

NAME

Citizenship Project

One part of my plan to expand and improve my citizenship is to become more involved in the external speakers committee. As part of that committee I am charged with helping to bring in speakers from other schools to speak with our faculty. This is an important part of expanding our brand and to improving our school's scholarly culture. As the junior member of the committee I have attended meetings and approved decisions made by more senior faculty. I have also acted as host to visiting speakers, showing them around campus and taking them to dinners. While my involvement has been as expected to this point, I know I can do more to contribute to the committee. Part of this is to be proactive in finding ways to help more senior members of the committee. One way I intend to do this is by more actively seeking out potential speakers and asking for ways to help rather than waiting for assignments.

My other major committee assignment is on the appointments committee. Our work for the year is mostly done. If I am on the committee again next year I can apply many things I learned this year to be a more valuable contributor. For example, I learned ways to more proactively vet candidates to help the committee chair figure out our applicant pool, and I learned a lot about how to interact with groups of faculty to arrive at decisions that everyone is happy with.

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Faculty Development Plan

A. Self-assessment

I have strengths and weaknesses in teaching and scholarship. My first time teaching each of the 3 classes I teach went well, although I think I had the usual bumps along the way. I have very much enjoyed teaching. I try to make class fun and interesting so that I can both challenge the students but also keep them engaged. Much of the material I teach is difficult, and so at times I have struggled to figure out the best way to teach it so that I can reach all of the students while still challenging the top students. On the second time around I am trying to find ways to provide summaries of the materials that help the students understand the big picture. Another thing I am working on is being more accessible to a broader group of students. It has become apparent that a certain group of students gravitate towards me but that others find me intimidating. I am working on ways to connect with all of the students.

As discussed in my Scholarship Project, I need to do a better job of managing my use of research assistants. To do this I plan to develop a system of accountability for them. I also need to balance my writing and empirical research to ensure that I do not get stuck doing research while neglecting the writing.

B. Goals and Activities to Accomplish Those Goals

My goals on scholarship are to get a better pipeline of scholarship developed. Because I do a lot of empirical research my first year was spent trying to develop this research, which led to a number of dead ends. I feel like I have now found my groove, and I need to spend this coming summer getting a number of articles developed so that I have a continuous flow of scholarship. To do this I plan to start writing earlier. Last summer I spent most of the summer researching and didn't get enough writing done and this summer I plan to start writing early instead of waiting for my empirical research to be finished.

On citizenship, I plan to increase my involvement on the external speakers committee. As part of that committee I am charged with helping to bring in speakers from other schools to speak with our faculty. This is an important part of expanding our brand and to improving our school's scholarly culture. As the junior member of the committee I have attended meetings and approved decisions made by more senior faculty. I have also acted as host to visiting speakers, showing them around campus and taking them to dinners. While my involvement has been as expected to this point, I know I can do more to contribute to the committee. Part of this is to be proactive in finding ways to help more senior members of the committee. One way I intend to do this is by more actively seeking out potential speakers and asking for ways to help rather than waiting for assignments.

C. Personal Goals and Law School / University Aims

My personal goals are closely tied with my professional goals, as described above. One main goal is to connect with a broader group of students and help them feel included in the intellectual and spiritual aspects of the law school.

D. Resources Needed

The law school provides excellent resources that have been sufficient for my needs. The deanery has agreed to allow me to use extra hours of research assistance. The law school also provides the resources I need for traveling to conferences.

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Scholarship Strategies Project

My scholarship to this point has mostly considered the empirical realities of the legislative process. I have conducted interviews with various actors in the process and have done studies of the evolution of the Statutes at Large. Because my scholarship is often empirical in nature it can be more time-consuming than much legal scholarship. It requires me to spend time empirically analyzing materials, which often leads to dead ends that are only apparent after much effort. However, I enjoy this type of scholarship and believe it makes useful contributions, and so I plan to continue doing it. Now that I am in my second year I have had enough time to figure out where I am going with my scholarship and so I believe I should be able to pick up the pace despite the obstacles empirical research presents.

One thing I plan to do a better job of this summer is using research assistants. I learned a lot in my first year how to manage research assistants. The biggest obstacle is managing underperforming research assistants by finding ways to monitor their progress to ensure they are making progress towards completion. Last year I relied on research assistants I thought were working but turned out to be doing little work. I plan to use this semester and the spring and summer to do more empirical research with research assistants, and so I need to do a better job of managing them. I will do that by creating a better system of accountability and following up more frequently with research assistants.

Another part of my plan is to begin writing earlier. Another issue with empirical research is that I can get caught up doing the empirical parts and ignoring the writing. I have found that writing is often the best way of clarifying issues with my research or areas where I need to change or expand my empirical research. I plan to start writing early instead of waiting for the empirical research to be finished.