



The State Bar *of California*

**OPEN SESSION
AGENDA ITEM
AUGUST 2019
COMMITTEE OF BAR EXAMINERS ITEM O-400**

DATE: August 13, 2019

TO: Members, Committee of Bar Examiners

FROM: Natalie Leonard, Principal Program Analyst, Office of Admissions

SUBJECT: Decision on San Francisco Law School Request for Major Change – Campus Move

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Alliant University has filed a Major Change Request seeking permission to move San Francisco Law School from its current location to a new location approximately twelve miles away at the Emery Tech Center in Emeryville, California effective November 4, 2019. It is recommended that the move be approved.

BACKGROUND

San Francisco Law School is seeking to move its campus from the current location at One Beach Street in San Francisco to a proposed site approximately twelve miles away at the Emery Tech Center in Emeryville, California effective November 4, 2019.

The school currently shares space with Alliant University's other programs and would continue to do so in the proposed new space as well.

San Francisco Law School has been in operation since 1909. It merged with Alliant University ten years ago, adding a J.D. program to that school's wide array of degree programs in other areas. After the merger, the school added a San Diego campus, and also consolidated the San Francisco campus with Alliant University's San Francisco campus at One Beach Street in San Francisco.

The proposed new location of the law school will be approximately twelve driving miles from the current location.

An accredited law school must request and obtain the prior approval of the Committee of Bar Examiners (Committee) by filing a Major Change Request under accredited Rule 4.164 in order to obtain approval for “changing the . . . location of a branch campus or satellite campus” pursuant to Rule 4.165(B).

Therefore, San Francisco Law School has filed this Major Change request seeking permission to move its San Francisco campus from One Beach Street, San Francisco across the bay to the Emery Tech Center at 1475 66th Street, Suite 104, Emeryville, California effective November 4, 2019. Alliant University hopes to move the full San Francisco campus across all degree programs to this location on that same time frame.

DISCUSSION

The school provided the attached Major Change request and was forthcoming with information. As part of the preparation of this item, staff reviewed the courtesy copy of the application to seek permission to move that Alliant University also filed with the Western Association of Schools and Colleges addressing all programs offered by Alliant University the San Francisco Bay Area. WASC has given its permission for the move.

The school undertook a structured process in selecting this site for its move, balancing facilities needed, cost and amenities before proposing this this location. The study included holding town halls and surveys involving students, including law students. Approximately one-third of the San Francisco campus’s law students live in San Francisco, while about two-thirds live elsewhere, largely in the East Bay. Six students have indicated that they may consider transferring, but they also expressed a willingness to begin classes at the Emeryville location.

The J.D. program’s curriculum will continue without change in the new location, though the school may use this opportunity to begin the transition to an online library.

The facilities are significantly smaller, but based on the results of a utilization survey, the school is confident that the space will be adequate, particularly because the space will be customized to the school’s specifications. The total space available to the University will be reduced from approximately 51,000 square feet to approximately 23,000 square feet, and leasing costs will be reduced accordingly, including dedicated law school classrooms. The school will study utilization twice each year to confirm the adequacy of the space or make any needed adjustments across all degree programs.

The new location has amenities that students requested. It is accessible by BART and a free Emery-Go-Round shuttle, bike share, and a major highway. It is also convenient to restaurants, a grocery store, and shopping.

Because the move will take place during the semester, the school proposed several steps to ease the transition and limit disruption. First, all students and faculty have been advised of the proposed move, so they have ample time to make any schedule changes required. Second, during the actual move period, classes will be conducted online via Zoom.com video streaming

platform. Third, the school is in the process of contracting with Wyzant tutoring services to provide extra help for any students who may need academic support during the transition. The school continues to be in contact with students, faculty and staff, making changes as necessary to support the proposed move.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee approve the move of San Francisco Law School, in concert with rest of the Alliant University's San Francisco campus, to Emeryville, California effective November 4, 2019 or soon thereafter, allowing for minor contingencies as to timing.

The school is advised to continue to monitor the timeline for the move, making adjustments as needed to support effective student learning.

Consistent with past practice, the Committee can also ask that the school have a video call with the State Bar to tour the new facility to confirm the move's successful completion.

MOTION

Should the Committee agree with the above recommendation, the following motion would be appropriate:

Move that the Major Change request from San Francisco Law School seeking permission to move its campus from One Beach Street, San Francisco to 1475 66th Street, Emeryville, California effective November 4, 2019 be received, filed and granted, subject to a video call or visit to confirm the successful completion of the move within 90 days after completion of the move. The school is encouraged to monitor the timeline and make any adjustments necessary to ensure a successful move that limits disruption to the J.D. program.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Major Change Request from San Francisco Law School



SAN FRANCISCO LAW SCHOOL
ALLIANT INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
1 Beach Street, San Francisco, CA 94133
415-626-5550

May 31, 2019

The State Bar of California
Attn: Natalie Leonard
180 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Natalie,

The parent company of San Francisco Law School (SFLS), Alliant International University (AIU), has decided to move its San Francisco campus, currently located at 1 Beach Street, to a new location in Emeryville City.

This letter and the accompanying documents are intended as a request for permission to move San Francisco Law School to the new location located at 1475 66th Street, Emeryville, CA 94608. I understand that there is a \$250 deposit required for the Application for Major Change Fee. This will be sent separately from AIU's San Diego offices.

The move is currently planned for the end of October 2019. The current location will close on October 25. Classes scheduled for October 28 – 31 will be conducted online via the streaming meeting platform Zoom. All classes will be held at the new location starting Monday, November 4.

The University is moving to this new location to reduce overall operating costs. The new space is therefore much smaller than the current space. The new campus will have nine classrooms, a centrally located library, two shared adjunct offices, a student lounge area, a computer lab with printing resources, and numerous study rooms/areas. The building is attached to a covered and secured parking garage. Within the new space SFLS will have an office space of approximately 429 sq. ft. This will include a Receptionist's desk, a Registrar's office, a Dean's office and a small storage closet.

SFLS students have already been given the new location address and dates of the move. A town hall was held with all SFLS students and the University Provost within a week of the announcement of the move. This meeting was used to help the students know the details of the move and to start the process of collecting information and suggestions on ways to mitigate the impact of the move.

Currently AIU and SFLS Administrators are gathering information about the new location to help students with the transition. AIU and SFLS are also working on a plan to help minimize the impact of the move. As mentioned above, using online web streaming technologies during the transition to help ease the change is one option that is being explored. SFLS is also negotiating with Wyzant Tutoring services. Wyzant offers professional, licensed attorney's as tutors for a small hourly fee. If approved by AIU, SFLS students will have access to these tutors as additional support beyond the standard meetings with their Student Advisor and/or professors. Students will be given a limited, but sufficient number of hours that they can meet with tutors during the end of fall semester at no additional cost to the students.

AIU and SFLS are collecting and considering any and all suggestions from students, faculty and staff on how to make this move as smooth as possible. Final plans will be provided to the students as soon as they are completed.

Please review the attached information and let me know if there is anything else that you require in order to approve this move.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the number or email below.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Weimer
Interim Dean San Francisco Law School
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