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IV. ONLINE EDUCATION

In the fall of 2012 Dean Edley hired two online instructional designers, Alan Roper

and Kara Ganter, to develop online courses. During the 2012-­‐2013 academic year, the Online Education Committee, chaired by Peter Menell and with considerable input and assistance from Patricia Donnelly, considered a range of online strategies. In April of 2013, Dean Edley asked Andrew Guzman, Chuck Weisselberg, and Patricia Donnelly to lead the online effort. In May 2013, the current Online Education Committee was named, though it was only able to begin its work as a committee in late August. The Online Committee provided a report to the faculty on September 20, 2013, accompanied by a presentation and discussion and an additional meeting of interested faculty was held not long afterwards. Today’s memo does not revisit the broader policy issues raised in the September 20 memo. It instead seeks to update the faculty on what has happened with respect to the creation of an online program.

Going into the fall, everyone understood that we were operating without clarity with respect to a number of issues that needed to be resolved, and that this uncertainty carried with it a risk of delay or alterations in plans. Throughout the fall, the online committee worked through a variety of questions, For example, the intellectual property issues between the designer of a course and the law school were settled in a way that we believe will satisfy all concerned. In addition, the online committee and Dean Lester engaged in extensive discussions and consultation with faculty on the question of how best to structure the compensation of course designers.

Settling these various issues with proper care required postponement of the launch

of Introduction to IP, which we now hope to offer in the fall of 2014. In addition, two of the designers who had been working on courses ultimately chose not to continue.

In light of these events, the current plan is to move forward with two online classes: Introduction to American Law, to be offered in the late spring of 2014, and Introduction to IP, to be offered in the fall of 2014.

The committee will also explore the possibility of offering additional IP courses, including perhaps a suite of courses leading to a certificate. Other options may include the LRW course mentioned in the IELE section of the memo, shorter online courses (perhaps 5-­‐10 hours of instruction); and “annual updates” in areas of law that change frequently. The committee has not yet had a chance to discuss or study these or other ideas, so they remain speculative. Nevertheless, the progress of the last few months leaves us in a position to move forward more quickly in 2014.

With respect to revenues, it is too early to form meaningful estimates. Introduction to U.S. Law and Introduction to IP both have promise, and we expect them to more than cover the variable costs associated with offering them. With luck, they may even cover the fixed costs of the online effort. We should aim to do better than

break-­‐even (taking into account all costs) in FY2014-­‐15. The foundation that has been put in place this year and the effort to develop additional offerings both contribute to this goal.

As a final note, an important side benefit of the online initiative is our instructional designers, who are a terrific teaching resource for faculty. The instructional designers are available to work with faculty with an eye toward improving their standard bricks-­‐and-­‐mortar courses. The available assistance includes help identifying and developing learning objectives linked to formative and summative assessments, delivering content in new and innovative ways, and using the learning management system to better organize content and maximize use of face-­‐to-­‐face class time. Faculty members interested in taking advantage of this resource should contact Patricia Donnelly.