

IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Proposal for a Master of Jurisprudence Law Degree for Non-JD Students, Mar. 4, 2013

Summary of Proposal: The proposal would create a new degree program at the IU McKinney School of Law for students who would find it useful in their careers to have a legal credential, but who do not intend to become practicing attorneys. The degree would not enable them to sit for the bar, but would likely enhance their earnings potential in business, industry, or other endeavors where a Master's degree in law might be as useful, or more useful, than say an MBA.

- 1. Are the goals clear and achievable? Yes.** The rationale for the program makes good sense, particular given the law school's position in a large city and the current "restructuring" of law and legal education. McKinney would not be the first law school to create such a Master's program; a few others already have done so, and appear to be successful. Particularly appealing about McKinney's proposal is the potential interdisciplinary linkages with the Kelly School of Business and SPEA.
- 2. Is the program academically sound? Yes.** The law school already has sufficient academic staff and existing courses to get the program off the ground; and new courses can easily be added to meet the demands of students.
- 3. Are faculty resources available to offer this certificate without undercutting other key missions of the unit? Yes,** this program would not undercut resources for existing JD, LLM, and PhD programs. It could impose additional costs on faculty, *if* Master's degree students are simply added to JD and LLM students. However, to the extent JD and LLM enrollments are declining, the new Master's program would simply curtail the decline.
- 4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program? As** already mentioned, the McKinney Law School foresees opportunities to cooperate with the Kelly Business School and SPEA. It's not obvious whether Kelly will want to cooperate in this venture, however, as it might view the law school's Master's program as a potential substitute

for its own MBA. I'm not sure whether or not such a concern would be well-founded as a market matter.

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal...

I recommend this program be approved. The downside risks and costs seem quite low – if the program doesn't attract enough students, it could easily be terminated. If the program attracts a lot of students, then market demand will have proven the quality of the idea. If I were a central administrator, I would consider this program virtually a no-brainer to approve.