Dean's Message

Dear AUWCL Community,

In August I conveyed the news that a significant part of the Tenley project, the Capital Hall renovation, would not be ready for occupancy until spring or summer 2016. Capital Hall will house all student services including OCPD, financial aid, admissions, all law reviews and briefs, and many other critically important parts of WCL. Still, at that time it seemed that it was in the best interest of the law school to move faculty and some administrative staff into the new facilities next summer, taking advantage of the new classrooms and library, and then move the rest of the offices into Capital Hall in summer 2016.

In rapid succession, two major developments have occurred since my last message. First, the architects and construction team have found a solution to expedite the renovation of Capital Hall that will allow us to occupy that building in late fall 2015 instead of summer 2016. Second, after a month of intense planning and recalculation, we have concluded that while the classrooms and library will be in the final stages next summer, testing and refinements necessary to ensure the smooth and successful operation of complex systems could take us into September or even October 2015.

Accordingly, we have determined that the best course of action is to move all components of the law school in one grand move in late fall 2015. While, for testing purposes, we will move some operations to the new buildings during the fall semester, the core of the law school will move after final exams in December. This decision gives us the ability to hit the ground running at the start of the spring 2016 semester. By moving the entire institution as a unit, instead of piecemeal, we will save money, eliminate the need to operate out of two separate campuses, and achieve a continuity of operation with the least possible disruption to the ongoing academic mission of WCL.

Throughout fall 2015, we will be able to test all the systems including audio visual and other classroom technology, central heating and cooling, security, and more. As part of this testing process we will ask some faculty and administrators to hold classes and conduct meetings in our new law school campus to ensure that all systems are sound and reliable. Pushing our move to December also allows us to account for possible delays due to weather and other variables. With careful planning already underway, this move will be the beginning of a new and exciting future for our community.

Sincerely,

Claudio Grossman, Dean Raymond Geraldson Scholar for International and Humanitarian Law