

COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE LAW SCHOOL

March 25, 2019

USM Campus, Abromson, Room 216

Minutes

Members Present: Kurt Adams, Martha Casey (by phone), Ben Devine, Peter Mills, Heather Sanborn, Leigh Saufley, Deirdre Smith, Terry Sutton, Ben Gideon, Vendean Vafiades (by phone), Adam Tuchinsky

Staff Present: Joan Cohen, Kim Jenkins

Co-Chair Adams opened the meeting at 1:15 p.m., welcomed the Committee, and reminded members to hold May 2 and 15 open for the full-day facilitated meetings.

The Committee voted unanimously to accept the minutes from the March 11, 2019 meeting.

Co-chair Smith introduced the topic, The National Landscape of U.S. Legal Education, and the presenters Danielle Conway, Dean, University of Maine School of Law and William Henderson, Professor and Stephen F. Burns Chair on the Legal Profession, Indiana University Maurer School of Law. She reminded the Committee that the team Google Drive contains a folder dedicated to the topic of the future of legal education which includes the presenters' full CVs and an array of articles and other relevant information. Co-chair Smith invited Committee members to share any articles or materials with her to post to the shared drive.

Dean Danielle Conway stated that the mission of Maine Law is to train and educate the next generation of lawyers and leaders for all of Maine. Dean Conway offered her perspective on the primary issues of concern to law school deans today. These include the number of regulators of legal education, diversity and inclusion, law student well-being, and teaching effectiveness, among others. She also offered her observations of current practices in law school dean searches and the impact of shorter tenures for law deans.

Professor William Henderson spoke with the Committee by phone. He discussed his March 9, 2019 Preliminary Analysis Memo, which is in the Committee's shared file. He explained potential avenues for the Committee to explore which are outlined and discussed in detail in his written report:

1. Creation of a "Maine Legal Task Force"

2. Curricular innovations.
3. Innovation in the Delivery of Legal Education.
4. Diversifying Legal Education Outside of the JD Market.

The Committee then opened the meeting to public comment, and the following individuals addressed the Committee.

1. Patrick Scully, Maine Law '84, partner at the Portland law firm Bernstein Shur.
2. Donald Zillman, Professor and former Dean at Maine Law and former administrator at UMaine, UMaine Fort Kent and UMaine Presque Isle.
3. Orlando Delogu. Professor at Maine Law faculty since 1966.
4. Anne Sedlack, Second-year J.D. student at Maine Law.

Co-chair Adams opened up the floor to committee discussion. Committee members identified specific topics for which they would like additional information and discussion.

The Committee adjourned at 4:30 pm.