

5-11-1998

Pre-Law Track in Business Administration

The College at Brockport, College Senate

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FACULTY SENATE

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Resolution #17
1997-98

TO: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

FROM: The Faculty Senate Meeting on: **May 11, 1998**

RE: I. Formal Resolution (Act of Determination)
 II. Recommendation (Urging the fitness of)
 III. Other (Notice, Request, Report, etc.)
For your information

SUBJ: **Pre-Law Track in Business Administration**

Signed: Anne H. Parsons Date Sent: 5/11/98
(Anne H. Parsons, Faculty Senate President)



TO: The Faculty Senate

FROM: Dr. Paul Yu, College President

RE: I. Decision and Action Taken on Formal Resolution
a. Accepted. Effective Date: 9/1/98
b. Deferred for discussion with the Faculty Senate on 1/1
c. Unacceptable for the reasons contained in the attached explanation

II, III.
a. Received and acknowledged
b. Comment: _____

DISTRIBUTION: Administrative Group

Distribution Date: 6/1/98 Signed: Paul Yu
(President of the College)

Resolution Disk:9798-17.RES::ayk

BROCKPORT

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Department of Business Administration and Economics
(716) 395-2623
FAX (716) 395-2542

4/28/98

To: All Senators

From: Steven Breslawski
Chair, Business Administration and Economics

Re: Request for Senate approval for pre-law track in business admin.

Dear College,

The Department of Business Administration and Economics seeks Faculty Senate support for the addition of an interdisciplinary pre-law specialization track within the business administration degree. Attached please find a proposal that has already been reviewed by the Faculty Senate Undergraduate Curriculum and Executive Committees. My understanding is that the proposal will come up before the Senate in the near future. I am, of course, available to answer any questions that you might have (x2623). On behalf of the Department, I ask for your support and thank you in advance for your efforts in reviewing this proposal.

Introduction and Motivation:

The Department of Business and Economics proposes adding a pre-law specialization to its curriculum, both to attract high-caliber freshman and transfer students interested in a pre-law curriculum and as a mechanism to support our existing students who have expressed an interest in attending law school. The proposed curriculum for the pre-law specialization is described within.

To clarify the scope of the proposal, consider that all business majors complete a common set of prerequisite, corequisite, and core courses. Additionally, business majors select a 4-5 course *specialization*. The proposed pre-law *specialization* will augment existing specializations in accounting, finance, management, and marketing.

The proposal is consistent with the Department's faculty expertise and profile, which includes two faculty with JD degrees (Eramus and Dresnack). Business students expressing an interest in pre-law will be assigned to Dr. Dresnack or Eramus for advisement. Additionally, the Department plans to operate within the existing framework of advisement for pre-law students, utilizing the College's pre-law committee (Dr. Eramus is a member). The advisement process will be used to urge student participation in existing pre-law student clubs and other related campus activities.

The proposed curriculum is intentionally interdisciplinary, utilizing existing courses from several departments. In selecting courses for inclusion in the specialty, the experience and expertise of Drs. Dresnack and Eramus were used to draft a pilot proposal. Then, several faculty from other departments were consulted. These include W. Borowiec (political science), R. Duncan (political science), R. Deming (criminal justice), and G. Dicker (philosophy). Consultation took the form of a scheduled meeting (attended by Borowiec and Deming) followed by dialog on an individual basis. A final draft of the proposal was distributed to individuals, from other departments, involved in development of the curriculum, seeking their final approval and last minute recommendations. The proposal submitted here is the final result. At a faculty meeting on 2/18/98, the faculty in the department of Business Administrations and Economics voted to support the proposal, with 18 yes votes, 0 no, and 1 abstention. Thus, the proposal represents an outstanding example of interdisciplinary support and cooperation.

As evidence of market demand for such a specialty, consider that the undergraduate degree in business has become the third most popular pre-law degree. Only the disciplines of political science and criminal justice claim more pre-law majors. The impact of law, regulation, and compliance on the day to day operation of contemporary organizations has become increasingly significant, and business organizations represent a major proportion of the client base for many law firms. Hence, the concept of a pre-law program in business has a great deal of merit with respect to professional preparation and the practice of business and law.

With the addition of a pre-law specialization in business to the College Catalog, the College will be able to boast of having specialized tracks for pre-law students within the three most popular pre-law majors. As the Department and the College contemplate efforts to attract high-caliber students, we believe that this proposal is timely. We have observed that students who express an interest in attending law school tend to be engaged and studious, understanding that the admission to law school is competitive. In many instances, students have a good deal of family support in their endeavor to attend law school. Thus, from both enrollment and retention perspectives, enhancing the degree to which our program offerings are attractive to pre-law students is a worthy goal.

