



**To:** Vice President Academic and Research  
**From:** Chair of Law & Politics  
**Date:** April 25, 2022  
**Re:** Report of the Law & Politics Department on the status of the Law & Justice Implementation Plan  
**Due:** March 11, 2022 (due 18 months after the Senate approval of the Final Assessment Report)

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Dear VPAR,

Article 3.6.11 IQAP (pp. 48-49):s

“The Department prepares a report of the status of the Implementation Plan 18 months following Senate approval of the Final Assessment Report (FAR). The CAO monitors the completion of the status report. The Department submits the status report to the CAO who submits it to AppComm for review. In consultation with QualCom, AppCom may request additional information or action from the Department. When AppCom is satisfied with the 18-Month Status Report, AppCom forwards a recommendation to Senate for approval of the report. The Office of the CAO forwards the Senate-approved status report to the Board of Governors for information. The Office of the CAO posts the approved 18-month status report on the web and forwards it to the Quality Council.”

**Progress on Implementation Plan**

*Briefly describe the status of each recommendation. If the status is incomplete, provide a rationale. If there were any alterations to the original Implementation Plan, please provide the rationale.*

Recommendation 1	Undertake a strategic planning and curriculum review process
Status:	Completed
Details:	Prof. DeLuca and Prof. Hermida, working with an external facilitator, undertook a year-long, comprehensive planning and curriculum review process, and, on March 9, 2022, delivered a full planning document to the Chair of the Department of Law and Politics, referred to in this document as the Law & Justice Planning Report (LJPR). This will serve as the guiding planning document for upcoming Course and Program Revision proposals.
Recommendation 2	Meet with local community leaders and Elders and members of Indigenous communities to seek advice on the needs of Northern Ontario to determine if and how the Law and Justice program might contribute to learnings and knowledge about the needs of Northern Ontario and how these might be integrated into the program
Status:	<i>Incomplete</i>
Details:	<p>While the incorporation of Indigenous content is explicitly and implicitly provided for in the proposed new program structure, described in the Law and Justice Planning Report (LJPFR), it was recognized that further work can only be meaningfully undertaken within the framework of initiatives undertaken at the departmental, faculty and university level in dialogue with the university's Indigenous partners.</p> <p>As we discussed Indigenous content during the various phases of the facilitated JURI program planning process, two key process points were made. The JURI core faculty members are quite prepared to engage in further discussions. A strong emphasis was put on the need for those discussions to be held face to face.</p> <p>There was also a practical, operational point made repeatedly. Meaningful study of law and justice matters from an Indigenous</p>

	<p>cultural and governance perspective requires the scholarly contribution of an Indigenous scholar. This presents a very real recruitment challenge. It is a challenge worth pursuing, resources permitting.</p> <p>In the meantime, the recommendation for a set of community meetings, including meetings with Elders and other members of Indigenous communities, is a critical opening step in addressing not just the JURI program but the broader university agenda on Indigenous education in relation to its own special mission, the recommendations of The Truth and Reconciliation Commission and in keeping with the Universities Canada principles on Indigenous education.</p> <p>Because of the synergies between Law and Justice and other programs, within and across departments, it would/will be helpful, as part of addressing the planning agenda, to have collegial discussions with associated program faculty within the department and across departments. These discussions can occur within established formal and informal academic planning and review processes. The bigger challenge is how we meet the spirit and practical dimensions of the “not about us without us” principle in undertaking the appropriate and necessary consultations before recommending modifications to the program regarding Indigenous content and/or potential required topics of study. For that, we need a Faculty, if not a University consultation process, protocol and consultation support for seeking input from Indigenous communities.</p>
Recommendation 3	Refine the alignment of the vision, mission, identity, personnel, and nature of the program, especially before exploring expansion to other campuses (e.g. Brampton) (see recommendations nr. 48-50)
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	The LJPR outlines an updated vision, mission, identity, and nature of the Law and Justice program. Personnel has not been changed, but full implementation of the proposed changes will require some new hires. In that case, personnel will also change. The Law and Justice program will now begin submitting Course and Program Revision proposals through the appropriate review committees, and implement the proposed changes outlined in the LJPR, before exploring expansion to other campuses.
Recommendation 4	Consider tailoring the learning outcomes to be more specific to law

