

Paralegal:

1. Given the requests your program has submitted, how will those requests assist in increasing your program FTES?

In putting forth the requests that were made it was our considered opinion that they would have the effect of improving the program. Aside from the request for help in improving basic skills the requested funds are for outreach to the community with the hope this will attract more students. The program badly needs assistance to improve assessment of the program as required by the ABA. The assessment that is required involves both assessment of present and former students as well as the legal community. The ABA approval is a major draw of students to the paralegal program. The college provides no clerical assistance to meet the complex and time consuming requirements of the ABA. Improving the program and better matching it to the needs of the legal community may help to attract more students.

2. Can you please explain how the mentoring in your proposal is different then the regular mentoring that many faculty currently do as a part of their regular duties?

The paralegal Program has no full time instructor other than the director who has oversight responsibility for both the Paralegal and the Administration of Justice Programs. Almost all the Paralegal instructors have legal practices or other legal obligations outside the college. To expect that the adjunct instructors devote more time than they are doing now without some additional remuneration could very well lead to resignation of staff.

3. Is there a reason that you do not have basic skills courses as a part of the requirements (or as prerequisites) for your certificate program and courses?

Half of the students that enroll in the Paralegal Program come to the program with advanced degrees. Imposing basic skills requirements for courses would cause enrollment difficulties as most of these students start the program without evaluations of their degrees. All of our courses have basic skill advisories.

4. Also, given the very well developed Reading and Writing Center that currently exist on our campus, is there a reason that you are not able to use our currently existing tutoring services?

It is possible the Reading and Writing Center could help with rudimentary reading and writing but what we need is help in training students in the specialized legal reasoning and writing that will be required of our students when they begin their employment. We give our students the same training in legal reasoning and writing that is done in the first year of law school. From reports of our graduates that go on to law school it appears that we to some degree do a better job than some law schools do in their first year legal research and writing classes.

5. In reviewing campus budgets as a part of our IPBT responsibilities we noticed there is a Paralegal Coordinator who receives .333 release time, a 10% stipend to their base pay and a \$500 per quarter additional pay payment. Might that Coordinator be able to help with the outreach duties that are currently being proposed?

I find this question to be insulting and demeaning. I in fact now do all of things that I am requesting help in. It is well known that I am in fact the major counselor for paralegal as well as AJ students. I teach more than my release time due to limits on availability of faculty. I have total responsibility for continuing compliance with the ABA. I visit high schools to recruit students. I do not get \$500 per

quarter as this is split with Jim Suits. I would like to know how the stipend being paid to me increases the time I have to meet all the responsibilities placed upon me.