

June 2010

Dean's Update on SCOL Strategic Planning

I am pleased to report that the second stage of our strategic planning process is done, and we are ready to begin implementing a truly excellent plan.

In the first phase, after researching and reaching out to all of our stakeholders, we created a basic blueprint for our plan, which was adopted by an overwhelming vote of the faculty. This basic plan contained two initiatives:

- **The Modern Learning Initiative**, in which we committed to produce more practice-ready lawyers by expanding experiential learning opportunities for our students, and increasing the integration of skills, doctrine, and professional identity in our curriculum.
- **The Specialization Initiative**, in which we committed to build distinctive excellence and engagement in five specific areas: Environmental and Natural Resources Law, International and Comparative Law, Workplace Law, Constitutional Rights and Remedies, and Business and Commercial Law.

[\[Click here to see the SCOL Strategic Plan\]](#)

However, even an excellent plan such as this cannot produce results without strong implementation planning. Accordingly, this spring, small groups of faculty and practitioners worked to create implementation plans for each of the key parts of the plan. These groups engaged in a second round of outreach to our stakeholders to discuss implementation. Each group then assembled an implementation plan, with specific goals and timetables over the next five years, and with specific individuals or groups who will be accountable for each goal. Each implementation plan also contains a process for assessing the progress we are making toward our goals.

In May, the faculty adopted all of the implementation plans by an overwhelming vote. So we are now ready to implement. Many people have worked very hard to reach this goal. I would like to thank everyone who has participated in this process.

Over the summer, I will work with a professional writer to put our plan – both the basic plan and our implementation plans – into a format that will be easy to see and understand. I will look forward to sending that product out to you in the early fall.

And in the fall, we will begin implementing our plan. I will look forward to working with you to make this excellent plan a reality – and to establishing our law school as a true leader in modern legal education.



Martin J. Katz
Dean and Professor of Law