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
Office hours by appt.
Tuesdays, 1:10 – 3:50 p.m.
bev2102@gmail.com
Scott Hall Room 203
Seminar
Livingston Campus

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:

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  

Class participation  

60 percent  

10 percent  

Required Course Materials


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**