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MEMORANDUM

To: Donna E. Shalala, President

From: Richard L. Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Richard L. Williamson'.

Date: March 3, 2014

Subject: Faculty Senate Legislation #2013-29(B) – Redefine the “International Law LL.M. with a specialization in International Arbitration” as an LL.M. in International Arbitration”, School of Law

The Faculty Senate, at its February 26, 2014 meeting, voted unanimously to approve to redefine the School of Law “International Law LL.M. with a specialization in International Arbitration” as an LL.M. in International Arbitration.”

The International Arbitration specialization was added to the existing LL.M. degree in International Law in the fall of 2009. Eighteen months later the International Arbitration Institute was created. With the Institute’s focus on International Arbitration and with its support of the LL.M. program, the School of Law wished to separate the international arbitration track from the International Law LL.M. and set it up as a separate LL.M. program, managed by the International Arbitration Institute at the University of Miami School of Law. All requirements for this program will remain exactly the same as in the present Arbitration track. The degree will become an LL.M. in International Arbitration instead of International Law with a specialization in International Arbitration. While the reasons for the change are grounded on the desire to capitalize on the exceptional reputation of the program internationally, the timing has been dictated by a large gift by a major law firm.

The proposal is enclosed for your reference.


This legislation is now forwarded to you for your action.

RLW/am

Enclosure

cc: Thomas LeBlanc, Executive Vice President and Provost
David Birnbach, Vice Provost, Faculty Affairs
Patricia D. White, Dean, School of Law
Patrick O. Gudridge, Vice Dean, School of Law
Karen Beckett, Registrar

CAPSULE: Faculty Senate Legislation #2013-29(B) – Redefine the “International Law LL.M. with a specialization in International Arbitration” as an LL.M. in International Arbitration”, School of Law

APPROVED:  DATE: April 2 2014
(President's Signature)

OFFICE OR INDIVIDUAL TO IMPLEMENT: DEAN White

EFFECTIVE DATE OF LEGISLATION: IMMEDIATELY
(if other than June 1 next following)

NOT APPROVED AND REFERRED TO: _____

REMARKS (IF NOT APPROVED): _____

Proposal to Redefine the “International Law LLM with a specialization in International Arbitration” as an “LLM in International Arbitration”: January 2014

Overview:

The International Law LLM program at the University of Miami School of Law currently offers four tracks:

1. U.S. and transnational Law for Foreign Lawyers
2. International Arbitration
3. Inter-American Law
4. International Law

The International Arbitration specialization was added in the fall of 2009. Eighteen months later the International Arbitration Institute was created. With the Institute’s focus on international arbitration and with its support of the LLM program, the School of Law would like to separate out the international arbitration track from the International Law LLM and set this graduate program up as a separate LLM program being managed by the International Arbitration Institute at the University of Miami School of Law. All requirements for this program will remain as they have been defined. The degree will be an LLM in International Arbitration instead of International Law with a specialization in International Arbitration.

Background:

When the International Arbitration specialization track within the International Law LLM program began in the fall of 2009, the Law School’s focus on international arbitration was new, and it made sense to include it as a fourth track within the International Law LLM program. In 2011 the Institute for International Arbitration was created and has since offered the law school a strengthened focus on the topic through curriculum offerings, speaker sessions, and CLE offerings. Thirty three students have completed the program, some of them receiving an LLM degree and others transferring into the JD program which allows them to transfer their LLM credits to the JD if they meet the admissions requirements for the JD program. The popularity of this track is growing as the Institute’s reputation grows.

The program has nine students enrolled for the academic year of 2013-2014. These candidates must complete 24 credits with 12 of them specifically focused on international arbitration. The program currently offers 8 courses specific to international arbitration (ranging from 1 to 3 credits each). There are another 7 courses offered regularly which are closely related to international arbitration and a large set of courses in the areas of comparative, international business and trade, international, immigration, and dispute resolution offered each semester (10 or more per semester). Graduates of this LLM specialization are employed internationally with law firms such as Freshfields, Bruckhaus Deringer, Allen & Overy, Whilmer Hale and in other firms in international locations including London, Paris, Casablanca, Bangkok, Washington, D.C., as well as Miami.

Name change request:

The School of Law would like to rename this specialization within the International Law LLM program to an LLM in International Arbitration (separating it out from the International Law LLM).

Program Requirements:

As currently defined, the program requires students to complete 24 credits of which 8 credits must include the following: Basic Concepts in International Arbitration, Advanced Arbitration Seminar, New York Convention Workshop, and Presentation of Evidence in International Arbitration. Another 4 credits are selected from: International Commercial Arbitration Seminar: A United States Perspective, Investment Arbitration, Federal and State Arbitration, UNCITRAL Model Law: Fundamental concepts and Impact on Latin America, and New York Convention and Legal Theory Seminar.

Foreign lawyers are required to take two courses: An Introduction to U.S. Law; and Legal Communication and Research.

Admissions:

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis through the year with a priority deadline of May 1st. An online application, an application fee, a statement of purpose, undergraduate transcripts, two letters of recommendation, a TOEFL score (for foreign law graduates) are required as part of the application. Additional information about the application process and documentation is available on the website. The admissions requirements will remain the same.

UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI
SCHOOL of LAW



February 7, 2014

Professor Richard Williamson
Chair, Faculty Senate
University of Miami

Dear Professor Williamson:

I am delighted to report that the change in name from LLM in International Law with a specialization in International Arbitration to an LLM in International Arbitration proposal was presented to the law school faculty on February 4, 2014 and that it was reviewed and approved by our faculty. I am fully supportive of this name change for our International Arbitration LLM program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia D. White".

Patricia D. White
Dean & Professor of Law

UNIVERSITY
OF MIAMI



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Institutional Research,
and Assessment


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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 10, 2014

TO: Sandy Abraham
Executive Liaison
Interdisciplinary Programs and Initiatives
School of Law

FROM: David E. Wiles
Executive Director 
Assessment and Accreditation

SUBJECT: Changing LLM in International Arbitration Specialization to Separate Degree Program

On 02/07/2014, the Faculty Senate Office submitted a proposal indicating that the School of Law intends to offer the LLM in International Arbitration as a degree program, in lieu of a specialization within the LLM degree in International Law, effective the summer of 2014.

Although a letter of notification will be submitted, the change is not considered substantive and will not require formal approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) in order to proceed with its implementation.

Please feel free to contact our office should you have any further questions (305) 284-9431.

cc: Faculty Senate
Dean Patricia White, School of Law
Jessica Morris, Director of International Graduate Programs, School of Law