

October 11, 2017

To: Faculty Senate
University of Louisville

From: Kimberly Kempf-Leonard, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences



As noted in the correspondence from Rodger A. Payne, Chair, Department of Political Science; the faculty of the department voted in April, 2017 to recommend closure of the Paralegal Studies Program. In subsequent discussions with Robert Goldstein, Institutional Research, the decision was revised to be "suspension" which, after five years, automatically results in discontinuation of the program. While suspended, the program will not be accepting any new students. I agree with the decision of the department and with the suspension of the paralegal program effective Spring 2018. The proposal to suspend this program was presented to the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Assembly on September 9, 2017. The faculty of the College voted to suspend the program. I agree with the decisions of the Department of Political Science and College of Arts and Sciences Faculty.

This decision was made by the department based on the following:

1. Enrollments in Paralegal Studies have been declining since the 2012-13 Academic Year. Total enrollments for program courses have decreased from 412 to 184 from 2012-13 through 2016-17.
2. Costs to support the program were approximately \$100,000 per year. This included a program director at a cost of approximately \$50,000, Lexis-Nexis subscription at \$5,000 per year with the balance of expenditures covering the costs of PTLs for the program. A search conducted to hire a new full time director failed and funds to cover the costs of this salary have been reallocated by the university budget office.
3. The program has limited capabilities to generate revenue significant revenue because the American Bar Association, which accredits this program, prohibits fully online degrees. As such, some revenue may be generated through distance education but not in sufficient numbers to offset the program costs.
4. The program is entirely dependent upon part-time lecturers. None of the classes are taught by tenure track faculty in the University.
5. A strategy to "teach out" the program has been developed. All students who entered the program in Fall 2017 or earlier, will be able to complete their Paralegal courses by the end of the Fall 2018 term. Many will still need various general education courses, but the program could be suspended effective January 1, 2019.