	and justice and better aligned with the UUDLEs
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	The LJPR outlines the new learning outcomes of the program, aligned well with the UUDLEs.
Recommendation 5	Evaluate the comparative performance of college students entering the program through the 2+2 agreements with Police Foundations programs at Sault College and across the Province
Status:	<i>Incomplete</i>
Details:	The program has not yet undertaken this comparative study. During the planning process that led to the LJPR, it was agreed that the new vision of the program is not well suited for college transfer students who are interested in a professional career in the police or criminal justice fields. Existing pathways agreements should be revisited.

Recommendation 6	Consult with recruitment to explore recruitment opportunities in other Northern Ontario communities and the rest of Canada
Status:	<i>in progress</i>
Details:	<p>The program continues to consult with recruitment to explore opportunities in Northern Ontario, the rest of Canada, and the rest of the world. The priority of the last year was to formulate a strong mission, vision, and proposed curriculum revision for Law and Justice, and this new vision will give renewed focus to consultation with recruitment.</p> <p>The LJPR finds that the program is primarily geared toward academically strong and highly motivated students desiring to advance to graduate – both masters and doctoral – studies in Social Sciences and Humanities disciplines with a focus on Law. It is particularly attractive for students who want to pursue studies in Philosophy, since the rigorous academic curriculum is heavily oriented toward the study of Philosophy of Law and the engagement with philosophical questions and problems and their connection with Law and Justice issues. Equally relevant, the program aims to attract students who want to go to Law School. While the program is not intended as preparation for a professional legal career, students will develop the research, critical thinking, problem-solving, writing, and oral communication skills as</p>

	<p>well as a well-rounded liberal arts education, which will help them succeed in Law School. The curriculum is also an excellent springboard for students wanting to enter careers in public policy.</p> <p>Although there is some emphasis on Canadian issues, the program provides a global and interdisciplinary approach to the study of Law and Justice through the study of different texts, theories, and ideas from early English history through contemporary times, which is interesting for both local and international students.</p>
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Recommendation 7	Lead the integration of Indigenous issues in legal studies and curriculum pursuant to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (see recommendation nr. 29)
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	<p>The proposed Honours Law and Justice program will include ANII3126 and ANII3127 (Anishinaabe Research Methods courses) as options within the degree. Further, the proposed Ba4 and Ba3 program in Law and Justice will include ANII 3006 Government Acts and Policies and ANII 3007 Treaties on the JURI Approved Course list.</p> <p>Further discussion is needed within the program and within the department about Indigenisation of the curriculum. If developments in this direction are undertaken in the future, additional faculty resources will be required. In light of sector-wide challenges in recruiting and retaining faculty qualified in this area, it might not be possible to staff these courses with part-time faculty. A full-time hire (possibly a joint appointment with other departments) might be necessary if the decision is taken to pursue Indigenisation of the Law &amp; Justice curriculum.</p> <p>The program will continue its discussions on this topic. It will do so in the context of initiatives taking place at the Department, Faculty, and University levels.</p>

Recommendation 8	Consider adding an Indigenous law course as an elective or core requirement of the program
Status:	<i>In process</i>

Details:	<p>The Law and Justice program did not develop our own Indigenous Law course. We tried to offer one as a special topics course, but the part time hiring process yielded no applicants. We think that, short of being resourced a new hire for a full time Indigenous scholar, it is best to include courses offered by ANII and SKG within the program's approved course list.</p> <p>With that in mind, the proposed Honours Law and Justice program will include ANII3126 and ANII3127 (Anishinaabe Research Methods courses) as options within the degree. The proposed Ba4 and Ba3 programs in Law and Justice will include ANII 3006 Government Acts and Policies and ANII 3007 Treaties on the JURI Approved Course list.</p>
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Recommendation 9	Remove courses that have not been offered for five or more years from the Academic Calendar
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	The Department Chair revised the JURI calendar entry on March 8, 2022, banking any courses not offered in five or more years.

