



Robert C. May
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Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate
Faculty Representative to the Regents
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

June 26, 2019

MICHAEL T. BROWN
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Re: Approval of Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) at UC Los Angeles

Dear Michael,

In accordance with the *Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units* (the "Compendium"), and on the recommendation of CCGA, the Academic Council has approved UC Los Angeles' proposal to establish a self-supporting graduate program leading to a Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) degree.

Because this is a new degree title, and the Assembly of the Academic Senate is not meeting within 30 days of CCGA's approval, Council must approve the program per Senate Bylaw 125.B.7.

I am enclosing CCGA's report on its review of the new program, and respectfully request that your office complete the process of obtaining the President's approval.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in brown ink that reads "R. C. May".

Robert C. May, Chair
Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
UCLA Senate Director Mohr
Academic Planning and Research Analyst Procello,



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Onyebuchi A. Arah, Chair
arah@ucla.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

June 13, 2019

ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR ROBERT MAY

Dear Robert,

At its June 5 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted 9-0-1 to approve a new graduate Master of Legal Studies (M.L.S.) program in the School of Law at UCLA. This is a self-supporting graduate professional degree program (SSGPDP) proposal.

The proposed M.L.S. program will train non-lawyer professionals at the graduate-level to comprehend the nature, operation and societal consequences of the law. The M.L.S. program is targeted at professionals from non-law disciplines who want to understand and assess the legal and regulatory issues that impact their company, industry, or field. The program will have eight specialization tracks, namely business law, employment and human resource law, health law and policy, public interest law, entertainment and media law, environmental law, law and technology. Crucially, the M.L.S. program will not train students to become lawyers, but to develop a sophisticated understanding of how the law operates and to support their business decisions, guide non-legal advocacy and policy roles, and assist them in working with lawyers and in addressing legal issues.

CCGA had the proposal reviewed by four qualified law school faculty: two internal (UC) reviewers and two external (non-UC) reviewers. In general, all reviewers were strongly supportive of the proposed program, but they voiced some concerns. These concerns, which entailed advisory suggestions, did not impugn the overall strength and rigor of the proposal. All concluded that the proposed program will substantially help the Law School at UCLA in many ways and will be a strong addition to the few other comparable MLS programs in the nation. Reviewers noted that the success of this program will help define the new role of the MLS graduate.

As you know, CCGA's approval is the last stop of the Academic Senate side of the Systemwide review and approval process except when the new degree title must be approved by the President, under delegated authority from The Board of Regents. I submit this for your review and have enclosed the proposer's response. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions regarding the proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Onyebuchi A. Arah".

Onyebuchi A. Arah
Chair, Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)

cc: Kum-Kum Bhavnani Academic Council Vice Chair
CCGA Members
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director
Michael LaBriola, Academic Senate Analyst
Chris Procello, Academic Planning and Research Analyst
Robin L. Garrell, UCLA Vice Provost and Dean
Linda Mohr, UCLA Senate Chief Administrative Officer
Estrella Arciba, UCLA Senate Analyst

Enclosures (1)

Report for the Proposal for a new Master of Legal Studies program in the School of Law at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

May 20, 2019

This proposal is to establish a new graduate Master of Legal Studies program in the School of Law at UCLA. The goal of this program is to be “a self-supporting degree program that will provide non-lawyer professionals with a graduate-level understanding of the law and how it operates and affects society. The M.L.S. is designed for professionals from disciplines outside of the law who wish to further their careers and education by obtaining an advanced degree that can help them better understand and assess the legal and regulatory issues that impact their company, industry, or field.”

The proposers argue that the program will “address society’s growing need for professionals with a graduate-level legal education, who will understand law and the legal and regulatory frameworks that impact a wide range of fields and industries, but who neither desire nor need the three years of legal training necessary to obtain a JD degree,” and that it will “align well with the existing commitments and goals of the School of Law. The M.L.S. will further the law school’s institutional commitments to create and disseminate knowledge about the law and legal institutions, to engage with our community, and to increase access to legal education.”

