Memorandum

To: University Senate

From: Raymond A. Noe, Chair
Council on Academic Affairs

Date: May 26, 2006

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A MASTER OF LAWS (LL.M) DEGREE PROGRAM.

WHEREAS increased globalization means that universities and law schools need to become more international in their mission, as is increasingly seen in their curriculum; and

WHEREAS this will be a one-year professional degree program directed at educating foreign lawyers and graduates of law schools of foreign countries, and will provide them with a basic understanding of the US legal system provided through a rigorous program of study; and

WHEREAS more than one half of all law schools in the United States, including all others in the Big Ten, offer such a degree program; and

WHEREAS the faculty has expertise in international and comparative law and has voted unanimously to offer this program; and

WHEREAS the proposal was reviewed by the Council on Research and Graduate Studies on November 9, 2006, and then by a Subcommittee and by the full Council on Academic Affairs on May 26, 2006.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish a Master in Laws (LL.M) degree program, and respectfully request concurrence from the Board of Trustees.