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Notre Dame Law School Student Bar Association

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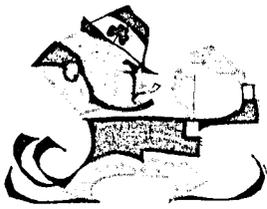


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Dooley's Dictum

A Newspaper of, by and for the Fighting Irish Lawyers of Notre Dame

Vol. 1, No. 12

Notre Dame, Indiana

October 11, 1971

Faculty approves grade changes Other changes under consideration

By WAYNE F. WEILER
Dictum Co-Editor

The Law School Faculty at its meetings, Sept. 27 and Oct. 4 voted to institute a new system of labeling law student grades; defeated a proposal to reinstate class ranking; and approved a proposal to allow students the option of taking one course per semester on a pass-fail basis with the professor's consent.

The Law Faculty is presently considering proposals sent to it last June by Professor Conrad Kellenberg's Committee on Grading and Examinations. After conducting hearings and investigating faculty and student opinion last spring, the committee, made up of three faculty and six student members, reported a total of 21 recommendations on eight separate matters dealing with grading, examinations and academic eligibility.

The eight matters reported for consideration by the committee were:

..Number and names of boxes in the grading system

.. Class ranking

.. Optional pass-fail policies

.. Anonymous grading policies

..Basis of grades and number of examinations

.. Re-take examinations

.. Eligibility to continue in the law school

.. Applicability of any policy changes regarding grading, examinations and academic eligibility.

Because the committee members were unable to agree unanimously on any matter it was agreed that each of the several recommendations receiving at least one vote by a committee member would be presented to the faculty, and that any member of the committee who wished to do so could submit reasons explaining his vote.

Regarding the matter of a new grading system, the faculty voted Sept. 27 to in-

stitute a "five-box" grading system and that the names of the five boxes be A,B,C,D, and F. The policy, when it is put into effect, will replace the present H,H-P,P, and F categories now used in grading examinations. By adopting the five-box proposal with a vote of 8-4, the faculty thereby rejected the Grading and Examination Committee's alternative recommendations that there be a three block system of H,P, and F or that there be a two-box Pass-Fail system.

The five-box system received the largest measure of approval from the grading and examinations committee. According to reasons given in the committee's report, the new system would provide for a more recognizable distinction between "C and "D" work not available under the present four-box system. When the four-box system was originally instituted it was planned that the grade of "P" would include "average" performance but not "below average" performance that is labeled "D" in traditional grading systems. Such "D" work was to have been included in the "F" category.

Professor Kellenberg wrote in the report of his committee that the present system "was a noble idea, and well worth an experiment. A year and a half of experience shows, however, that the experiment is not working as it was planned to work, and probably never will. The planners overlooked one factor, namely, the kind-heartedness of teacher's at Notre Dame Law School."

According to the committee's report, the new five box system will also be understood more readily by prospective employers in measuring a student's abilities.

In other action, the faculty adopted 9-5 the committee recommendation that class ranking not be reinstated. On the matter of optional pass-fail grading the faculty agreed 7-5 that students be given the option of taking one course per semester on a pass-fail basis, excluding core courses and only with the consent of the professor in the course.

At its next meeting the faculty will go on to consider two other recommendations regarding pass-fail grading. Both recommendations deal with giving a

second or third year student the right to elect whether or not he wishes to have all of his grades during an academic year reported as either pass or fail or as one of the grades in the five box system.

Professor Kellenberg stated that no decision has yet been made by the faculty as to the applicability of the new grading policies adopted. According to Kellenberg, the matter of applicability is not likely to be determined until the faculty has completely considered the seven other matters put before it by the Grading and Examinations Committee. "I would like to know more about what student opinion is in this area," Kellenberg stated. "However, I think that the faculty realizes that the new five-box policy has too many ex-post facto characteristics to be applied to the present second and third year students."

Dean Thomas Shaffer said that "the whole matter of grading and examinations is still open to student input." Although the Grading and Examinations Committee no longer exists as a separate committee, its duties have been given to the Academic Policy Committee headed by Professor Peter Thornton. According to Dean Shaffer, student opinion in this area may still be taken to Thornton's committee or to the Student-Faculty Coordinating Committee headed by SBA President Tim Hartzler and Professor Beytagh.