Recommendation 10	Replace some banked courses with more contemporary legal studies subjects to refresh the curriculum, such that it better situates legal studies within a broader social sciences/arts perspective
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	<p>The Law &amp; Justice program at Algoma was always intended to highlight the cultural, social, moral, and political dimensions of law rather than its technical force. However, largely as a result of staffing challenges within the Department and a heavy reliance on local legal practitioners to teach in the program, many courses evolved to mirror a law school curriculum (in simplified form). The proposed revisions to the JURI program, in the LJPR, redirect the curriculum towards the study of law through an academic (rather than professional) lens.</p> <p>There are several new courses proposed, which will better situate the program's study of legal studies within a broader social sciences/arts perspective.</p>

Recommendation 11	Minimize perceived overlap in course content between Special Topics in Law and Justice at the third and fourth year level
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	The aim of the program revisions in the LJPFR is to sharpen the focus on theoretical perspectives, including contributions from cognate disciplines. To this end, the revisions change some of the existing courses and add other courses to the curriculum so as to reflect the vision of the program. This includes some courses previously offered as “Special Topics” courses being turned into regular courses with clear titles and descriptions, which is expected to facilitate course selection for students and to make student transcripts more understandable for future employers and graduate admissions decision-makers. We have also expanded the Approved Course List to include courses created by other departments since our last update. As a result of these changes, the program is more coherent and complete.

Recommendation 12	Consider renaming JURI 3106
Status:	<i>Completed</i>
Details:	JURI 3106 renamed Canadian Law and Politics and Indigenous Peoples

Recommendation 13	Explore the development of online courses of strategic importance
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	Teaching two academic years during the Covid pandemic has given the program much experience in the advantages and disadvantages of online courses. Overall, the program feels that the learning experience of students in general is better on campus than online, but will consider the development of online courses of strategic importance, as it implements its proposed program revision, described in the LJPR. There are no courses in the plan currently flagged for online delivery. We expect to gain more valuable experience about the future place/feasibility/necessity of online learning during the process of the faculty’s gradual return to campus and strictly on-campus course delivery, in Spring 2022.

Recommendation 14	Introduce a 4th year capstone combined JURI/POLI Honours Thesis course and experiential learning course(s)
Status:	<i>Incomplete</i>
Details:	<p>During the planning process, it was decided that the best option for the new JURI program vision is to establish a 6 credit JURI Honours Essay capstone course within the Honours program, and to also have a separate non-honours option where no thesis is pursued. We decided not to combine POLI and JURI's thesis courses, so that students can work with individual professors that specialize in their fields of interest, rather than having one professor from one of the programs teach this course for both POLI and JURI. They are different enough programs to warrant separate Honours Thesis courses. JURI's will be a scheduled course, whereas POLI's will be offered as a reading course to interested students.</p>

Recommendation 15	Develop a Criminal Justice minor or specialization in collaboration with the local police department(s)
Status:	<i>Incomplete</i>
Details:	<p>During the planning process over the last year, the Law and Justice faculty, in developing the new vision of the program, decided against initiating a Criminal Justice minor or specialization. Here is what the LJPR says regarding potential future Criminal Justice programming at Algoma University:</p> <p>The possibility of an interdisciplinary program in Criminology and/or Criminal Justice has been discussed in various contexts at the University during the last decade or more. Most recently, the Sault Ste Marie Police Department has approached the University about their desire for recruits whose training goes beyond the existing college-level Police Foundations program, and Brampton has expressed particular interest in having a Criminal Justice degree offered on AU's campus there.</p> <p>A Criminal Justice degree is, by definition, interdisciplinary, drawing most strongly on psychology, sociology and law. The creation of such a program at Algoma would necessarily require collaboration and cooperation among multiple departments. The existing Law &amp; Justice program would be an enthusiastic partner in such a project and both</p>



