



OFFICE OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT
FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

MAY 4 1982

GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE

State of New Jersey

Faculty Senate
405-5224

GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE
GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY 08028

May 3, 1982

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lawson Brown, Vice-President for Academic Affairs

FROM: Shirley O'Day, ^{LOD} Chairperson - Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee

SUBJECT: Course Proposal

The following proposal has been approved by the Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee and is being recommended to you.

New Course

31-82-34 Communications I, B.S.H., Undergraduate,
Communications Department

SOO/rjv
Attachments

(K)

APPROVAL FORM

- 1) An approval form must accompany each proposal.
- 2) A proposed catalogue description of the course must accompany the proposal as a separate page.
- 3) Results of all consultations must be attached to the proposal.

Proposal Title Communications Law

Sponsor(s) William Rainbolt Dept. Communications

Check One { Course XXX Credit/Level/Title Change or deletion Other _____
 Concentration _____ Specialization _____ Major Program _____ Certification _____

Graduate _____ Undergraduate XXX No. of Credits 3

Approved

~~_____~~ Nov. 11, 1981

Benjamin Beank
Dept. Curr. Comm. Chairperson

Nov. 11, 1981

Date

Approved

Not Approved

Division Curr. Comm.

Reviewed _____

Date

Dean of Division

Reviewed 3/2/82

Date

Approved

Not Approved

Date

Chairperson, Department

11-8-81

Date

Chairperson Div. Curr. Comm.

Alan Porcari

Signature

SENATE CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

SCC # 81-82-34 Proposal Received _____ Open Hearing Held _____

Returned to the department for the following reason(s): _____

Approved by the Curriculum Committee: Date 4/28/82

Presented to ~~Executive Committee~~ of the Faculty Senate as information: Date 4/30/82

Notifications forwarded: Vice President for Academic Affairs: Date 5/7/82

Shirley A. Wiley

Signature: Chairperson, Senata Curriculum Committee

VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Official copy and approval sheet filled

Date

Signature

Course approved Yes No

If no, reasons are as follows:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Student credit hours assigned _____

Faculty load hours _____

Equalized credit hours _____

REGISTRAR

Approved course description received and Hegis Taxonomy Number assigned

by Registrar Yes No

Hegis Taxonomy Number 0607.335

Signature: Registrar _____

Date _____

ACADEMIC DEAN

Yes Budget, faculty library allocations and Academic Support Services are adequate for immediate implementation.

No Constraints do not permit implementation. The earliest the proposal might be implemented would be _____

Signature: Academic Dean _____

Date _____

Copies forwarded: Senate Curriculum Committee Chairperson, Department Chairperson, Registrar

Course Proposal
Communications Department

- I. Title: Communications Law
Department: Communications
Sponsor: William Rainbolt

- II. Essence:
 - A. Undergraduate
 - B. 3 s.h.
 - C. Junior-senior level
 - D. No prerequisite
 - E. Students in all communications tracks could take the course.
 - F. If approved, the course would be offered first in the Spring 1982 semester.

- III. Details:
 - A. No additional staff, space, or resources would be required. Materials now available in Savitz Learning Resource Center are adequate. Other materials would be added as needed.
 - B. All communications majors -- whether in public relations, advertising, broadcasting, or journalism -- sooner or later run into a problem related to communications law. The public relations practitioner writes a libelous release, or the advertising director invades someone's privacy by using a photograph without permission. The broadcast executive faces a deluge of federal regulations and fairness doctrine requests. And the journalist, of course, daily faces legal challenges to his or her reporting. Yet, the Communications Department offers a concentrated study of media law in only one part of one course, Problems of Contemporary Journalism. And that is a required course only for journalism majors. As many as three-fourths of communications students may go through their programs with little or no serious study of what possibly could cost them huge sums of money as well as their prestige, their jobs, and their careers. The proposed course would examine a wide range of the pitfalls of media law as well as the protections. Students would be encouraged to take the course in their junior or senior years so that, upon graduation, they would be informed of the latest trends in the field. The course would fulfill an important need in the Communications Department's desire to give its students a well-rounded education. In addition, the Problems of Contemporary Journalism class has the flexibility to absorb the loss of its unit on press law without becoming deficient.

- C. Students taking this course would:
 - 1. Understand the legal aspects of working in communications.
 - 2. Understand the development and current status of important trends in media law.
 - 3. Know the proper materials to consult in order to keep abreast of developments in communications law.
- D. Students would be evaluated through a series of exams over lectures and readings, in addition to such out-of-class assignments as book critiques.

