staff Achievements / Service: n/a

4.4. Student Achievements: nothing noteworthy as of yet

4.5 Community Engagement Achievements: n/a

5. Budget

5.1. 2010-2011 Operating Budget: $1,350

5.1.1. Budget Discussion
The budget for the past year, when the program was in the very early stages of its development and the emphasis was placed primarily on literature for recruitment, was more than sufficient.

The greatest obstacle facing us in terms of the budget, however, is that chairs do not have signing power on their own budgets. Chairs need to have the same budget authority and autonomy as Department Chairs.

5.2 2011-2012 Operating Budget: $1,350

5.2.1. Budget Discussion
Although I have great hopes to ramp up the involvement of faculty, staff and students in the program across campus, I suspect that this budget will be sufficient for the moment.

6. Planning and Goals for 2011-2012

6.1 Strategic Plan
Legal Studies does not currently have a strategic plan; but we have every intention of spending some time over the course of the next academic year writing one.

6.2 Support of the University Mission
A minor in Legal Studies fulfills one of the basic criteria of the Jesuit mission. The study of law and justice has a long and rich humanistic tradition. Law is central to everything we do in life, and in many ways it defines who we are as a people. The goal of this program, then, is to encourage a sustained reflection on fundamental values.

6.3. Program Goals

In September of 2011, we are planning to have a meeting of interested legal studies faculty from across the university to create an active steering committee, and plan programming events for the 2011-12 academic year in the hopes of generating more awareness of the program across the university, but also of creating a community of legal studies scholars. We also hope to develop a five-year strategic plan.

6.4. Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will gain a broad knowledge of various judicial systems, laws, legal processes and procedures for a fundamental understanding of justice and the law.
- Students will gain the written, oral, and research skills to communicate effectively in the legal environment and the critical legal reasoning skills to analyze laws and legal opinions.
- Students will be capable of analyzing and understanding contemporary issues from an ethical, legal perspective.
- Students will gain a background in ethics, humanities, jurisprudence in order to make them effective advocates of social justice.

6.5. Community Engagement: N/A

6.6. Resources

Legal Studies presumably will continue to be supported by an operating budget provided by the Office of the Provost.

6.7. Assessment Plan

We plan to implement our assessment plan next year.