

Department: International and Business Law Department

Date: January 23, 2012

Project of 3 years Academic Development Plan

## 1. Mission

The mission of the AUCA Law Department is to educate new generation of lawyers through a program with a focus on independent, analytical learning and practical skills within a liberal arts framework for them to play a role in transformation of society to rule of law and market economy in Central Asia.

Also our vision is:

- to be and sustain as distinctive and distinguished top law program in a Central Asian region with a strong international and comparative focus;
- to maintain its commitment in excellent teaching
- to create and sustain with diverse, intellectually rigorous learning environment in which to acquire knowledge of the law in its broad international, intercultural, and interdisciplinary contexts;
- to prepare lawyers and leaders in their communities and chosen specializations to be responsible citizens and serve the community

## 2. Goals (long-term and short term)

### 2.1. Short term:

- 2.1.1. Curriculum. Redevelop and redesign curriculum to be prepared for licensing in Spring 2012. To move Legal Research Methods course into Spring Semester of Junior year.
- 2.1.2. Professional Development. To encourage junior faculty members to enter the PhD program, if they are not in the program (at least local), publish articles in a peer reviewed journals (at least one article per semester), participate in scientific conferences, round tables, panel discussions (at least one conference per semester),
- 2.1.3. Administrative. To update, redevelop and redesign policies and guidelines due to curriculum changes.
- 2.1.4. Publication. To publish Resource book on International Law that was drafted by several faculty of IBL department by June 2012.

### 2.2. Long term:

- 2.2.1. Curriculum. To introduce B.A. in Human Rights under cooperation with Bard College. To draft curriculum Human Rights major and introduce to administration for consideration.

- 2.2.2. Professional Development. The same as 2.1.2. Also, to have faculty members to obtain PhD degree.
- 2.2.3. To organize scientific conference (the topic is to be determined later next academic year).
- 2.2.4. To draft and publish manual on integration of human rights component into legal disciplines with participation of Bishkek different universities law program (in case if project that IBL department applied with to Norway Government is going to be funded).

### 3. Strengths (what you do well or excellent)

- 3.1. Faculty. We try to hire the best faculty in the Kyrgyz Republic, preferably with PhD degree. (Majority of the faculty is part time). Specific approach of our department and the university as a whole requires more faculty members with western diplomas, English language knowledge, ability to teach on the basis of international and foreign materials with using new teaching methods (Socratic method, critical thinking, skills based approaches), which differ from typical teaching methods. Most of our faculty staff are known as well-practitioners in the field of their specialization. Not every specialist can correspond to all requirements of university and students' demand. The IBL department is trying to find good specialists and at the same time faculty that could correspond to all requirement of our university's system.
- 3.2. Curriculum. The curriculum of IBL department is very unique and differs from any other curriculum of any other law school of the Kyrgyz Republic by integrating skills oriented course such as (Legal Writing, Moot Court, Legal Skills, Legal Research Methods and Legal Clinic), which allow our students to be already equipped with not only knowledge but also with lawyering skills necessary to be good practitioners in the field of law.
- 3.3. Graduates. Our graduates either continue studies (mostly abroad) or continue work in different range of places: Governmental agencies of the Kyrgyz Republic including Tax Inspection, Ministry of Justice; International Organizations including UN, OSCE, WB, Islamic Development Bank; big and well prestigious legal firms and companies including Kalikova and Associates, Grata, Deloitte, PriceWaterHouse etc. Some of our graduates received internship in such bodies as International Criminal Court in Hauge, United Nations Council on Human Rights in Geneva. More concrete data is provided as an attachment.

### 4. Challenges

- 4.1. Most of full time faculty of IBL department is supported by Academic Fellowship Program and therefore in case if the partnership is going to have its finish, it might happen that some of full time faculty might not be able to sustain as full time, which is a challenge to IBL department.
- 4.2. It is a challenge to recruit new faculty members for full time position (in case if existing full time faculty is promoted for another position, or take academic leave).

Profession of lawyer (high qualified specialist) is well paid and therefore, most of such specialists do not have great incentive to work, which is a challenge for IBL as well.

4.3. Currently, the license of IBL department is expiring Spring semester 2012 and therefore IBL should apply for a new license, which is also a challenge since the drafting version of new state standards of law program significantly differs from the curriculum of IBL department, which it wishes to leave almost the same as it is currently.

5. Actions to be taken:

5.1. Curriculum (changes, courses offered)

5.1.1. One of the first upcoming changes will be: to reallocate number of courses within curriculum (semesters). First – to move Legal Research Methods course for students entered at Fall 2012 to Spring semester of their junior year. Second to integrate internship as a regular course into student's semester load.