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The high cost of student poverty

Gregg Zive

The squeeze goes on.

Tuition rates jump \$200 a year. Books cost at least a dollar more each year with new editions out constantly to devalue the worth of used texts. Regular living expenses are at an all-time high. There is very little money available for scholarships--especially for second and third year law students. But of course there are always loans and even if the interest rate is a high 8 per cent, at least the law school will pick up half the interest while a person remains a student.

Not any more.

As of October 1, a student who applies for a loan must pay the full interest payments. For some students this will entail taking out loans to meet interest payments on other loans. It is definitely time to re-examine the school's financial aid program and structure it so that as many students as possible receive necessary assistance. Most people are well aware that money is scarce at all educational institutions but there remains a legitimate concern as to the priorities applied to whatever money is available.

A few figures to begin with. The school's scholarship fund is more than a half million dollars in the hole. This money is owed to the University which allowed the law school to draw on the university's operating funds. As Dean Thomas Shaffer points out, there is no way this money can be paid back. However, he has promised that the debt will not be increased. That leaves only the annual revenue to work with. The income for 1970-71 was \$54,000 and though the dean hopes to eventually increase that figure to \$90,000 a year it won't happen this year. He estimated that \$20,000 will be expended to meet loans interest payments this year, leaving just over half of the fund to meet scholarship and tuition grant commitments. That's why the loan interest payment program has been halted.

The Hoynes Code, the "law" of Notre Dame Law School, says in Section 8.1 that no scholarships will be granted to any student who cannot demonstrate need. So the emphasis is correct--need. Financial aid is broken into two categories--tuition grants and scholarships. Approximately one-third of all individual allocations of aid will be given as tuition grants, but never more than half according to Section 8.24 of the Hoynes Code. Section 8.23 says the purpose of tuition grants "is to provide opportunity for the

educationally disadvantaged, particularly Black (sic) students. "The requirement for retaining a grant is maintaining a minimum passing average. So they are completely based on need. Scholarships require more academic achievement as the retention standard is presently a midpoint between high pass and pass. This results in very few scholarships being pulled.

Now for suggestions. There should be an increase in the amount of scholarship money available for second and third year students. These scholarships should be based on need with academic merit only being one factor. After all there are many rewards for academic achievement without the necessity for financial rewards while still a law student

A student with financial problems may be working far harder for his grades than another student yet because of his need to work he may not be receiving grades as high as the non-working student's. This money could be obtained by raising the retention standards for scholarships as the scholarship recipient should be expected to perform better than a student who does not have any of his financial burdens lightened by the school. All scholarships should be half-tuition so that more students could receive financial aid. In this manner the burden of debt will not be completely removed from some students while others just fall further and further into the red.

Tuition grants should be left alone. They provide the school with a means of widening the background of its student body. Law schools should not be white, middle-class isolate institutions and these grants will insure that Notre Dame will attempt to serve all segments of society.

The Primary need is for an efficient loan program. The school simply doesn't have enough money to establish a truly viable scholarship program so students will have to continue to borrow. As soon as possible the law school should reinstitute its program of assisting the students with interest. More students can be helped with far less cost per student by paying loan interest than by providing scholarships.

The objective of a financial aid program should be to help as many students as possible. At the present time the method by which to obtain optimum benefits would be a comprehensive loan program with both students and the school participating.

On the Docket

October 11

Columbus Day (Classes Meet)

October 13

Mid-semester break begins (after classes)

October 14

Lecture by Dr. P. Dagtoglou;
Sponsor: International Law Society
Memorial Library Auditorium, 7 p.m.

October 15

7:30 p.m. Law Wives-Faculty Party

October 16

10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pre-game
party-Law Lounge (Host: International
Programs)

LSAT EXAM

1:30 p.m. Notre Dame v. No. Carolina

October 18

Classes Resume (8 a.m.)

