

**PROPOSAL  
CENTER FOR LEGAL STUDIES  
COLLEGE OF LETTERS, ARTS, AND SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, COLORADO SPRINGS**

**I. MISSION AND ROLE:**

The focus of the Center for Legal Studies ("Center") is threefold: academic endeavors, professional development, and community interaction. The Center will draw on the interests and talents of faculty members from contributing departments. It will obtain outside funding to underwrite its activities.

a) **Academically**, the Center will foster interdisciplinary work among the faculty of the college and offer a variety of courses and research projects related to the area of legal studies in its broadest sense (including everything from constitutional law, eyewitness testimony, and legal representation to freedom, equality, fairness, justice, rights and opportunities).

The Center will coordinate the Pre Law Minor and the Legal Studies Distributed Major and generally prepare students interested in legal studies related graduate programs. As funds and opportunities are available, it will provide guest lectures, workshops, and seed money for developing and offering cross-listed and interdisciplinary courses.

b) **Professionally**, the Center will be a resource for students interested in careers related to the legal professions, from Law Schools to counseling and law enforcement. The charge of the Center is to offer an intellectual grounding that may be useful in future career choices rather than to train students for particular skills. In doing so, the Center will foster a close relationship with the legal community, such as the DA's office, judges and lawyers, and non-profit (advocacy or other) organizations.

c) **Publicly**, the Center will be an important contact point between the community and the university, illustrating the relevance of the academy for public policy issues as well as being an intellectual resource for the public (through public lectures and workshops). The Center will engage local and national issues that are of interest for our students and the community at large.

d) **Academic Units and Disciplines** currently involved are Communication, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Women's and Ethnic Studies.

## **II. CAMPUS STRATEGIC GOALS**

The Center will meet the following campus Strategic Goals:

### **1. CREATE A VIBRANT, ENGAGED CAMPUS COMMUNITY**

- A. Improve Student Retention through Focused, Concerted Efforts
- B. Enhance Student, Faculty and Staff's Social, Cultural, and Recreational Experiences.
- C. Create New Opportunities for Faculty-Student Engagement

### **2. CUSTOMIZE AN INDIVIDUAL UCCS LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS**

- A. Make Experiential and Integrative Learning a UCCS Hallmark.

### **3. PROVIDE EXCELLENCE IN LEARNING**

- A. Guarantee a Quality Comprehensive Educational Experience that Prepares Students to Excel Personally, Professionally, and as Global Citizens
- B. Provide Effective Infrastructure to Support Faculty Development and Innovative Teaching.

### **4. PROMOTE DIVERSITY AND ASSURE INCLUSIVENESS**

- A. Embrace Diversity
- B. Cultivate Campus Climate of Enthusiasm for and Acceptance of Differences
- C. Commit to Development of Cultural Competency
- D. Make Diversity and Inclusiveness Integral to the Work of the University: Teaching, Research, Student Success, and Business Operations

### **5. BUILD BRIDGES TO THE COMMUNITY, REGION, NATION, AND WORLD BY BECOMING A SOCIAL, CULTURAL, ECONOMIC AND INTELLECTUAL HUB**

- A. Provide Intellectual Property to Stimulate Community Economic Development
- B. Provide Leadership for Community and Regional Diversity Efforts
- C. Meet Local and Regional Academic and Program Needs
- D. Contribute to the Cultural and Intellectual Vitality of the Community and Region
- E. Enhance Postsecondary Participation Rates for all of Southern Colorado
- F. Increase Public Offerings Addressing Issues of Significance
- G. Develop UCCS' Impact as a Regional Comprehensive University
- H. Expand Global Partnerships and Academic Opportunities

## **6. DISTINGUISH AND COMMUNICATE A UNIQUE UCCS IDENTITY**

- A. Conduct an Inclusive and Professional Branding Process

### **III. INSTITUTIONAL CAPABILITY**

The Center will draw on the interests and talents of faculty members from contributing departments. They currently are: Communication, Economics, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Women's and Ethnic Studies. Each of these departments currently contributes to the Legal Studies Distributed Major.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE AND POLICIES (BY-LAWS)**

- a) The Center Administration will consist of a Director and two Advisory Boards, one limited to academic representation, and one also open to the public.
- b) The Director will be a tenured member of the faculty with interest in the area and from a contributing department to the academic programs. The Director will be appointed in an at will position not to exceed three years by the Dean of LAS (negotiated compensation with the Dean, given the standards of the college). Charge: student advising, course offerings coordination, liaison with Student Success Center, fund-raising, coordinate Board meetings and Center's activities.
- c) The Academic Advisory Board will be composed of one representative from each department contributing courses to the Center (to be reappointed annually by the Dean of LAS who will consult the Director). Charge: to revisit the Pre-Law Minor and Legal Studies Distributed Major annually; to evaluate course offerings and develop new ones; to suggest ways in which this area of study can appeal to students through guest-lectures and workshops.
- d) The Public Advisory Board will be composed of some (but not necessarily all) members of the Academic Advisory Board and representatives of the community (lawyers, judges, social workers, directors of non-profit organizations). Appointment to this Board will be for two years by the Director who will consult the Academic Advisory Board. Charge: to offer advice to the Academic Advisory Board on how the Center's activities can attract the public and how our students can gain experience and exposure to the local legal community; to provide financial resources to accomplish some of the objectives suggested by the Academic Advisory Board, or develop others. The Dean can remove members of the Public Advisory Board, upon the recommendation of the Director.

**V. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

a) The Center will be self-funded through grants and public fund-raising. The Director will receive a stipend or off-load to be negotiated with the Dean, commensurate with college practices. ICR revenues will be distributed according to University guidelines. The Academic Advisory Board will determine the split among departments of any ICR revenues.

b) The Center's business plan projects the following expenses:

Scholarships for students: \$2,000 (2x\$1,000)

Guest Lectures: \$3,000 (3x\$1,000) related to courses; series?


Outreach Workshops: \$3,000 (faculty or lecturers' compensation)

Workstudy/publicity \$2,000

c) The Center's business plan projects revenues of \$10,000 per year based on preliminary discussions with the legal community.

d) The Chancellor has the sole discretion to dissolve the Center.

**Approvals:**

  
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Dean, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

5/2/08  
date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Associate Vice Chancellor for Research

9 May 08  
date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Provost

5/21/08  
date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chancellor

5/21/08  
date

*R. Augustine 5/21/08*