Curriculum Committee Recommends Experiments

The Curriculum Committee has made three basic recommendations during the past year, and all have been adopted by the Faculty, to be put into effect during the coming year. Members of this Committee are Professors Browder, Cooperrider, Kimball, Oppenheim, and Kauper, chairman.

The first of the three recommendations relates to a broadening of the School's course offerings in the area generally described as "jurisprudence." In view of the varied approaches to study and understanding of law and the legal system, and to the basic considerations that underlie the operation of the legal order, it seemed desirable to make available to students several courses of a general jurisprudential character but with varying points of emphasis.

The Faculty accordingly approved a program that calls for three elective courses: (1) a course in "Legal Methods" centered on an empiric study of the basic features of our legal system as it presently operates; (2) a course in "Philosophy of Law," with emphasis, as the name indicates, on the philosophical approach; and (3) a course tentatively designated as "Law and Society," with emphasis on the historical-sociological approach. The course in "Legal Methods" will be basically a continuation of the course which, as many alumni will recall, Professor Shartel developed and offered for many years. The program of enlarged offerings will be effective with the school year 1958-59 provided the necessary personnel and teaching load adjustments can be completed by that time.

The second and third changes relate to the first-year program. One of these has to do with the Introductory Course which was added to the first-year curriculum during the postwar period. It has been considerably modified from time to time, and as recently given, has included materials on the historical evolution of the common law, some special problems of equity jurisdiction, and an introduction to the legal system and how it operates. The faculty has now approved the Committee's recommendation that the course be substantially revised, in the interest of greater unity and coherence, and that it consist entirely of an historical introduction to the legal system, with emphasis on the rise and development of the common law system, the rise and development of equity jurisdiction, the reception of the common law in this country, and the later enlarged place of legislation in the law-making process. The new course, designated as "Introduction to the Legal System," will become effective next September.

An experimental undertaking will be the third change, aimed toward developing more effective skills in the use of the case method. One section of the first-year class entering in September, 1958, instead of taking the first-year courses in Criminal Law, will take a separate three-hour course, to be taught by Professor Cooperrider in conjunction with his Torts course, in which emphasis will be placed on problems of case analysis and an intensive study of the case method in the development of the common law. These students will then take a course in Criminal Law at a later point in their Law School studies. It is hoped that this experiment will assist the Faculty in determining what methods and techniques may be most fruitful in developing the student's capacity and skill in legal analysis and his handling of legal materials.

Robert Hoerner, of Fairfield, Iowa, and a member of the June graduating class, has been named one of three law clerks to Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States Supreme Court.

Hoerner is editor-in-chief of the Law Review this year, and was recently elected to Order of the Coif. He is a former president of Tau Epsilon Rho legal fraternity and a member of Barristers.

HART WRIGHT HONORED FOR TAX LAW WORK

Prof. L. Hart Wright, of the Law School, was honored this winter for service to the U. S. Treasury Department and the Internal Revenue Service.

Prof. Wright was awarded a certificate for meritorious civilian service in recognition of his "outstanding performance" in preparing a 750-page manual in basic tax law which the Revenue Service is now using in training its agents. The certificate is the highest award given by the government for this type of service.

In June, 1956, Professor Wright was appointed to a three-man commission which reviewed the Internal Revenue Service training program. On the basis of its recommendations, he was asked to prepare the basic tax law volume and an instructor's manual for use in a new training program for internal revenue agents. Working 50 to 70 hours a week while on leave from the University, Professor Wright completed both volumes in time for their use in the revised Internal Revenue training program which started in the fall of 1957.

Four New Instructors Added to Faculty

Four new instructors have been appointed for 1958-59 in the law associates program begun last September. They will work with students in the Freshman Group Program, designed to aid their orientation to the law; and with second-year students in the course in Problems and Research I and II. This provides individual work by the students in legal analysis, research and writing.

Instructors for the coming year will be Theodore M. Hutchison, a 1956 graduate of the University of Iowa Law School and a clerk for Judge Martin D. Van Oosterhout of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, 1956-57; William K. Muir, Jr., a 1958 graduate of the Michigan Law School and assistant editor of the Law Review; Max A. Pock, a 1958 graduate of the Iowa Law School and formerly a student at the University of Vienna and University of Innsbruck law schools; and Nick E. Yocca, a 1958 graduate of the Michigan Law School and holder of one of the highest scholastic records in this year's class.

Instructors are chosen for this special program from among recent law school graduates who have outstanding scholastic records and who have had experience in legal research and writing.