

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**PROGRAMMATIC CHANGES IN THE COLLEGE OF LAW AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

**Action Requested:** Receive the report.

**Executive Summary:**

- ☐ Change the semester hour requirements for the J.D. program from 90 to 84, based on 60 minute teaching hours in a 14-week semester.

The J.D. program currently requires 90 semester hours. American Bar Association (ABA) accreditation requirements are defined by total minutes of instruction; the minimum is 58,000 minutes of instruction. The College of Law at the University of Iowa teaches classes on the basis of a 60 minute hour and a 14-week semester. The current 90 semester hour requirement for graduation results in 75,600 minutes of instruction, well above the ABA minimum and significantly higher than any of the College's peers. By reducing the total number of semester hours required for the J.D. degree to 84, students will receive 70,560 minutes of instruction, which is still above the ABA minimum and more consistent with the College's peers.

- ☐ Suspend admissions to the summer entrant program.

Currently, the College of Law has two entrance periods for first-year students – in the fall and in the summer. The fall class was capped at 180 students and the summer class was capped at 40-45 students. In recent years, demands for summer entrance has decreased significantly, while demand for fall entrance has increased. For summer 2007, the College had only 23 students enrolled as summer entrants. Furthermore, as a result of changes made by the College in the way it teaches legal research and writing and how it organizes its small sections, providing instruction to summer entrants that is similar to instruction provided to fall entrants has become more difficult. Therefore, the College will discontinue its summer entrance program in summer 2008. The fall 2008 entering class will be increased to 220 so that the overall student body size will remain the same.