IV. Topical Outline:

- A. Overview of the role of law in various fields of communications
- B. Research materials concerning communications law
- C. Defamation: libel and slander
- D. Invasion of privacy
- E. Free Press / Fair Trial: relationship between 1st, 6th amendments
- F. Newsmen's privilege: shield laws, contempt of court
- G. Broadcasting rules and regulations
- H. Advertising law
- I. Copyright law
- J. Access to information: freedom of information movement
- K. Antitrust law and the communications industry

V. Rationale:

As mentioned earlier in this proposal, the Communications Department does not now provide a comprehensive study of a crucial area for anyone seriously interested in a communications career: media law. Legal controversies and challenges abound today in all facets of the field: in public relations, in advertising, in broadcasting, in journalism. The legal issues are becoming more complex as well as more widespread. However, only one Communications course studies media law in any depth, and then only in the area of press law. But all Communications majors should have the opportunity to understand the legal aspect of the communications field. Cross-over within the field is common: the journalist eventually seeks a job in public relations, for example, or the advertising executive decides to forge a new career in broadcast management. A demonstrated knowledge of this important area, communications law, would enhance our graduates' chances of being employed in an increasingly tight job market. That students themselves recognize this benefit is supported by the fact that when Communications Law was offered in Intersession '80, 34 students enrolled.

Catalogue Description

Communications Law

A study of the legal responsibilities of communicators in the print, broadcast, and film media, stressing the practical ways these communicators can avoid legal problems. Includes aspects of such topics as libel, privacy, broadcasting regulations, copyright, and laws relating to public relations and advertising.

May 13, 1981

Mr. Bill Rainbolt
Assistant Professor
Communications Department
State of New Jersey
Glassboro State College
Glassboro, NJ 08028

Dear Mr. Rainbolt:

I think your suggestion for a course in Communications Law is long overdue.

The days are long gone when all a reporter or editor had to know about the law was the legal definition of libel.

Now we are faced with legal challenges every day of the week; indeed, some of us have become exceedingly knowledgeable in the law--out of necessity, not personal desire.

And the trend is continuing. New concerns for personal privacy, governmental secrecy and distrust of the press are forcing confrontations daily. Access to documents--even to news events themselves--are imperiled every day.

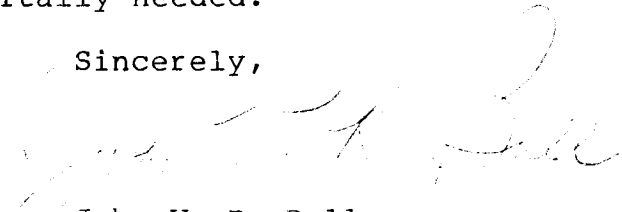
Indeed, recent court rulings are whittling away at our very right to publish anything but the most innocuous items; unless editors fight back, we may not have much freedom in the future.

Your course outline looks good, although I would argue strongly that there is no "conflict" between the 1st and 6th Amendments, that each can co-exist fully without trampling on the rights protected by the other.

I also think it is important to include First Amendment law in your syllabus, since that fundamental right is threatened today as never before. And it's a changing scene, thanks to the high court's backing and filling on this topic.

I heartily applaud your initiative in proposing a course of this magnitude; I think it is vitally needed.

Sincerely,



John V. R. Bull
Assistant to the Managing Editor



State of New Jersey
GLASSBORO STATE COLLEGE
GLASSBORO, NEW JERSEY 08028

May 7, 1981

William Rainbolt
Communications Department
Triad Building


Dear Bill,

Allow me to express my appreciation to you for providing me with an opportunity to review your course proposal, "Communications Law." As I indicated in our verbal conversation about the matter, it appears that this proposal concerns a significant curricular area to which our students are not being exposed currently.

If such a course were offered it would provide an interesting and meaningful elective choice for Law/Justice majors. Also, I want to remind you of the fact that we would be interested in providing some of the expertise of this department to assist in any efforts to further refine the contents of this course. We would also be interested in being considered to participate in other ways such as guest lectures, team teaching or other appropriate forms of involvement in the

In conclusion I want to reiterate the view that the course proposal is quite interesting and represents a substantial and meaningful addition to the curriculum of the College. I wish you, therefore, the best of success in your efforts to get the approval by your department and the Faculty Senate.

Sincerely,


Herbert Douglas, Ph.D.
Professor & Chairperson
Law/Justice Department

HD/dr

MEMO

Glassboro State College

To Mr. William Rainbolt

Re Communications Law & Freedom of Expression

Date April 29, 1981

From Dr. Robert Becker
Chairperson

Political Science/Eco. Dept.

I had two discussions with Bill Rainbolt concerning possible overlap between his proposed course Communications Law and the presently existing Freedom of Expression, which was set up as a service course for Communications majors as well as Political Science majors interested in law. The course has been offered twice (it is taught once every two years) and seems to attract Communications majors. It consists of a study of Supreme Court cases about speech and press. I have seen Professor Rainbolt's proposal, and I have some concern over the amount of potential overlap in the two courses. Apparently he intends to teach most of the principles discussed in the Political Science course. Although the approach and experience will be different, the existence of both courses may well discourage Communications majors from taking Freedom of Expression, which because of its case-reading approach, might present problems of the type these students might not have encountered.

It is possible that some coordination between Professor Rainbolt and me, and some alterations in his proposal, will mitigate the overlap problem. But the problem does exist.

Robert Becker