

Rutgers University Graduate School of Education

Higher Education Law, Fall 2016

15:230:606:01

Three credits

(Syllabus adapted from Professor Barbara Lee)

Dr. Blanca E. Vega
Tuesdays, 1:10 – 3:50 p.m.
Scott Hall Room 203
Livingston Campus

Office hours by appt.
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Seminar

Catalog Description

Legislative, judicial, and administrative sources of law affecting institutions of higher education; focuses on the legal implications of administrative decision making in such institutions, issues of educational and employee equity, and strategies for avoiding legal problems.

Course Objectives

This is a graduate-level course that requires substantial reading and analysis of both the course text and the decisions of state and federal courts. The course has the following general learning goals:

1. Enable the student to understand the foundational legal principles affecting the practice of college student affairs
2. Provide the tools to equip the student to analyze a situation and identify potential legal issues
3. Enable the student to understand how to incorporate legal principles into the policy development process

Specific Learning Outcomes—Based upon ACPA/NASPA Professional Competencies

At the end of the course, the successful student should be able to:

1. Explain the basic tenets of personal or organizational risk and liability as they relate to one's work
2. Explain the differences between public and private higher education with respect to the legal system and what they may mean for students, faculty, and staff at both types of institutions.

3. Describe the evolving legal theories that define the student–institution relationship and how they affect professional practice
4. Maintain an appropriate degree of confidentiality that follows applicable legal and licensing requirements, facilitates the development of trusting relationships, and recognizes when confidentiality should be broken to protect the student or others.
5. Describe how national constitutions and laws influence the rights that students, faculty, and staff have on public and private college campuses.
6. Explain the concepts of risk management and liability reduction strategies.
7. Explain when to consult with one’s immediate supervisor and campus legal counsel about those matters that may have legal ramifications.
8. Act in accordance with federal and state/province laws and institutional policies regarding nondiscrimination.
9. Describe how policy is developed in one’s department and institution, as well as the local, state/province, and federal levels of government.
10. Identify the major policy makers who influence one’s professional practice at the institutional, local, state/province, and federal levels of government.
11. Identify the internal and external special interest groups that influence policy makers at the department, institutional, local, state/province, and federal levels
12. Describe the public debates surrounding the major policy issues in higher education, including access, affordability, accountability, and quality.
13. Describe the governance systems at one’s institution, including the governance structures for faculty, staff, and students.
14. Describe the system used to govern or coordinate one’s state/province system of higher education, including community college, for-profit, and private higher education.
15. Describe the federal and state/province role in higher education
16. Explain the advantages and disadvantages of different types of decision making processes (e.g., consensus, majority vote, and decision by authority).
17. Identify and then effectively consult with key stakeholders and those with diverse perspectives to make informed decisions.

Course Requirements and Grading

The course will rely heavily on student discussion and analysis of real situations involving student affairs professionals. Students are responsible for all assigned reading and for participation in class discussion. Evaluation of students will include:

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|---|------------|
| Three parts toward the final research paper | 30 percent |
| 1. Annotated bibliography | |

2. Literature Review
3. Introduction

Research paper on topic of student’s choice (must be approved by instructor) and brief presentation to class	60 percent
Class participation	10 percent

Required Course Materials

Course Text: William A. Kaplin and Barbara A. Lee. *The Law of Higher Education, Fifth Edition (Student Version)*. Jossey-Bass, Inc., 2015. ISBN 978-1-118-03662-4. Cases and materials are posted on course website (Sakai)

Academic Integrity Policy

The Office of Student Conduct supervises issues related to violations of academic integrity (see <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>). Please familiarize yourself with the university policy on academic integrity at <http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/>.

Students with Disabilities

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus’s disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>.

Assignments

THE COLLEGE AND ITS EMPLOYEES

September 6, 2016 **Course Introduction**
 Overview of Higher Education Law

Assignment for 9/6/16

Text, Chapter One, pp. 1-32
 The Judicial System in the United States

September 13, 2016 **Legal Liability, Tort and Contract Liability**

Assignment for 9/13/16

Text, Chapter Two, pp. 66-72, Chapter Three, pp. 97-135

Nero v. Kansas State University

Nova Southeastern v. Gross

Orzech v. Fairleigh Dickinson University

September 20, 2016 **Regulation of Employment**

Assignment for 9/20/16

Text, Chapter 4, pp. 136-138, 159-210

Green v. Tulane University

Newberry v. East Texas State Univ.

THE COLLEGE AND ITS STUDENTS

September 27, 2016 **Admissions, Affirmative Action, FERPA**

Assignment for 10/4/16

Text, Chapter 7, pp. 376-424; pp. 495-506

Grutter v. Bollinger

Fisher v. University of Texas-Austin

FERPA and Campus Security

October 4, 2016 **Student Free Speech, Peer Harassment and Assault, Sex Discrimination & Retaliation**

Assignment for 10/11/16

Text Chapter 7, pp. 353-376; Chapter 8, pp. 533-553; Chapter 11, pp. 805-812

OCR Dear Colleague Letter

Williams v. University of Georgia

McGrath v. Dominican College

Emeldi v. University of Oregon

- October 11, 2016 **Housing Regulations and Searches, Computer Network Issues
Campus Security**
- Assignment for 10/18/16
- Text, Chapter 7, pp. 446-490
Limpuangthip v. United States
State v. Houvener
Estate of Butler v. Maharishi University
Research paper topic and outline due today by email
- October 18, 2016 **Student Legal Rights in Academic Matters; Academic Accommodations**
- Assignment for 10/25/16
- Text, Chapter 8, pp. 507-533; 553-568
Regents of University of Michigan v. Ewing
Guckenberger v. Boston University
Literature Review Due
- October 25, 2016 **Discipline of Students**
- Assignment for 11/1/16
- Text, Chapter 9, pp. 569-602
University of Texas Medical School v. Than
Tatro v. University of Minnesota
Schaer v. Brandeis University
- November 1, 2016 **Student Free Speech**
- Assignment for 11/8/16
- Text, Chapter 9, pp. 602-636
Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia
UWM Post, Inc. v. Board of Regents, University of Wisconsin
Ward v. Polite

November 8, 2016 **Legal Issues Involving Student Organizations**

Assignment for 11/15/16

Text, Chapter 10, pp. 637-685

Summary and analysis of *Christian Legal Society v. Martinez*

Pi Lambda Phi Fraternity v. University of Pittsburgh

INTRODUCTION DUE TODAY

FACULTY

November 15, 2016 **Faculty Tenure and Academic Freedom**

Assignment for 9/27/16

Text, Chapter Five, pp. 243-254; Chapter Six, pp. 286-327

AAUP 1940 Statement on Academic Freedom and Tenure

AAUP Statement on Professional Ethics

Martin v. Parrish

Parate v. Isibor

November 22, 2016 NO CLASS

ATHLETICS

November 29, 2016 **Athletics**

Assignment for 11/29/16

Text, Chapter 10; pp. 704-745; 822-23

Choike v. Slippery Rock University

Knapp v. Northwestern University

Research paper due today

December 6, 2016 Student Presentations

December 13, 2016 Student Presentations