FSW PARALEGAL STUDIES, ARCHITECTURE, CONSTRUCTION, & ENGINEERING PROGRAMS BREAKOUT MEETING FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2024 2:05 PM – 3:00 PM ZOOM

In Attendance: Professor Mary Conwell; Professor Matt Hoffman; Professor Munir Al-Suleh; Professor Sandi Towers; Professor Michael Rubbinaccio; Professor Nancy De La Vega

The following topics were discussed at the September 2024 breakout meeting.

1. 12-Week Classes. Currently, there is a push for 12-week classes for both ground and online courses. It was discussed whether 12 weeks would work for Business Law. Professor Hoffman said that 12 weeks are too short for Business Law and that no PLA course works for 12 weeks. Professor Towers thought that Intro to Paralegal Studies could be 12 weeks. Professor Al-Suleh said that GIS 1040/GIS 1045 would work in his areas. Professors wondered where the 12-week drive is originating. Professor Hoffman predicted students will choose 12-week classes over 15-week classes. He asked if 12-week courses are good for students. Professor Hoffman stated that 12-week courses are not beneficial for students and that there are scheduling issues for ground 12-week courses. Professor Towers pointed out that transparency is needed for the motivation behind 12-week courses.
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI). Professor Towers puts in all her course syllabi that there is to be no use by students of AI. Professor Hoffman has a final exam be a video/final project/meeting with the professor that incorporates AI. Professor Al-Suleh does not find AI to be an issue. Professor De La Vega stated that AI cannot replace manual drafting. Professor Rubbinaccio embraces AI but requires students to acknowledge their use of AI. Some of the professors have students write their resumes with the help of AI.
3. American Bar Association (ABA) Virtual Site Visit. There was discussion of the upcoming ABA re-approval site visit that would take place on Zoom. The ABA site team will meet with all stakeholders of the Paralegal Studies Program: students; faculty; graduates; administrators; Institutional Research; librarians; and the advisory board.
4. American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) National Conference. Chair Conwell will attend the AAfPE Conference in Washington, D.C., October 23-26, 2024. The conference will focus on the incorporation of artificial intelligence into paralegal studies instruction. The AAfPE conference is an opportunity for paralegal studies program directors and professors from across the United States to network and exchange ideas.

The breakout session was adjourned.