	<p>tenured faculty would expect to be cross-appointed to Criminal Justice; however, Law &amp; Justice is unable to spearhead such an initiative due to our current challenges with staffing and resources.</p> <p>Existing JURI courses that would be appropriate for inclusion (as degree-requirements or discipline-specific options) in a Criminal Justice program include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Canadian Political and Legal Institutions;</li> <li>· Introduction to Criminal Law and Procedure;</li> <li>· Themes in Criminal Law;</li> <li>· Crime and Popular Culture;</li> <li>· Legal Rights in Criminal Proceedings;</li> <li>· Crime, the State, and Society in Early Modern England;</li> <li>· Youth in Conflict with the Law.</li> </ul> <p>This list is likely to expand with future curriculum development.</p> <p>It should be noted that a new program in Criminal Justice should be seen as adding to the University's degree options, and not as a replacement for the existing Law &amp; Justice degree. The two disciplines overlap to some extent, but they are not coextensive. Criminal Justice students are required to take some Psychology courses, but that does not mean there is no place for a separate Psychology degree. Equally, Algoma should continue to offer the opportunity to study jurisprudence from a perspective that is broader than the criminal law and more theory-driven in nature.</p>
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Recommendation 16	Work in partnership with Shingwauk Kinooamaage Gamig (SKG) to generate courses and curriculum material (e.g. Indigenous law and legal issues) that better incorporates Indigenous perspectives and grapples with debates over future directions for Indigenous law and policy
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	The proposed Honours Law and Justice program will include ANII3126 and ANII3127 (Anishinaabe Research Methods courses) as options within the degree. Further, the proposed Ba3 and Ba4 program in Law and Justice will include ANII 3006 Government Acts and Policies and ANII 3007 Treaties on the JURI Approved Course list.

	<p>Further discussion is needed within the program and within the department about Indigenisation of the curriculum. If developments in this direction are undertaken in the future, additional faculty resources will be required. In light of sector-wide challenges in recruiting and retaining faculty qualified in this area, it might not be possible to staff these courses with part-time faculty. A full-time hire (possibly a joint appointment with other departments) might be necessary if the decision is taken to pursue Indigenisation of the Law &amp; Justice curriculum.</p> <p>The program will continue its discussions on this topic. It will do so in the context of initiatives taking place at the Department, Faculty, and University levels.</p>
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<p>Recommendation 17</p>	<p>Expand the current strategic relationship with Political Science and establish strategic partnerships with other departments other than Political Science (e.g. cross listing courses) to better offer a diversity of courses and perspectives and to leverage resources</p>
<p>Status:</p>	<p><i>In progress</i></p>
<p>Details:</p>	<p>The relationship with POLI is addressed in Recommendation 18.</p> <p>Regarding the relationship with other programs, the Law and Justice program includes an approved course list that allows students to count select courses in other disciplines (including Community Economic and Social Development, English, Geography, History, Political Science, Anishinaabe Studies, and Sociology) towards their JURI requirements.</p> <p>The program will continue to include an Approved Course List and will maintain existing collaborations with other departments. We see the recent merger of the Faculties of Social Sciences and Humanities as an opportunity for closer relationships with Humanities programs such as History and Philosophy.</p> <p>The proposed program revisions update and enhance this multidisciplinary Approved Course List.</p> <p>The proposed program revisions in the LJPR also include the adoption of a list of Research Methods Courses from different disciplines, from which a student must complete 3 credits.</p> <p>The proposed program revisions include a first year requirement of taking 3 credits of writing courses from ENGL.</p>

