


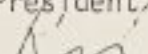


Office of the President

February 13, 1984

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: Students, Staff and Faculty of the School of Law

FROM: George W. Johnson, President 
Ralph Norvell, Dean 

We have decided not to seek full approval from the ABA this year, but to continue on provisional approval, and we thought you ought to know why.

Simple pride makes all of us seek "regular" status as soon as possible, although provisional status has no practical ill effect on student careers (since it constitutes full accreditation for bar exam eligibility and other legal applications). When we apply for full approval, however, we want to be sure of success. And we still have weaknesses which we know ourselves we need to address.

The major priorities of faculty development, library collections and admission standards have largely been achieved, although student bar examination performance remains worrisome. These are the areas normally of the greatest difficulty, and in these we seem well positioned.

While the most serious--and most expensive--structural defects in the building have been remedied, many failings of facilities still remain. These we intend to correct as expeditiously as possible during the next year, and unless costs are greater than estimated, we should be able to get almost all of these out of the way.

We still need to mature as student and faculty bodies: we have not made the progress we should in recruiting minority students and will have to redouble our efforts. Great progress has been made in governance of the school, but we can look for still greater clarification of faculty roles.

None of the remaining problems, in short, are now beyond early solution. Given a continued real commitment on the part of everyone, and assuming that an increasingly able student body will do increasingly well on bar exams, we can in another year be confident of full approval. That is our intent.

GWJ/RN/vww

