Unit Profile Summary

2013-2014 Director: Sara Butler

Faculty / Staff on Advisory Board:
- Mark Fernandez, Jonathan Peterson

Relationship between IDP & University Mission or Strategic Plan
Enhancing the interdisciplinary programs was one of the goals of the 2012 Strategic Plan. This goal was executed as effectively as possible with what few funds were available. In addition, the Legal Studies program ties in neatly with the University Strategic Plan. In particular, the program is popular with students and increases the University’s program offerings, thus helping with student retention and enhancing the University’s reputation. Students who are drawn to law are usually passionate about helping others: the courses taught in this minor ask students to reflect upon major social issues in the world today and their legal treatment, thus requiring students to think carefully about solutions and their consequences. Students who emerge from the minor are better prepared to think critically and act justly.

Major Relationships to Departments, Offices, Centers, Programs
- Many Legal Studies minors are actually pre-law students. As a result, we work most closely with those departments with a Pre-Law program: History and Philosophy.
- Memorandum of Understanding: we have no memorandum because these courses are offered frequently. However, Butler did have private conversations with both Classics and English to ensure that their course contributions would be offered in Fall 2013 – we also intend to have those become part of the regular rotation of courses for those faculty members.

Courses offered this Year in the Minor:

Fall 2013
CLHU-U238, “Justice in Greek Lit,” O. Ranner, TR 2:00-3:15
CRJU-C105, “Intro to Crim Jus Syst,” S. Hoogerwolf, R 6:20-9:00
CRJU-C110, “Criminology Fundamentals,” D. Harper, TR 2:00-3:15
CRJU-C380, “Ethics & Politics of CRJU,” C. Bolden, TR 2:00-3:15
ENGL-V234, “Lit & Justice,” L. Murphy, TR 6:20-7:35
HIST-A394, “Common Law in the Making,” S. Butler, TR 9:30-10:45
Goals for Academic Year 2012/2013:

Our goals were quite modest:

1) To make students more aware of our existence. We did this by contributing to an important public debate, and by sending personal invitations to join the minor to all those students who have already completed a couple of courses towards the minor.
2) After the dismissal of Annie Goldman, the HuNS pre-law counselor (who provided counsel for many students outside the college also), there was a tremendous gap in advising. Thus, our goal was to provide better pre-law counseling to our pre-law students.

Operating Budget & Expenditures for 2013/2014

Our budget was $1100. Our Expenditures:

1) “Going to Law School?”: This pre-law event, held Feb. 17, was intended to provide first-hand accounts of law school and the experience of being a lawyer to pre-law students. We brought in two Loyola alumnae who now work as lawyers in the New Orleans area: Alison Becknell of the The Becknell Law Firm and Cheryl Mollere Kornick of Liskow & Lewis. Becknell and Kornick provided excellent perspectives and offered invaluable assistance to our students. This event cost a total of $545.71 (expenses relate to flyers, entertaining speakers & thank you gifts/honorariums).

2) “12 Years of Guantanomo.”: Legal Studies co-sponsored this public panel, held on Feb. 19, regarding the human rights violations at the US Guantanamo Bay detention facilities. This public panel highlighted, among others, Pardiss Kebriaei, J.D., a Center for Constitutional Rights attorney representing men currently and formerly detained at Guantanamo Bay, and an assistant U.S. attorney, John Murphy, J.D., formerly the chief prosecutor at Guantanamo Bay. This event was an incredible success, drawing in people from all over New Orleans. The event cost Legal Studies $250 (expenses relate to flight for Pardiss Kebriaei).

Total expenditures: $795.71

Assessment Report / Program Outcomes

We still need to revise our Student Learning Outcomes for the minor.

We completed our goals set the previous. For next year, the hope is to increase our visibility on campus, to continue to host a “Thinking of Law School?” event in order to improve our pre-law counseling at Loyola, and to refine our course offerings.

Summary of Achievements

Along with Dr. Turner of Georgia Regents University, Dr. Sara Butler published a book entitled Medicine and the Law in the Middle Ages.