



Idaho State Bar

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December 18, 2007

Donald L. Burnett, Jr., Dean
University of Idaho College of Law
Moscow, Idaho 83843-2321

Re: Visiting Committee 2007 College of Law Visit

Dear Dean Burnett:

The Commissioners, ILF President Linda Judd, Brad Andrews, Diane Minnich and I appreciate the hospitality shown to us by the law school administration, faculty, staff and students during the 2007 law school visit. Again this year, it was a productive, informative and enjoyable time for us. As Visiting Committee members, we value the relationship between the bar and the law school and appreciate the effort devoted to planning the visit so it is beneficial to the law school and to the bar.

This letter serves to offer the Visiting Committee's comments and observations about the 2007 College of Law visit. The focus of most of the discussions this year was the future of the law school; specifically the decision to go forward and pursue the dual approach. As the Visiting Committee, we commend the leadership shown in this effort, by you, your colleagues, and the university administration.

Our overall impression of the meetings with the various groups is that those involved with the College of Law are supportive of the process that the law school has undertaken to determine what approach will best serve the legal education needs of the college of law, the university and the state. We sensed varying degrees of support from faculty and staff for the dual approach; however, most of the groups and individuals seem willing to move forward. President White and the Provost were both candid and supportive of the efforts to date and of the decision. As we discussed, the Commission will continue to monitor and assist with future planning by having Commissioner Newal Squyres on the Second Century Committee and Commissioner Dwight Baker serve as a liaison to the Law Advisory Council.

At the meeting with students, the primary questions and comments were about the admissions process and the students' observations about the decision to pursue the dual approach. The student's were generally supportive of the efforts of the law school to seriously consider the future best course of action. Due to the construction, the venue for this year's meeting with students created some challenges to having an open and informal discussion. Next year, in lieu of lunch, we would request that the schedule include a social event or mixer with the students rather than a meeting set up with a panel. This would give us the opportunity for more casual, one-on-one conversation with the students.

Again this year, we discussed the concept of establishing rules to allow UI College of Law Faculty to become members of the Idaho State Bar without taking the bar examination. Professor Alan Williams has provided a proposed rule to us, which we will review and consider for the 2008 resolution process. We appreciate Professor William's efforts to gather

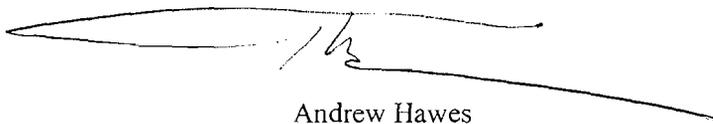
information about law faculty membership in other mandatory state bars to generate an appropriate proposal for the bar's consideration.

The tour of the building, the update on the construction projects, and the information provided by the various individuals and groups was helpful and interesting. We appreciate the opportunity to learn about what the law school, both faculty and students, are undertaking and the progress of the many programs, initiatives, groups, and individual efforts. Overall, we are impressed with the College of Law's many contributions to the quality of the practice of law in Idaho.

We offer our praise for the many hours of time, and the resources that have been devoted to determining how best to advance legal education in Idaho. We applaud the fact that a decision has been made regarding the future of the law school, and that the university is engaged and taking ownership of the decision. Making the decision is just a first step in a long process. The delivery of public legal education is an important issue. The quality of the Bar depends upon the ability of the University of Idaho College of Law to deliver quality legal education. After all, The Idaho State Bar and the University of Idaho College of Law share many common missions and goals. In addition, increasing the quality of legal education now is critical in order to assist new lawyers to take on the demands of the practice of law in the 21st century. We agree that the status quo is not acceptable and that the phase-two location approach would greatly enhance the effectiveness of the delivery of public legal education in Idaho. However, we concur with the Law Advisory Council in their October 29, 2007 recommendation that the ability of the University of Idaho to deliver on this bold vision will largely depend upon securing the resources necessary to achieve high quality at both the Moscow and Boise locations.

Again, thank you for the warm welcome we received from the College of Law administration, faculty, staff and students. The Idaho State Bar and Idaho Law Foundation value the relationship between the law school and the organized bar; it is beneficial to the students, bar members and the consumers of legal services in Idaho. As you need our assistance or expertise, certainly let us know.

Sincerely,



Andrew Hawes
ISB President

cc: UI President Tim White
UI Provost Doug Baker
Terrence White
Dwight Baker
Newal Squyres
Douglas Mushlitz
Linda Judd
Diane Minnich