California State University, Long Beach
College of Business Administration
Minutes of the Intellectual Contributions Task Force

CBA 237C, Thursday, May 17, 2007

Members Present: Josh Arnold, Herb Hunt, Melody Kiang, Chanwit Phengpis
Ex Officio: Mary Wolfinbarger
Guests: Professor Kathleen Lacey

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 pm

1. A motion to approve the agenda was approved.

2. The Committee discussed various approaches to ranking law journals, including specialty journals published by law schools whose flagship journal may be ranked as “elite” in surveys and other rankings. A central question that arises in this regard, and something that significantly concerns the Committee, is the extent to which a law school’s ranking and the ranking of its flagship journal, should influence the ranking of its specialty journals (i.e., those restricted to more narrowly defined topics). Due to the nature of specialty journals, they often have lower impact factors and citation counts than the more general flagship journals and are thus listed lower in most rankings. However, it appears that many of the top law schools and business schools rank all journals published by a particular law school the same regardless of differences in the impact or other measures of quality of the individual journals. Often, the criterion used to rank law journals is based on the reputation of the law school itself in rankings such as the widely referenced one published annually by U.S. News and World Report. While the Committee members acknowledge that the reputation of the publishing institution certainly impacts the quality of the various journals published, they also point out that in all other functional disciplines for which journals were ranked in the existing CBA IC documentation, specialty journals are required to stand on their own in terms of quality ranking. Since this discussion took up most of the allotted time for the meeting, Chair Hunt suggested that he try to work on some possible ranking models (with input from Professor Kathleen Lacey) over the summer and that the Committee re-visit the law journal rankings in the Fall 2007 semester.

3. A motion was passed to leave the American Journal of Comparative Law ranked as an “elite” publication outlet for the time being, with the possibility of re-visiting this classification at some later point.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Herb Hunt
Recording Secretary

These minutes have been approved.