	<p>The Law and Justice program contributes to other degrees and certificates. For example, Environmental Law can be counted towards degrees in Environmental Science, and Legal Relationship of Parent-Child Relationships can be counted towards the Human Development Minor.</p> <p>Synergies such as these anchor Law &amp; Justice firmly within a vibrant and diverse academic environment while preserving the program's distinctive identity as a discrete discipline.</p>
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Recommendation 18	Enhance the partnership with POLI and develop curriculum material that would be germane to JURI and POLI
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	<p>The Law and Justice program has strong connections to the Political Science program, which is housed in the same department. Many courses, especially those focused on the role of governments in making and enforcing laws, or on the nature and scope of individuals' freedoms from governmental interference, are cross-listed or joint-enrolled between the two programs. This includes a cross-listed course on Canadian legal and political institutions that is a required course for students in both programs.</p> <p>The two programs continue to develop crosslisted JURI/POLI courses, both permanent and Special Topics. Also, the following POLI courses appear on the proposed JURI approved course list:</p> <p>POLI 2406 Justice, Nature and the Good: History of Ancient and Medieval Political Thought  POLI 2407 Freedom, Reason, and Equality: History of Modern Political Thought  POLI 3006/4006 Politics of Immigration, Settlement, and Integration  POLI 3407/4407 The State and Power  POLI 3506 Justice as Healing: Addressing the Legacy of Canada's Residential Schools Policies  POLI 4106 Contemporary Moral and Political Theory  POLI 4827 The Political Enlightenment: Ideas of Liberty in the Atlantic World, 1550 – 1800</p>

Recommendation 19	Explore diversifying the ranks of PT faculty teaching in the program
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	<p>The Department has hired three new PT JURI faculty for its 2021-22 courses, and continues to diversify its PT faculty.</p> <p>Historically, the Law &amp; Justice program relied heavily on the local Bar to teach courses focused largely on topics of substantive law. The nature of most practitioners' expertise limits their ability to teach more theoretically-focused courses, and a refreshed JURI program with a stronger jurisprudential emphasis will be more difficult to staff with PT instructors based in Sault Ste Marie. If the use of remote delivery options is expanded in the future, that might help to address this problem to some extent. However, it should be noted that, while the University was delivering courses remotely during the 2021 spring/summer term, the program was required to cancel a scheduled course because no qualified candidates applied to teach it; it is not clear whether using technology to expand the hiring pool beyond local residents will eliminate staffing challenges in the discipline.</p> <p>It is expected that part-time faculty will continue to play an important role in the JURI program, and will likely be relied on to deliver some of the more hands-on, skills-based courses (for example, the research skills course that focuses on using legal databases). Further discussion is also needed to explore technological and other options for expanding the pool of part-time faculty we can draw on to increase the diversity of perspectives to which our students are exposed and the range of electives we can offer.</p>

Recommendation 20	Encourage faculty to take advantage of resources available in the Library (e.g. library orientation and research instruction)
Status:	<i>In progress</i>
Details:	<p>The full time faculty will continue to encourage all faculty to take advantage of the resources in the Library. On the subject of library resources, the LJPR finds that the program needs to maintain the existing library databases. The library should also acquire books to reflect the new conception of the</p>

	program. Existing law books that reflect the law from the academic conception of the proposed curriculum are very scarce.
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Recommendation 21	Work with the EL Hub to explore how to make co-op opportunities more attractive to students
Status:	<i>Incomplete</i>
Details:	The JURI program did not work with the EL Hub in the last 18 months. It focused first, instead, on internal deliberations leading to the LJPR, in order to clarify its vision before entertaining co-op opportunities.

Please use the space below to report on anything the Department/Program believes is appropriate to bring to the Algoma University Senate concerning this program. Please outline and explain any circumstances that have altered the original Implementation Plan and any significant developments or initiatives that have arisen since the program review.

Since the submission of the original Implementation Plan, Prof. DeLuca and Prof. Hermida, working with an external facilitator, undertook a year-long, comprehensive planning and curriculum review process, and, on March 9, 2022, delivered a full planning document to the Chair of the Department of Law and Politics, referred to in this document as the Law & Justice Planning Report (LJPR). This will serve as the guiding planning document for upcoming Course and Program Revision proposals, and includes a refreshed program vision. Some of the proposals in this plan will differ from recommendations in the Implementation Plan, for reasons outlined in the template above.

