

**Special Committee on the College of Law
Committee Minutes
September 2, 2020**

The Special Committee on the College of Law met September 2, 2020. The following trustees were present and established a quorum: Belvin Perry, Kristin Harper, David Lawrence, and Robert Woody.

Trustee Perry asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3, 2020 meeting. Trustee Lawrence moved approval. The motion was seconded by Trustee Woody and the motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Next, Provost Edington and Dean Keller were recognized for an update on the College of Law. Provost Edington indicated that the dean had been on the job for 60 days and that she would provide her insight, as part of her presentation. He also shared that the Board of Governors is requiring the University to provide licensure passage rate improvement plans and that he will make a presentation to them during their September 16, 2020 meeting.

Dean Keller shared her perceptions and insights after her first 60 days. She also addressed strategies to improve bar passage rates, student demographic data, employment data, externships, student evaluations of faculty, and the external consultant. She said that the theme for the College will be “Sustained Success Through Community”, which will focus on recruiting and retaining a strong student body, having a consistent bar passage rate above 80%, job placement and community engagement for increased support for the College.

She indicated that the College should adopt a model for supporting students identified as in danger of failing the bar based on their first-year grade point average (GPA). She also charged the Director of Academic Success and bar prep with conducting a survey of models utilized by similar institutions to support those cohorts of students that are identified as in danger of failing the bar and present those models to the faculty for their consideration.

She stated that the academic success staff is engaged in academic success initiatives and in bar prep. She suggested that the College needs to adopt a more streamlined approach to staffing. Dean Keller indicated that she wants to assess some of the resources for efficacy. She said she would be much more inclined to broaden the relationship with BarBri, if it were supplementing the existing set of resources. She said that she is not yet convinced that it is supplementary as opposed to merely an addition.

Barry Currier will be working with the College as a consultant. His scope of work will include looking at academic and non-academic functions of the College and will identify areas of weakness and areas for strength and growth.

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Dean Keller reported that the faculty revised the curriculum in Spring 2020. It brought the College in line with others that have higher bar passage rates. The foundational courses tested on the bar are now being taught during the first year. She has also asked the curriculum committee to review the upper level curriculum.

Trustees had questions regarding the culture of the College of Law and the opportunity for more corporate externships for the students. Dean Keller also discussed the need for funding to retain high performing students.

Chair Lawson recommended that General Counsel Wallace should look at the legality of the consultant dually reporting to Trustee Perry, as chair of the committee and Dean Keller. He also asked Dean Keller to bring back the key criteria for success in the profession – how does the College stack up and what are its activities and initiatives. He also asked that the College work with VP Barrington to develop metrics to measure the College against those metrics and tie the metrics to action steps and to look at faculty effectiveness and culture. His final request was for the committee to accelerate its work by having more frequent meetings.

Next, Chair Lawson confirmed that the role of the board is to support the efforts and initiatives to improve the College of Law's programs. Trustee Perry indicated that he would get with the board liaison to schedule the next committee meeting.

There being no further business for the Committee, the meeting adjourned.