5.1.2. The existing curriculum is going to be redesigned and redeveloped due to application for new license by the department and university as a whole. Mostly it will try to remain the same with the modifications that would be necessary in order to pass licensing for Ministry of Education.

5.1.3. IBL department plans to start define AUCA curriculum opportunities for introduction of B.A. program in Human Rights. IBL department will negotiate curriculum with relevant social science and humanities departments from which human rights courses could be taken. Finally, IBL department will draft curriculum for introducing B.A. in Human Rights in cooperating with Bard College. So far, IBL department has searched the curriculum and program requirement of B.A. in Human Rights of Bard college. (Please see attached info.)

5.1.4. IBL department plans to make attempts to develop and present curriculum of LLM program for administration's consideration. As far as the program duration is concerned, we have been considering two options. One is a modular system based on the example of the Central European University Legal Studies Department ([http://web.ceu.hu/legal/courses\\_hr\\_llm.htm](http://web.ceu.hu/legal/courses_hr_llm.htm)). Each course will last for about one to two months. This will allow professors from different universities to come to Kyrgyzstan for a short period of time. The other option is semester-based system. As the physical presence in Kyrgyzstan might be inconvenient for some professors, we have been considering using a virtual learning room. At present, AUCA has new real time interactive classes in the Video Conference Suite of our university with

classmates and professors from the American University in Afghanistan (AUAF). We may be able to have similar virtual learning classes.

## 5.2. Faculty development and hiring policy (what do you need)

5.2.1. Faculty Development. The department is encouraging and will continue to encourage faculty professional development: 1) to use 3 credit research opportunity for writing dissertation, articles etc. for further local and/or international publication; 2) to participate in local and/or international scientific conferences (international conferences with the support of university through FDF committee); 3) To apply for Faculty Development Grant provided by university 4) to apply to trainings and workshops provided by Central European University or other institutes funded by Soros Foundation and other organizations; to apply to FDF committee for participation in scientific conferences;

5.2.2. Hiring Policy. The department requires more faculty members with western diplomas, English language knowledge, ability to teach on the basis of international and foreign materials with using new teaching methods (Socratic method, critical thinking, skills based approaches), which differ from typical teaching methods. Within this approach,

## 5.3. Students development

5.3.1. Research Internships. We try to encourage and involve students of IBL department to participate in research and other tasks within the projects where IBL department is involved. For instance, project on drafting of International Law Resource Guide, we involved our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> year students for research and counted internship for them. The same approach is integrated in cooperation with ICLHR, where students are going to do research and analysis of International tribunals' decisions for database of International Criminal Court. (Please see more detailed description in 5.4.2.)

5.3.2. Competitions. We are encouraging our students to take part in different national and international competitions. Also our students take active part in organizing and participating in conferences and round tables held by IBL department.

## 5.4. Projects and partners (research or teaching)

5.4.1. AFP partnership. The IBL department has been cooperating with the OSI Academic Fellowship Program since 2005 – 2006 academic year. The collaboration with AFP has been, by all means, fruitful and productive. The Academic Fellowship Program support has been vital for the reforms and general projects, activities undertaken by the Department toward the curriculum, faculty professional development and university as a whole. The achievements that IBL Department has so far made with the help of AFP are summarized in the separate form attached to

current plan. Also, the IBL department plans to continue collaborate with AFP and has initiated number of project to implement with assistance of AFP program.

5.4.2. ICLHR cooperation. ICLHR – is a Central and Eastern European Initiative for International Criminal Law and Human Rights non-governmental organization, established in Poland, one of the founders is a graduate of Law program of AUCA. ICLHR offered partnership with IBL department on a project “Core International Crimes Database for International Criminal Course” (CICD), where ICLHR together with IBL department are going to fill the section of International Criminal Court database on key legal requirements and means of proof for international crimes? After negotiations, the partnership was established based on Memorandum of cooperation, where students of IBL department are going to make research for project CICD during their studies and receive credits for it as for an internship.

5.4.3. Project on research and drafting a Resource book on Public International Law. The goal of the project is to develop the first international law resource guide in English and Russian to improve the resources available to Kyrgyz law faculty, students, and lawyers in the community engaging in global business. The project was initiated on May 2011 with the help of Full Bright fellow, Michelle Leighton and faculty members of IBL department; also there were 3 more faculty embers from Law Academy and Kyrgyz National University. Students of IBL department also participated in doing research for the book and held internship within this research. The project was funded by US Embassy. Drafting of the book is finished. Now, the second stage is to translate this book into Kyrgyz language and publish, for which the group is seeking for funds from US Embassy.

6. Budget – to run department as effectively as possible