REPORT OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE
DISPOSITION OF STUDENT PETITIONS: 1999-2000

With this document, the Administrative Committee is inaugurating a practice of reporting to the Faculty each fall on the Committee’s decisions on individual student petitions received during the preceding academic year. Overall, the Committee decided seventy-seven petitions during the 1999-2000 academic year. The summary that follows divides those petitions into specific categories and indicates what the Committee decided or, in the case of petitions requiring faculty action, what action was recommended by the Committee.

The Committee’s responsibilities broadly cover three categories: petitions for readmission to the law school, petitions to permit deviation from Faculty regulations, and petitions to correct errors in the grading process. Because of the individualized nature of these matters, the Committee’s decisions require consideration of the “totality of circumstances” in each case. Not surprisingly, the burden on the student to show special circumstances varies greatly with the type of petition. In the case of a petition for the readmission of a student who has been dismissed for poor scholarship, the burden on the petitioner is very high. At the other end of the spectrum, petitions for a one- or two-credit overload in a semester are usually granted unless the petitioner’s record casts doubt on the student’s ability to assume an additional academic burden. Generally, we have not indicated in this summary the particular reasons for granting or denying individual petitions, except in a few instances where that information seemed needed for clarity.

Of the seventy-seven petitions considered, the Committee granted 73%, denied 19%, and gave partial relief in 8% of the cases. Of course, these percentages vary with the type of case. For petitions seeking to remove, prevent, or otherwise avoid the consequences of not meeting academic standards

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1 In addition to addressing individual petitions, the Committee makes recommendations to the faculty regarding changes in the academic program. Those recommendations are not covered in this memorandum.

2 An exception to this approach has been made for petitions to retake the final examination in Evidence when next given for the sole purpose of qualifying for admission into clinical courses. These petitions are filed by students who have received a grade below C in Evidence, and are routinely granted by the Committee.
For petitions seeking waiver of rules in order to shape the course of study to meet the student’s individual needs, the Committee granted 85%, denied 12%, and gave partial relief in 3% of the cases. For petitions seeking to correct mistakes in the grading process, the Committee granted 100% of the petitions.

**SUMMARY**

**Petitions for Readmission**

- 6 petitions received
  - 4 students had been dismissed for academic difficulty at end of 1st year
    - 2 denied
    - 2 granted with special conditions by Faculty upon Committee recommendation
  - 1 student had been dismissed for academic difficulty at end of 3d year: denied
  - 1 student had dropped out for work related reasons: granted with special conditions

**Petitions to Retake Evidence to Qualify for Clinicals**

- 5 petitions receive: all granted

**Petitions to Overload**

- 9 petitions received: all granted

**Petitions to Underload**

- 7 petitions received: all granted
  - 4 had already satisfied residency requirements
  - 2 showed good cause to accelerate into 2d year right of 3d year students to take a 1 credit underload
  - 1 showed good cause for 3 credit underload on condition that graduation date extended

**Petitions for Grade Change Because of Mathematical or Clerical Error**

- 7 petitions received: all granted by Faculty upon Committee recommendation
Petitions for Waiver of Late-Clock-in Penalty

11 petitions received
  5 involved late LRW briefs
    4 had received F-Absence (note: rule regarding penalties has been changed)
      3 denied
      1 granted
    1 had received reduction from B- to D+: denied
  3 involved late in-class exams
    2 denied
    1 granted
  3 involved late take-home exams
    2 granted
    1 mitigated (reduction of B- (exam grade) to D mitigated to C)

Petitions for Waiver of F-Absence for Failure to Appear for Exam at Scheduled Time

3 petitions received
  3 mitigated (B- (exam grade) reduced to C; B to C+; B- to C)

Petitions to Transfer Credits

9 petitions received
  3 sought credits for summer programs less than 6 weeks long at other US law schools:
    all granted
  3 sought credits for semester-long visits at other US law schools: all granted
  2 sought credits for semester-long visits at law schools abroad
    1 granted as to programs operated by US law schools, denied without prejudice as to program operated by foreign university
    1 denied
  1 sought credit for prior US law school study: denied
Petitions to Waive or Substitute Certain Required Course in JD/MBA Program

3 petitions received: all granted because of special problems with scheduling of courses

Petitions to Extend Time Requirements

8 petitions received
4 petitions for extensions of time to submit papers: all granted
1 petition for an additional leave of absence beyond the permitted 2 years: granted
1 petition to extend a leave of absence and waive the 6-year rule: granted
1 petition to extend the 6-year rule: granted, with special conditions
1 petition to extend a 1-semester clinical for a second semester: granted

Miscellaneous

2 petitions to repeat the first semester of the first year from students who had taken leaves after poor academic performance: both granted with special conditions
1 petition to accelerate graduation date: denied
1 petition from day student to take a second evening class: denied
1 petition to retain position of officer in a student organization while on academic probation: granted
1 petition to remove an F-Absence: denied
1 petition to retake three courses: denied as to 2 of the courses; granted as to 1
1 petition for waiver of requirement to repeat failed first-year course: denied
1 lost bluebook (take-home portion of exam): on recommendation of Committee, Faculty gave student options for determination of grade in course