

MEMO

TO: Mina Jefferson, Board Liaison

FROM: Tracy Evans, NALP Student Professional Development Section Chair

CC: Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director

RE: Student Professional Development Section Second Quarter Report

DATE: October 31, 2008

I. Committee Summary

A conference call was conducted on July 22, 2008 to evaluate the progress of the individual work groups. The timing was important since many of the members would be gearing up for their OCI programs and we wanted to get a good idea as to what still needed to be done within the individual work groups. The progress of these work groups is outlined below.

II. Work Group Reports

A. Professionalism Standards & Curricula:

- Josie Mitchell is the Vice Chair of this committee. Jennifer Walters at Syracuse was originally the co-vice chair with Josie, however, she has since left her position and was not able to fulfill her obligations to this committee. Anne-Marie Fulfer with the University of Idaho has agreed to assist Josie with this project. Other members on this work group include Heather Karns and Nancy Lochner.
- This work group engaged in a conference call in late September to discuss their concerns for a lack of response from the “call for professionalism practices” from NALP member schools. In response, Josie divided the NALP Student Professional Development Committee into four groups and the committee members have been making personal phone calls to these schools asking for material. This plan has been successful and the work group now feels that there is adequate material to support the NALP Conference program that is scheduled to be presented in Washington D.C. on this topic.
- Once the work group has finished contacting their list and organized their materials, a teaser article will be published in the NALP Bulletin to encourage NALP Members to attend this program at the conference.

B. Resource Bibliography

Amy has received an abundant amount of material for this project. She is in the process of organizing it in a more categorical manner and then will proceed with the annotation. A rough draft will be ready

to be presented to the NALP Board at the 2009 Conference. We are hoping that if the board approves the rough draft, the final document can be made available to the NALP Membership by the summer.

C. **“Self Charted” Professional Development Guide**

Susan has asked that this work group be tabled until the spring semester.

D. **Lawyer/Law Student Professional Development Collaboration:**

David Diamond reports that his work group has just put the final touches on a draft survey and have distributed it for comment to other committee members. They are hoping to have a draft ready in the next few weeks to get input from Janet Collins. Once they have incorporated Janet’s thoughts, they will distribute the survey to law school career centers.

IV. **Environmental Scan:**

Of course, the economy is the biggest concern for everyone at the present moment and specifically how it is going to roll over to the legal market. It will be tough times for many legal markets especially for career services professionals who are working with students fresh out of school with little to no experience. I have attached a recent article by Hildebrandt consulting firm which explains vividly the current crisis but offers suggestions as to what immediate actions management teams can/will take in response to the economic downturn. This article although specific to the firm side can give schools some insight as to how firms are viewing their current situation.

In response to this problem, I believe it is important for NALP to provide resources that empower NALP Member Schools to offer guidance to students on how to handle themselves in such an economic downturn. It may be too late to offer such programming at the upcoming NALP conference, but many CSO professionals are curious to know what others are doing to prepare and inform their students on how to engage in a job search when the country is severely economically depressed.