October 21

11:15 a.m. Hoynes Forum: Meeting
with students interested in
practicing in the West - Dean
Shaffer; Professor McIntire
6:30 p.m. Cass County Bar Assoc.-
Shaffer

Dooley's Dictum

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Law School discontinues loan interest payments

By GREGG ZIVE

Dictum News Editor

In an attempt to reduce the strain on Notre Dame Law School's scholarship fund, Dean Thomas L. Shaffer has announced that the school will no longer pay half of the interest on student loans applied for following October 1.

The school will continue to meet its commitments for loans presently in effect and for all loans applied for prior to October 1. In effect this means that the policy will not effect students until the end of next summer when the first interest payment will become due on loans obtained for the coming spring semester.

Students affected will be those with loans from First Bank of South Bend and St. Joseph Bank of South Bend. A proposed loan program through Continental Bank of Chicago will also be at the student's own expense.

Presently the law school is paying half of the loan interest payments for First Bank loans and any St. Joseph loans in effect prior to October 1.

Three loan programs are presently in effect in addition to state guaranteed and federally insured student loans that are administered by the states or the federal government. The three law school programs include the American Bar Association program, the Student Bar Association program for second and third year students and the law school's own program through First Bank and St. Joseph.

The ABA program has a limit of \$1,500 per year with the federal government paying the 7 per cent interest until the student takes over payments nine months after graduation.

The Student Bar Association loan program is conducted with Continental Bank of Chicago and has a limit of \$500 per semester. Presently the law school is attempting to iron out a new program with Continental for all students with a maximum of \$2,500 per year.

A limit of \$2,500 per year at an interest rate of 8 per cent is presently in effect under both the First Bank and St. Joseph loans. Repayment must begin within three months of graduation and may be spaced over a 60 month period. The law school has been paying half (4 percent) of the interest payments while the student was in school. It is this procedure that is coming to halt under the newly announced policy.

As of June 30, 1971 the law school's scholarship fund was \$553,067 in the red. Because of prior commitments the deficit

jumped from 1968 to 1971. Dean Shaffer estimated the cost of loan interest payments for the current school year at \$20,000 with income for the scholarship fund at \$54,000 for 1970-71. He said he is trying to increase the revenue to \$90,000 but he doesn't "see it happening this year."

The money which was paid out, causing the deficit, came from the University of Notre Dame's operating funds.

"We can't pay it back," the dean said. "So we promised not to increase the deficit. The idea is stop the deficit from growing and the decision was only made after some consideration."

He said he would want to try to use scholarship funds for students who will be placed under severe hardship in meeting the loan interest payments.

"I would like to set a working maximum for loans and above that figure give scholarships," Dean Shaffer explained. "I get worried if anybody is over \$7,500 in debt and \$10,000 is an awfully high figure. We might have to raise the loan limits, but I would rather find other funds."

At present he is taking the position that money pledged for the much-planned Law Center can't be touched. More than \$3.5 has been raised-almost all in pledges. One million dollars has been pledged for two endowed chairs and one of these chairs has been completely funded. A \$200,000 scholarship endowment has been funded and \$500,000 has been raised for the long-proposed building, of which \$50,000 is in cash. The remainder, \$1.9 million, has no restrictions. The dean says he doesn't anticipate any great loss of pledges.

Dean Shaffer commented on the program he hopes to see become established.

"I would like a \$3 million endowed scholarship fund which would provide a basis for \$150,000 a year for scholarships and \$50,000 a year for tuition grants to be utilized by minority students," he explained. "Additionally, I would like to see a \$1 million revolving loan fund which would have three features-no interest while a student, low interest following graduation and repayment keyed to income."

However, any such program is still in the future and students will be faced with the problem of meeting full loan interest payments starting next fall.

"I strongly encourage students to go after government loans," the dean concluded.

IM football season in full gear; Linebacker Bums lead the league

By **PAT HERALD**
Dictum Sports Editor

Pre-season wondering and prognosticating was a thing of the past as the L.S.A.A. ten-team football league kicked off its season on the artificial turf of Green Field on Tuesday, September 21.