The proposal submitted to CCGA has been reviewed by four qualified law school faculty - Two internal (UC) reviewers and two external (non-UC) reviewers. The internal UC reviewers were Omri Marian (Professor of Law, Academic Director, Graduate Tax Program, University of California, Irvine, School of Law) and (name withheld for confidentiality). The external reviewers were I. Glenn Cohen (James A. Attwood and Leslie Williams Professor of Law, Faculty Director, Petrie-Flom Center For Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, And Bioethics, Harvard Law School) and Christopher Robertson (Associate Dean for Research & Innovation, Professor of Law, James E. Rogers College of Law, The University of Arizona). The reviewers were asked to comment on specific aspects of the proposal: (1) Quality and academic rigor of the program; (2) Adequacy of the size and expertise of faculty to administer the program; (3) Adequacy of the facilities and budgets; and (4) Applicant pool and placement prospects for the graduates.

In general, all reviewers were strongly supportive of the proposed program, with such comments as:

- “... overall very positive, and my bottom-line recommendation is to approve it.” (Internal Reviewer 1)
- “I commend UCLA Law School for its creativity and leadership among UC schools in expanding its educational mission beyond training lawyers. This is an exciting and creative proposal and I see no obstacles to its approval by the systemwide University of California administration.” (Intern Reviewer 2)

- "... the proposed degree is likely to succeed, add something important to the law school and the university, and should be approved" (External Reviewer 1).
- "... exceedingly thoughtful and well-executed proposal. I enthusiastically support the proposal in its current form, and am excited to see how UCLA leverages this new initiative to be a force for change in law and legal services." (External Reviewer 2)

I would like to direct the attention of the proposers to a number of advisory issues which the reviewers have brought up:

Issues concerning courses.

There are American Bar Association (ABA) requirements concerning the relationships between non-JD programs and JD programs. One is the size of the combined classes. Under the ABA rules, non-J.D. students may not be preferred over J.D. students in class enrolment. This means that if J.D. students fill up a class to capacity, MLS students may not be able to enroll in classes. Of course, perhaps these classes are currently not at capacity and there is room to add more students, but this issue has not been addressed.

Another concern would be whether the students who choose to do the program in a single year will be able get all the elective courses they need. Many law schools do not offer a full range of specializations—for example, Labor Law, Employment Law, and Employment Discrimination in a single year. If UCLA doesn't, or if it offers two of them in the fall semester, it will be difficult for a student to complete the concentration in the law of the workplace. This same issue might arise in the other areas in which the program promises concentrations.

Third, in order that the program be practicable for working professionals, these elective courses would need to be offered in the late afternoon or the evening. It is fairly likely that the faculty who teach those courses might be reluctant to commit to teaching all these courses at night on a regular basis. Perhaps these issues have already been carefully considered, or perhaps UCLA offers all of these courses annually or even twice a year at times that would work for both faculty and part-time students. But the program administrators need to think about whether they really can commit to offer so many specializations to students who need to take the courses at night and, if not, to modify the claims made before students are recruited.

Specializations

Eight specialization tracks have been proposed: business law, employment and human resource law, health law and policy, public interest law, entertainment and media law, environmental law, law and technology. The concern is that this may be too many. An alternative would instead be to concentrate on what the school is best known for. As a national-level all- purpose law school, UCLA is good at everything but this poses something of a quandary for brand identity. Using as a proxy the U.S. News and World Report specialty rankings, UCLA's strengths would

be in environmental and tax law. Alternatively they could focus on what LA is known for, entertainment law. Perhaps they could begin by focusing on these specializations rather than say, health care law, where the school has some very good people but not enough to be an industry leader. Of course, if one believed the majority of the students would come from health care, again as an example, then it may be worthwhile to make this more of a strategic goal, and to build up the faculty in that direction, so that the specialization has real strength in terms of teaching opportunity.

Summary

In summary, CCGA's review of the Master of Legal Studies program in the School of Law at UCLA proposal consisted of two external reviewers and two UC internal reviewers. These are all full professors in the respective Law Schools, and all have experience in administration issues within law schools. All reviews were favorable with some advisory suggestions. This program will help the Law School at UCLA greatly in many ways, and will be a strong addition to the few other comparable MLS programs in the nation, and its success will help define the new role of the MLS graduate. As multiple reviewers have pointed out, it is vital that the program administrators at UCLA work through the issue of having multiple specializations as they develop a successful self-supporting program. This proposed program will bring regional and national attention to the University and as the lead reviewer for the proposal, I recommend its approval to CCGA members.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Wilson

CCGA, Lead Reviewer for MLS. program in the Law School at UCLA proposal