

## OPEN SESSION MINUTES

### THE COMMITTEE OF STATE BAR ACCREDITED AND REGISTERED SCHOOLS (CSBARS) OF THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA

June 20, 2019

State Bar of California  
180 Howard Street  
San Francisco, California

A meeting of the Committee of State Bar Accredited and Registered Schools (CSBARS) of The State Bar of California convened in open session at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 20, 2019, in a meeting room of the State Bar offices in Los Angeles, Jackie Gardina presiding. The meeting was partially live webcast, with interruptions due to unexpected technical difficulties.

The open session portion of the meeting concluded at approximately 5:00 p.m., at which time the meeting adjourned, there being no closed session.

#### **A. WELCOME AND ROLL CALL**

Chair Jackie Gardina called the meeting to order.

Michael Mullen called the roll. All members were present: Jackie Gardina (Chair), Dean Barbieri, Greg Brandes, Kareem Gongora, Martin Pritikin, and Brian Purtill. Staff present were Donna Hershkowitz, Amy Nuñez, Mark Torres-Gil, Natalie Leonard, Destie Overpeck, Caroline Holmes and Michael Mullen. Staff member Carolina Almarante joined later by phone.

#### **B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The April 23, 2019 minutes were revised to reflect that Kareem Gongora was present for that meeting. Dean Barbieri moved that the minutes be approved as amended, Brian Purtill seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#### **C. CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was received at the start of the meeting, but it was announced that public comment would be taken as each item was discussed on the agenda.

#### **D. STAFF REPORT**

##### **1. REPORT ON THE LAW SCHOOL ASSEMBLY** **(NATALIE LEONARD)**

Natalie Leonard provided a summary of the topics discussed at the Law School Assembly, which was held on May 7 in San Francisco and repeated on May 8 in Los Angeles. The meeting was enhanced this year to provide more opportunities for engagement and dialogue between the

State Bar and all law schools. CSBARS members and other law school deans are invited to submit topics for the 2020 Law School Assembly to [admissions@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:admissions@calbar.ca.gov). The date has not yet been finalized for that meeting.

**2. UPDATE ON THE RELEASE OF MINIMUM, CUMULATIVE PASS RATE REPORTING FORMS**  
**(NATALIE LEONARD)**

Minimum Cumulative Reporting Forms have been issued and are due on July 1, 2019 from each California Accredited Law School.

**3. RELEASE OF QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER**  
**(NATALIE LEONARD)**

The inaugural issue of the quarterly e-newsletter to all California was published in May 2019. Updates will be sent quarterly to all law school deans in California. Those with topic suggestions for future issues should send them to [admissions@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:admissions@calbar.ca.gov).

**4. IMPLEMENTATION OF ONLINE ACCREDITATION RULES AND GUIDELINES**  
**(NATALIE LEONARD)**

Using the posted CBE Agenda item on the same topic, the CSBARS previewed the final forms that unaccredited law schools will now use to seek accreditation, as well as the major change process that accredited schools will use to expand their online offerings as part of their J.D. programs.

It is expected that the applications will be released after the close of the Committee of Bar Examiners meeting and e-mailed to each Unaccredited Law School Dean. Applications will initially be accepted via [admissions@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:admissions@calbar.ca.gov), but may be accepted via AIMS computer system in the future.

**5. UPDATE ON STATE BAR'S DEMOGRAPHIC DATA COLLECTION PROPOSAL**  
**(NATALIE LEONARD)**

The State Bar will be expanding the number of categories for which it collects demographic data about law students and law faculty at unaccredited and accredited law schools starting in 2020. A posted presentation listing the proposed categories was shared.

The State Bar invites feedback about how to best collect this data going forward.

Schools should plan that they will need to survey the entire student body in 2020 to create a baseline for the new categories. Each category will continue to include a "Decline to State" option for those who do not wish to self-identify. Schools will report data in the aggregate, just as they do now.

The State Bar is also interested in the reasons why students leave of law school before earning a J.D. degree. Schools indicated a willingness to request this information, but also expressed

concern that many students do not provide this information or do not fully state their reasons for withdrawing, and this may be a limitation on the data collected.

During the public comment period, several schools expressed concern about their ability to collect the data, students' willingness to disclose the information requested to the State Bar, and privacy concerns.

All schools are invited to be a part of the informal working group that will be assessing the procedural instructions for collecting this expanded data. Current volunteers include Concord School of Law, JFK University College of Law, Santa Barbara and Ventura Colleges of Law, and Northwestern California School. Interested schools should write to [admissions@calbar.ca.gov](mailto:admissions@calbar.ca.gov) with comments or requests to participate in the informal working group.

6. GUESTS: Jamienne Studley, President, and Richard Osborn, Vice President of the Senior College and University Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges

The purpose of this item was to share the framework guiding the creation of a new deemed accredited status for schools that are accredited by regional accreditors approved by the Department of Education, as well as an overall review of the rules and guidelines to incorporate best practices. Because the webcast was experiencing technical difficulty during this portion of the agenda, the PowerPoint presentation that was shown is posted on the State Bar's website under this agenda item on the CSBARS June 20, 2019 Agenda.

The President of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges Senior College and University Commission, Jamie Studley, said she appreciated the chance to join the conversation on how the State Bar can achieve its goals.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Martin Pritikin moved the meeting be adjourned, and the motion was seconded by Brian Purtill, and approved unanimously.

End Open Session

No Closed Session

MEETING ADJOURNED