



THE JOHN MARSHALL LAW SCHOOL

Policy for Evaluating Experimental Courses

1. After an experimental course has been taught three times, the professor(s) of the course may submit a formal written petition to the Curriculum Committee to make the course a permanent part of the curriculum.
2. The petition shall contain the following:
 - a. A copy of the syllabus for each semester the course has been taught;
 - b. A formal statement by the professor(s) for the reasons for making the course a permanent part of the curriculum;
 - c. A copy of the examination/paper topic problem(s) for each semester the course has been taught;
 - d. A summary of student evaluations of the course for each semester it has been taught; and
 - e. Anything else the professor(s) believe the committee should see.
3. The Curriculum Committee may, at its discretion, visit the course for the purpose of evaluating it as a candidate for inclusion into the permanent curriculum.
4. Upon completion of the preceding requirement, the committee will discuss the merits of the application and conduct a preliminary vote. If, by a majority vote of a quorum of the committee present the application is approved, a formal report will be drafted subject to review by the committee. The professor(s) will also review the report for accuracy. Then the report will be submitted to the whole

faculty, and the matter will be put on the agenda for the next general assembly, at which time the entire faculty will vote on the committee's recommendation.

Statement of Purpose

This proposal reflects a concern that before a course becomes a part of the permanent curriculum, the committee has a chance to review in a formal manner the merits of the course. It is important to implement a specific procedure for moving courses from the experimental track onto a permanent one. By establishing a formal procedure, the committee provides a reliable means of assessing proposed curriculum changes. An ad hoc, informal system would ultimately introduce the potential for unbridled and perhaps unwise curriculum changes. In no way should this proposal be regarded as a means for keeping the specific courses out of the curriculum.

Adopted 2007.