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**Professional Development Plan
Fall 2015**

Criterion 1: “Demonstrated ability to teach effectively and/or perform effectively in other current assignments.”

Percentage of Development: 20 percent

Beginning my third year here at Winona State University, I am pleased at where my courses are at the moment. My teaching schedule has become more regular, and I have found a good balance of teaching along with my other duties as the director of Legal Studies.

I am continuing to use Qualtrics for my evaluations, but I am doing so with a five-year plan in mind. I am assessing all of my past evaluations and thinking about the type of narrative I want to present at the five-year mark. Taking advice from Assistant Dean Miene, I have tweaked my Qualtrics summaries to present a better picture of the total number of students in each class, which makes the statistics and the percentages more effective in communicating my teaching effectiveness.

I am currently in the process of turning a course I created last semester, LGLS 101: Introduction to American Law, into an online course. This, combined with the inclusion of said course into the GEP curriculum, should help sustain the teaching of at least one course every semester. Teaching the course online will also allow other students, such as those at our Rochester campus, to take the required first-year Legal Studies course. This will make a possible future transfer to the Winona campus easier.

The program name and major name change from Paralegal to Legal Studies has already positively affected our program. Not only have three students transferred from other majors to Legal Studies based on knowing now that a broader legal program exists, but a number of students have chosen WSU above other schools near the Minneapolis/St. Paul area based on our program. Hopefully, the past confusion that has taken place where parents believed our Paralegal Program was a two-year program will not take place again.

Criterion 2: “Scholarly or Creative Achievement or Research.”

Percentage of Development: 30 percent

I also believe that the third year is a good time for me to revisit my own scholarly and creative achievement and research. Now that my changes to the curriculum are in place in Legal Studies, it is time to see where the dust settles, after what must qualify as a potential record-setting A2C2/CPPS/GEP Committee year for junior faculty.

The book review I drafted of James Patterson Smith’s book *Hurricane Katrina: The Mississippi Story* has been published in the spring 2015 journal *Louisiana History*. The journal has also asked me to review *Until You Are Dead Dead Dead: The Hanging of Albert Edwin Batson* by Jim Bradshaw and Danielle Miller, published by the University of Mississippi Press.

I am also working with former professor and colleague Burk Foster on editing a revised edition of the book *Death Watch: A Death Penalty Anthology*, published by Prentiss Hall in 2000. We are currently engaging in discussions regarding the content and publisher. I have already made a research trip to Terre Haute, Indiana to research the federal death penalty, which might be included in the new edition of said book.

By the end of the semester, I will submit my book proposal to a university press to convert my dissertation into a book. I postponed sending it in early September to make some last minute revisions to the sample chapter. I am going to send it to the Louisiana State University Press after receiving considerable interest for the project at the last annual meeting of the Louisiana Historical Association. The topic of the book is the federal court reform of the prison farm systems in Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana in the 1960s and 1970s and the judges that led those reforms.

I am also presenting a paper at the American Historical Association’s annual conference in Atlanta, Georgia in January. The topic of the paper involves the unique nature of the history internship and where our legal studies internship fits within the history program here at WSU.

Criterion 3: “Evidence of Continuing Preparation and Study.”

Percentage of Development: 15 percent

I am attending the American Association for Paralegal Education’s national conference in Milwaukee October 21-24, 2015. I am hoping to network with other legal studies and paralegal educators throughout our region and our nation. I am also planning to attend the regional meeting. The date and location of this meeting have yet to be determined.

As mentioned earlier, I will be attending the American Historical Association's annual meeting in Atlanta in January 2016. I will attend a number of panels that are focused on my teaching and research interests.

I attended a WeTeach course this summer offered by TLT to help create an online version of my LGLS 101: Introduction to American Law course. I am currently attending the second portion of that course, and the online version of LGLS 101 will be taught in the spring 2016 semester.

Criterion 4: "Contributions to Student Growth and Development."

Percentage of Development: 20 percent

As director of the Legal Studies program, I am fully committed to contributing to student growth and development. I am the faculty advisor of the Student Association of Paralegals and the Prelaw Association. I enjoy this role, and I hope to contribute to continued student growth and their plans for their associations. I am also the faculty advisor of the Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society (PAT). I was a very active PAT member as an undergrad and graduate student, serving as president of a National Chapter of the Year twice at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. I hope I can bring that sort of success and enthusiasm to our chapter here at WSU. And finally, the Prelaw Association has gathered some steam, working with the Mock Trial team to help possibly raise funds for invitational tournaments the team wants to compete in this fall in preparation for regionals in the spring.

My role as the prelaw advisor contributes to student development as well. Again, I am planning for a trip to the Upper Midwest Law School Fair in Minneapolis in mid-November. This will be the third year in a row that I have taken prelaw students to The Cities to visit law schools and attend the fair. I also expect to have repeat visits from admissions staff at Hamline Law School and Marquette Law School in the Spring. Additionally, I am continuing our program of offering students a practice LSAT under timed conditions. I proctor this test for students on select Saturdays during the semester. In mid-October, I will proctor the fifth such test for our prelaw students.

After a successful competition at the 2015 regionals, our Mock Trial team is heading into the 2016 regionals with more organization and planning. Building on that experience, our students plan on attending a number of invitational tournaments in the fall. I will be attending these tournaments with them as their official American Mock Trial Association (AMTA) coach. As their coach, I help them coordinate funding for trips and prepare for competition by attending and supervising practice and offering guidance.

Criterion 5: “Service to the University and Community.”

Percentage of Development: 5 percent

I am again continuing my service on a number of university committees. I am currently a member of the All-University Campaign Committee and the long-term Improvement, Accreditation, and Assessment Committee (now known as ImpAAct, though this might not have caught on yet). I have also moved from the Faculty Association Tech Committee to the All University Tech Committee.

Furthermore, serve as the secretary of the Winona Area Humane Society Board of Directors. I have been a member of the board since January 2015. I envision this as a way to stay connected to the Winona community at large. I thoroughly enjoy and respect the work our board does. I will continue my commitment to the Board during my three-year term and possibly beyond.