Proposed Pre-law Specialty (15 credits): (in format of catalog description)

To complete the pre-law specialty, students must take the following three courses:

BUS376 Business Law II	3
PLS320 Law and the Legal Process OR CRJ305 The Adjudication Process	3
CRJ311 Criminal Law	3

And at least two electives from the list below.

BUS467 Employment Law and Compliance	3
CRJ313 Constitutional Criminal Procedure	3
CRJ315 Constitutional Law of the Detained	3
CRJ438 Security Law	3
ECNxxx: Any <i>upper division</i> economics course not used to meet business corequisite requirements.	3
ENL305 Advanced Composition	3
PHL305 History of Modern Philosophy	3
PHL342 Business Ethics OR PHL321 Medical Ethics	3
PLS324 Constitutional Law I	3
PLS326 Constitutional Law II OR CRJ483 Fair Trial/ Free Press Conflicts	3

- Note:**
- (a) Students may substitute an approved 6 credit hour (or greater) internship for *one* of the elective courses listed above. PLS492, PLS493, PLS495 and OAP413 (in law practice) are all approved internship experiences. Other experiences may be used, provided that they are approved, in writing, by the student's business advisor.
 - (b) Students completing this specialty should take PHL102, PHL104, or PHL202 to satisfy a general education humanities requirement. Students should consider taking all three courses on an elective basis.
 - (c) Students in the pre-law specialty are encouraged to complete a minor in economics, criminal justice, philosophy, or political science. Students may also wish to complete a second specialization in the business administration program.

In designing the specialization, our goals were 1) develop a proposal that, in its letter and spirit, is interdisciplinary, and 2) remain true to the stated mission of the specialty (attached). In achieving the mission, it is important to include not only law content courses, but also courses that develop skills that are critical to success in law school, e.g. the ability to analyze, critically think, and write.

The courses designated as required courses were selected to provide a full spectrum exposure to various aspects of law and the legal environment. This spectrum includes civil law, business law, criminal law, and constitutional law. There was unanimous consensus on what courses should be required.

The parties involved in developing this proposal were also asked to suggest courses to be designated as electives in the specialty. While there was a great deal of consensus on what courses would make good electives, the pool of candidate courses was very (too) large. In devising a reasonably sized set of elective courses, two primary goals were pursued: 1) maintain a balance in the degree to which various disciplines are represented, and 2) maintain a balance between law-content courses and courses that are included primarily because of their focus on thinking/writing/analysis. Secondary goals were: 1) eliminate courses that have prerequisites not satisfied by required coursework, 2) eliminate courses that are not regularly offered, and 3) maintain some consistency with the context in which the specialty is offered, i.e., a business administration degree.

Mission Statement: Pre-law Specialization, Business Administration Degree

The pre-law specialization is designed for students that are interested in Business Administration and who also have an interest in attending law school. In conjunction with other courses in the Business Administration degree, the specialization provides a complement of academic courses and advisement that will:

1. Enable students to make informed decisions about pursuing a law degree;
2. Elevate skills and cognitive abilities that are key to success in a law degree program;
3. Assist in graduate degree and career planning through developing a fuller understanding of law, the legal profession, and the legal environment;
4. Provide students, who choose to pursue a business career instead of law school, with skills and knowledge appropriate for general management positions.

In fulfilling its mission, the pre-law specialization is consistent with the goals embodied in the broader mission of the Business Administration degree program.

Calling Population

It is anticipated that students completing the pre-law specialization will come from three groups:

1. Students that came to SUNY Brockport intending to be Business Administration degree majors, and who have since resolved to attend law school.
 2. Students who came to SUNY Brockport intending to be Business Administration degree majors, who have since become curious about pursuing a degree/career in law. Although curious, these students will want to first gain a better understanding of various aspects of law, the legal profession, and the legal environment before making a commitment to attend law school.
 3. Students drawn explicitly to the Business/pre-law program as freshman or as transfers, valuing a law school preparation combined with the career relevance of a general degree in business.
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Assessment

As a specialization of the business program, students in the pre-law specialization will participate in the same assessment exercises as other business majors and alumni. At this time, the Department's assessment plan is undergoing significant revision, so a detailed description of planned activities can not be provided. Any plan that emerges will meet the assessment guidelines established by the College and will include learning outcomes and student satisfaction. Additionally, LSAT scores and the percent of students going onto law school will be incorporated into the assessment protocol.