

Summary of Internal and External Review Team Reports
Center for Health Law and Policy
Fall, 2006

The following summarizes the findings of the internal and external review teams that conducted reviews during the Fall semester of 2006.

The Center for Health Law and Policy (CHLP) is under the umbrella of the School of Law. Although the Center was approved by the SIU Board of Trustees and the Illinois Board of Higher Education in spring, 2003, no funding was allocated. The Center was officially established in early 2004. Two faculty positions are partially paid through private funding. Overall the program exceeds expectations with very limited resources.

Program Strengths

The Center has two co-directors who provide effective leadership. It hosts annual events such as the Dr. Arthur Grayson Distinguished Lecture Series, the Health Policy Institute, in collaboration with Southern Illinois Healthcare, a private not-for-profit organization, and the National Health Law Moot Court Competition. The Center also provides outreach, through the Elder Law Clinic and the Domestic Violence Clinic and has visiting scholar programs, including the John and Marsha Ryan Bioethicist in Residence and the Distinguished Visitor in Public Service Health Law. The Center works closely with both the Medical School and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute. Such collaborative, interdisciplinary work is exceptional.

Last year the Law School initiated two Masters Programs relevant to the Center for Health Law and Policy. The Master in Laws (LLM) for lawyers who wish to obtain a specialty area and a Master in Legal Studies (MLS) for non-lawyers/health professionals. It is too early for meaningful data on admissions, graduation, or placement. Students also participate in Moot Court Competition and publish in the *Journal of Legal Medicine*. The Center seems to be working in line with the goals and objectives of *Southern at 150: Building Excellence Through Commitment* and the *Illinois Commitment* document.

The Dean seems supportive of the Center and dedicates a portion of the Law School budget to support Center activities. Students describe a positive learning environment where faculty actively mentor them.

Two students per year are accepted into the combined JD/MD program and are given full scholarships. Students in this joint program are culturally diverse and seem genuinely excited by the curriculum.

Center outreach is remarkably strong. Through the internships and externships, students are able to gain experience in community advocacy especially in the areas of domestic violence and elder law.

Program Limitations

The Center has no dedicated physical facility and no dedicated support personnel for its activities and mission. Students and faculty expressed fear that they may lose the critical mass necessary to

offer the Health Law and Policy degree programs. This problem will become acute once the current directors, and the main drivers behind the Center, reach retirement.

The Center recently lost their full-time program coordinator. Plans are underway to integrate the former coordinator duties with other functions of personnel within the School of Law.

A primary challenge is to develop a unique identity for the health law program at SIU. This might involve focusing on state health policy and/or rural health care.

Small student enrolments in health policy courses may be a concern as well as student recruitment and placement.

Opportunities/Recommendations

The Center seems to be working well at this time with limited resources; however, additional allocation (space, faculty, personnel, budget, and other resources) will be necessary for growth. The review teams recommend that the Center keep its current programs. The Center should also continue with multidisciplinary collaboration with SIUC's academic units in addition to the Medical School and the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute.

For the Center to grow, some time in the near future the University and the School of Law will need to:

- Provide a full-time coordinator;
- Find a dedicated physical location within the School of Law building or other area easily accessible for faculty, present and potential students, and the community/public;
- Add new faculty with expertise in Health Law and Policy and a willingness to administer Center programs. Consider joint faculty appointments with other units at SIU as a means to increase faculty;
- Develop enhanced marketing of the Center's programs and accomplishments. Seek additional funding outside of the State government;
- Establish a Health Law and Policy certificate for students in the JD program and/or consider developing a Fellowship in Health Law and Policy;
- Offer formal advisement on course selection to students interested in health law and policy;
- Strategically identify a niche in health law and policy, such as state health policy and/or rural health policy;
- Investigate the impact of its course schedule and course requirements on students seeking a background in health law and policy.