IUPUI GAC Reviewer Form

Documents Reviewed: Bachelor of Science in Informatics and Master of Jurisprudence 5-Year Degree Program

Summary of Proposal:

1. Are the goals clear and achievable?

    Goals are very clear and achievable.

2. Is the program academically sound?

    Yes, very much so.

3. Are faculty resources available to offer this program without undercutting other key missions of the unit?

    Yes.

4. Is there overlap, either real or potential, with any other unit that could harm the program or be exploited to help the program?

    No overlap that I see.

5. My recommendation, comments/concerns regarding this proposal

    I recommend approval of the proposal. It is clear in its presentation, for the most part, and it makes, on an academic level, great sense. Much of it is quite laudable.
    I do have two concerns, one minor, the other less minor.
    On the Plan of Study, I'm unclear whether or not Summer course work is required for summers 4 and 5. There is clearly a 2-credit hour requirement for summer session 3; I don't think there is any requirement for summer sessions 4 or 5, but there is an indication that summer 4 is a continuation somehow of semester 8, and a semester total of hours is given there, but I think it is just being brought down from the spring before. Same at summer 5. I just want to make sure there's no requirement in the plan for summers 4 and 5 (and I think there isn't, but let's see).
    The other concern is to make sure students know what they are getting into in terms of price. The addition of the MJ is at a substantial cost, at least based on the tuition calculator provided by the IUPUI bursar's office. MJ courses appear to require $1414.50 per credit hour (almost twice the amount of JD tuition). The price to complete the requisite hours is about $40,000 for the 27-28 credit hours needed from Law. I worry a bit with programs such as these because, if a student does not finish the MJ part (but finishes enough of it to fulfill

the elective hours for the BS so he/she ends up with a BS), then the undergraduate degree becomes a pretty expensive degree. I would hope that the School of Informatics would make absolutely clear the real and final cost of completing this combined degree and emphasize the financial consequences of not finishing the MJ once it is started (that is, it adds maybe $15,000 to the cost of the BS if one drops out part way through the MJ program).