

Senate Committees' Questions, and Law Deans'* Responses Regarding Proposed Law Schools Merger

***Ron Chen, School of Law-Newark, and John Oberdiek, School of Law-Camden**

1. What are the benefits to the proposed reporting structure to two chancellors? (Other merged schools; Business School and Nursing report to one chancellor) (Budget and Finance Committee)

The reporting structure accomplishes two principal goals: first, as funding for the Law School will be provided by the Chancellors, the reporting relationship will reflect each Chancellor's budgetary authority; second, as the Law School will have two locations, and each "department" of the Law School will remain an integral part of its University locality, the reporting structure preserves the essential role of each Chancellor in being able to shape the strategic direction of the Law School.

2. Document Rutgers Law: A 21st Century, Page #7, last sentence "University Senate also has a consultative and advisory role..." Correction needed as The Senate has authority to regulate relationships among units.) (Budget and Finance)

Duly noted.

3. Document Rutgers Law: A 21st Century, Page #7, footnote #1. The questions: Why outside bodies get the report and applications before the Senate?) (Budget and Finance Committee)

The American Bar Association is the accrediting body of all laws schools, and the process of gaining "acquiescence" for a "major change" is time-consuming. The application to the ABA was made in October; the ABA fact-finding team visited in February; the ABA will only take up our application at their June meeting. It is worth noting; however, that the so-called "Reliable Plan" was only supplied to the ABA in January, when we provided it to the Senate.

4. How will the merger affect existing administrative staff? How many new administrative hires will be needed? (Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee)

The administrative staff will be largely unaffected. We are considering hiring perhaps two new administrators to fill essential positions. In other cases, existing administrators will work with a counterpart at the other location.

5. The process for faculty evaluation for tenure and promotion needs clarification. (Faculty and Personnel Affairs Committee)

The Law Schools in Camden and Newark are in the process of clarifying these procedures; a joint working group composed of faculty from each Law School has been appointed, will identify the precise process, and then make their recommendation to each faculty, which will then vote on the recommendation.

6. What changes are going to occur other than in name alone? (Student Affairs Committee)

The number of course offerings at the merged Law School will expand, using our immersive distance education classroom (a/k/a the Holodeck). Positions on the various student-edited law journals will be open to students at either location, expanding this important credentialing and educational opportunity. The respective alumni networks of the Law Schools will coordinate, offering Rutgers Law students and alumni a unified network covering two of the five largest legal markets in the nation. On-campus recruiting slots at both locations will also be open to all Rutgers Law students.

7. What will be the impact on students? (Student Affairs Committee)

See 6 above. Importantly, some features of student life will remain unchanged. For example, positions like the Dean of Students will remain in place at both locations.

8. Would students be told that they had to go to one campus or another to take certain courses? (University Structure and Governance Committee)

All of the required First Year (1L) courses will be offered at each location. There will be substantial duplication in the upper-level curriculum as well. Niche or other more specialized courses that are only presently offered in one location will be prime candidates for Holodeck, making them available to students at both locations. Inevitably, some courses will only be offered in one location, but none will be required, and thus no one will be required to travel.

9. Are there plans to ultimately unify the school under one dean? (University Structure and Governance Committee)

There are no plans to unify the Law School under one dean.

10. What is the price tag for the merger? (University Structure and Governance Committee)

Construction of the Holodeck is the only expense that has been incurred in the merger – and even then state ELF funds covered the cost of the Holodeck in Camden. The Newark Holodeck cost around \$700K. The only other expenditures will be the potential hiring of perhaps two joint administrators, and then as-yet-unpriced marketing materials.

11. How will disagreements among the co-deans be resolved? (University Structure and Governance Committee)

First, the co-deans make every effort to resolve any disagreements themselves. Should a disagreement persist, the Chancellors will work together with the co-deans to resolve any differences.

12. According to the documents, the co-deans will be working together but also have some autonomy, and report to their respective Chancellors. What mechanism is in place to arbitrate or decide in the case of a disagreement between the deans (for example, for issues of where courses are offered, how faculty and students are distributed between campuses, etc.). Should there be

an “arch dean” in addition to the deans, or some other option? Who would have the authority to make a decision in these cases? (Research and Graduate and Professional Education Committee)

See 11 above. The idea of an “executive dean” sitting in New Brunswick was considered early on in the process but ultimately rejected. Co-deans on site at each location are needed in order to run the day-to-day operations of the Law School, and will have autonomy to make decisions that are purely local.