

Academic Program Reviews 2004-2008

Final Program Review Summary Sheets – Faculty of Law

B.C.L./LL.B. Program

(Bachelor of Civil Law/Bachelor of Laws)

Program Review Members:

Catherine Walsh (Associate Dean, Academic), Co-Chair (2004-2005)

Geneviève Saumier (Associate Dean, Academic), Co-Chair (2005-2008)

Véronique Bélanger (Assistant Dean, Internal Affairs)

Charmaine Lyn (Assistant Dean, External Affairs)

Faculty, administrative & student members of Faculty of Law Curriculum Committee

Strengths:

- Unique transsystemic approach to legal education: students graduate with both civil law and common law degrees, study the world's great legal traditions in an integrated fashion within a bilingual, multi-systemic, pluralistic and dialogic legal curriculum.
- Tenure-track professors do most of the teaching, particularly with respect to required and complementary courses.
- Inquiry-based learning, interdisciplinarity and internationalization are well integrated into the program.
- The program is in excellent position in terms of applications, admissions, enrolment, retention and graduates' success in terms of career and graduate school placement.
- The program's inherent flexibility makes it easily adaptable to evolving trends
- The Faculty's innovative approach to legal education serves as model for other forward-looking institutions

Recommendations for improvement:

- Reinforce and extend global orientation of program
- Move transsystemic approach into the public law curriculum
- Delineate the scope of the transsystemic approach
- Increase transparency of admissions process and selection criteria
- Continue to focus on increasing diversity of the student body

March 2009

Graduate Programs in Comparative Law

Graduate Certificate in Comparative Law

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Thesis

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Thesis – Environment Option

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Thesis – European Studies Option

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Thesis – Bioethics Option

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Non-Thesis

Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.)

Program Review Members:

Marie-Claude Prémont (Associate Dean, Graduate Studies), Co-Chair (2004-2007)

Shauna Van Praagh (Associate Dean, Graduate Studies), Co-Chair (2007-2008)

Faculty, administrative & student members of Graduate Studies Committee

Strengths:

- Outstanding international reputation
- Excellence in graduate programs (in terms of courses and supervision of research and writing)
- International diversity of student body
- Diversity of programs (thesis and non-thesis programs as well as options in Bioethics, Environment and European Law)

Recommendations for improvement:

- Continue to provide and improve the support for doctoral students, in the form of funding, mentorship or teaching experience.
- Carry out more effective recruitment, in order better to match the Faculty's strengths to the pool of graduate student candidates
- Take steps towards a more streamlined admissions process; target the recruitment of law students for the comparative and interdisciplinary program offered at McGill
- Provide competitive and flexible funding packages for students
- Provide possibilities for enriched training and experience in university pedagogy for D.C.L. candidates
- Enhance faculty supervision; offer reading groups or workshops for graduate students to complement formal courses and research

March 2009

Graduate Programs in Air & Space Law

Graduate Certificate in Air & Space Law

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Thesis

Master of Laws (LL.M.) Non-Thesis

Doctor of Civil Law (D.C.L.)

Program Review Members:

Marie-Claude Prémont (Associate Dean, Graduate Studies), Co-Chair (2004-2007)

Shauna Van Praagh (Associate Dean, Graduate Studies), Co-Chair (2007-2008)

Paul Dempsey, Director, Institute of Air and Space Law

Faculty, administrative & student members of Graduate Studies Committee

Strengths:

- McGill's Institute of Air and Space Law (IASL) is the leading specialized air and space law institute in the world, of which there are very few.
- It is extraordinarily international; the Institute has an unparalleled capacity to draw graduate law students from around the world.
- It contributes to the Faculty's standing as a centre of learning with a global reach
- It meets diverse academic needs and interests by offering two LL.M programs (thesis and non-thesis), in addition to a professional Graduate Certificate.
- It leads the Faculty in ambitious and effective outreach activities.
- It has created substantial new fellowships, at both the Doctoral and Master's levels, which will have an impact on air and space law research and development for the future.

Recommendations for improvement not yet implemented:

- Conceptualize and implement an internship program
- Move into new physical space at the Faculty of Law in 2008-09; greater cross-pollination between graduate students and programs at the Faculty will be fostered

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