The number one pick for the national championship, the Linebacker Bums, fittingly opened the season with a solid 28-6 triumph over a highly touted but at present struggling Reasonably Prudent Men squad. Opening day also saw two newcomers to the league clash as Quarles Quasimodos bested the Over the Hill Gang 12-7 on a last period interception which was returned 60 yards to paydirt.

A rebuilt and reorganized Marriage Counselor squad reportedly made good use of the golden arm of "go-get-em" Gorman which glowed generously, generating garlands of gracious praise along with his nimble feet which gulped up gobs of ground in the 18-12 victory over the Hoynes Heros.

The Estoppers squeaked by A Football Team 12-6 in the toughest opener, while Kolfax Street A.C. demonstrated that they will be a team to be reckoned with by traversing the Tort Feasors 34-6.

With accurate game reporting to the Commissioner's office at a premium, our scribes have managed to accumulate from the wire services these additional results of L.S.A.A. league games:

Estoppers 52, Hoynes Heros 12

A Football Team 12, Quarles Quasimodo 0

Linebacker Bums 31, Marriage Counselors 0

Over Hill Gang 19, Tort Feasors 6

Reasonably Prudent 7, Kolfax A.C. 7

Estoppers, 45, Quarles Quasimodos 8

Linebacker Bums 32, Hoynes Heros 0

A Football Team 21, Tort Feasors 0

Kolfax A.C. 13, Marriage Counselors 7

Over Hill Gang 6, Reasonably Prudent 6

Linebacker Bums 7, Estoppers 6

Quarles Quasimodos 33, Tort Feasors 19

Marriage Counselors 6, Over Hill Gang

Over Hill Gang 25, Hoynes Heros 6

Estoppers 32, Kolfax A.C. 6

Linebacker Bums 19, Kolfax A.C. 6

Reasonably Prudent 13, Quarles Quasimodo 12

The David Link Computer Game of the Week featured a bitter rivalry between the third year Linebacker Bums and the second year Estoppers, who were both undefeated at the time. These two clubs, openly proclaimed by coaches and sportswriters across the country as the "class" of the nation's law school football teams, battled before a packed house. The day was one for defense as the 7-6 score indicated.

The Estoppers drew first blood in the 3rd period on a bomb from Tom Gores to Eddie Farrell to take a 6-0 lead following a scoreless first half. The extra point try was thwarted by the Bums' fine defensive team of Mezzanotte, Conte, McGloin, Schraff, O'Brien, and Martin. The Estoppers were able to "estop the Bums from performing" until late in the game when Bums quarterback Coley O'Brien hit his split end, Jerry Mackey, for the game-tying TD with only nine plays left to go in the game.

With the score knotted, O'Brien hit Pat Herald for the game-winning wxtra point. The Estoppers, however, refused to submit and the game ended as Ron Cimala was downed by Mike McGloin on the Bums' 2 yard line to barely preserve the Bums' victory 7-6.

FROM THE KOMMISSIONER'S DESK:

DOOLEY'S DICTUM has regretfully accepted the resignation of its sports editor and author of the Commissioners Korner, Pat Herald, who resigned for "personal reasons." Rumors indicate Herald may be considering an offer from ex-Detroit Lion star Alex Karras dealing with sportscasting. John Mezzanotte has been named as Herald's replacement.

Circumstances beyond the control of the Commissioner's office forced the cancellation of the fall L.S.A.A. Golf Open.

Any interest in a double elimination handball tournament for this semester should be directed to John Mezzanotte or Jerry Mackey in care of DOOLEY'S DICTUM.

Standings

Team	w	l	t
Linebacker Bums	5	0	0
Estoppers	4	1	0
A Football Team	2	1	0
Kolfax A.C.	2	2	1
Over Hill Gang	2	2	2
Quarles Quasimodos	2	3	0
Marriage Counselors	1	2	1
Reasonably Prudent Men	1	1	2
Tort Feasors	0	4	0
Hoynes Heroes	0	4	0

LSAA Poll

1. Linebacker Bums. (310)
2. Estoppers (170)
3. Over Hill Gang (55)
4. Kolfax A.C. (50)
5. A Football Team (15)

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