### Implementation Plan (from FAR)

Recommendations	Responsible for Leading Follow-Up	Timeline for Addressing Recommendation	Required Resources
Undertake a strategic planning and curriculum review process	Faculty Chair Department Chair	One year** This timeline estimation and others are dependent, at least in part, on the evolving COVID situation	None

Meet with local community leaders and Elders and members of Indigenous communities to seek advice on the needs of Northern Ontario to determine if and how the Law and Justice program might contribute to learnings and knowledge about the needs of Northern Ontario and how these might be integrated into the program	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	18 months	This may require remote meeting technology if the Covid pandemic continues
Refine the alignment of the vision, mission, identity, personnel, and nature of the program, especially before exploring expansion to other campuses (e.g. Brampton) (see recommendations nr. 48-50)	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	Two years	None; refining personnel could require additional faculty
Consider tailoring the learning outcomes to be more specific to law and justice and better aligned with the UUDLEs	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	One year	None
Evaluate the comparative performance of college students entering the program through the 2+2 agreements with Police Foundations programs at Sault College and across the Province	Faculty Chair and Department Chair, Registrar's pathways department	One year	None
Consult with recruitment to explore recruitment opportunities in other Northern Ontario communities and the rest of Canada	Faculty Chair and Department Chair, Recruitment office	One year	None
<b>Course revision &amp; Development</b>			
Lead the integration of Indigenous issues in legal studies and curriculum pursuant to the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (see recommendation nr. 29)	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	Two years	None
Consider adding an Indigenous law course as an elective or core requirement of the program	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	One year	None
Remove courses that have not been offered for five or more years from the Academic Calendar	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	One year	None
Replace some banked courses with more contemporary legal studies subjects to refresh the curriculum, such that it better situates legal	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	One year	None

<b>studies within a broader social sciences/arts perspective</b>			
Minimize perceived overlap in course content between Special Topics in Law and Justice at the third and fourth year level	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	One year	None
Consider renaming JURI 3106	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	Done	None
Explore the development of online courses of strategic importance	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	Two years	Contact North support, support from the internal online learning office, likely more faculty to teach these courses
Introduce a 4th year capstone combined JURI/POLI Honours Thesis course and experiential learning course(s)	Faculty Chair and Department Chair, Experiential Learning office	One year	This may not be pursued, as the JURI and POLI honours theses topics are so different that it may be more beneficial to students to pursue the honours theses as reading courses. For example, the POLI external review did NOT recommend a capstone thesis course, and its implementation plan did not identify such a course. We will discuss the idea. More faculty would be required, though, because FT faculty are working overloads as it is to graduate our students
Develop a Criminal Justice minor or specialization in collaboration with the local police department(s)	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	One year	None
<b>Working Relationships</b>			
Work in partnership with Shingwauk Kinoomaage Gamig (SKG) to generate courses and curriculum material (e.g. Indigenous law and legal issues) that better incorporates Indigenous perspectives and grapples with debates over future directions for Indigenous law and policy	Faculty Chair and Department Chair, President of SKG	Two Years	None. But if these courses are to be taught by JURI faculty, we will need to hire someone who specializes in this area
Expand the current strategic relationship with Political Science and establish strategic partnerships with other departments other than Political Science (e.g. cross listing courses) to better offer a diversity of courses and perspectives and to leverage resources	Faculty Chair and Department Chair	One year	None
Enhance the partnership with POLI and develop curriculum material that would be germane to JURI and	Faculty Chair and	One year	None

<b>POLI</b>	<b>Department Chair</b>		
<b>Explore diversifying the ranks of PT faculty teaching in the program</b>	<b>Faculty Chair and Department Chair</b>	<b>Immediate y</b>	<b>None, though the CBA rules around the PTAC sometimes impede this. Many courses go to the PT member / applicant to a given course who has the most teaching experience at Algoma</b>
<b>Encourage faculty to take advantage of resources available in the Library (e.g. library orientation and research instruction)</b>	<b>Faculty Chair and Department Chair</b>	<b>Immediate y</b>	<b>None</b>
<b>Work with the EL Hub to explore how to make co-op opportunities more attractive to students</b>	<b>Faculty Chair and Department Chair</b>	<b>One year</b>	<b>None</b>



