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PROPOSAL FOR BLOCK TUITION AT LEVIN COLLEGE OF LAW  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

This proposal for block tuition rates is authorized under Florida Board of Governors Regulation 7.001(11).

Provide separate information for each degree program to be included:

- (a) Name: Juris Doctor
- (b) CIP: 22.0101
- (c) Degree type: Professional Doctorate
- (d) Brief description of degree program: The JD program provides three years of legal education and training, as approved by the American Bar Association, permitting graduates to sit for the bar exam in all fifty states of the United States. The JD curriculum is designed to develop students' analytical ability, practical knowledge, communications skills, and an understanding of the codes of responsibility and ethics that are central to the practice of law.
- (e) Proposed date(s) of implementation: Fall2018

- (a) Name: LLM in Energy, Environment, and Natural Resources Law
- (b) CIP: 22.0207
- (c) Degree type: Graduate
- (d) Brief description of degree program: This one-year post-JD degree provides an opportunity for experienced attorneys as well as recent law school graduates to spend an academic year full-time on the UF campus developing in-depth expertise in environmental and land use law.
- (e) Proposed date(s) of implementation: Fall2018

- (a) Name: LLM in Taxation
- (b) CIP: 22.0211
- (c) Degree type: Graduate
- (d) Brief description of degree program: This one-year post-JD degree provides an opportunity for experienced attorneys as well as recent law school graduates to spend an academic year full-time on the UF campus developing in-depth expertise in tax law.
- (e) Proposed date(s) of implementation: Fall2018

- (a) Name: LLM in International Taxation
- (b) CIP: 22.0210
- (c) Degree type: Graduate
- (d) Brief description of degree program: The LLM in International Taxation provides one year of legal education and training in tax law for graduates of undergraduate law programs outside of the United States.
- (e) Proposed date(s) of implementation: Fall2018

- (a) Name: LLM in Comparative Law
  - (b) CIP: 22.0206
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(c) Degree type: Graduate

(d) Brief description of degree program: The LLM in Comparative Law provides one year of legal education and training in U.S. law for graduates of undergraduate law programs outside of the United States.

(e) Proposed date(s) of implementation: Fall2018

1. Explain the process used to determine the appropriate block tuition rate for the program(s) and the tuition at similar programs from at least 5 other institutions, including both private and public.

We propose to set block tuition at the following rates:

<b>Degree</b>	<b>Yearly Resident Tuition</b>	<b>Yearly Non-Resident Tuition</b>
JD	\$21,803.76	\$38,039.47
LLM Environmental	\$19,326.06	\$33,716.80
LLM Comparative	\$19,326.06	\$33,716.80
LLMTax	\$22,211.06	\$37,993.80
LLM International Tax	\$22,211.06	\$37,993.80

We propose to set the block tuition rate for JD students at an annual amount that equals the current tuition for the 88 credits required for graduation. Florida residents currently pay \$743.31 per credit hour, which would equal \$21,803.76 a year for those students. Non-resident students currently pay \$1,296.80 per credit hour, which would equal \$38,039.47 a year for those students. We do not have a part-time JD program, but in exceptional circumstances, students may take fewer than 10 credit hours in a semester. In such cases, students taking fewer than 10 credit hours in a semester will be assessed tuition on a per-credit hour basis. We do not permit students to take more than 17 credit hours per semester, so there is no need for a surcharge for excess credits.

Similar annual block tuition rates would be charged for the LLM programs, based upon their current per credit hour charges and 13 credit hours per semester. This would mean that tuition for the LLM in Environmental Law and LLM in Comparative Law would be \$19,326.06 for residents and \$33,716.80 for non-residents, and tuition for the LLM in Taxation and LLM in International Taxation would be \$22,211.06 for residents and \$37,993.80 for non-residents. Once again, we do not offer part-time LLM programs, but if extraordinary circumstances mandate that students take fewer than 10 credit hours in a semester, those students will be assessed tuition on a per-credit hour basis. We do not permit students to take more than 17 credit hours per semester, so there is no need for a surcharge for excess credits.

Block tuition is the norm at law schools ranked among the top 50 law schools in the nation by *US News & World Report*. Only four law schools in the top 50- University of Iowa, University of Texas-Austin, Florida State, and UF-employ a per-credit-hour tuition scheme. Although the law schools currently charging tuition by the credit hour are all public law schools, most public law schools charge block tuition.

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Because of the ubiquity of block tuition, most law schools simply announce the cost of tuition per year or semester. For example, Duke Law School lists JD tuition as \$61,000 for the 2017-2018 academic year; University of Virginia Law School lists JD tuition as \$58,300 per year for residents and \$61,300 a year for non-residents; University of Michigan Law School lists JD tuition as \$28,422 per semester for residents and \$30,045 per semester for non-residents; and Wake Forest Law School simply states that "[t]uition for the 2017-2018 academic year for JD students is \$44,470." UCLA Law School has announced a tuition guarantee for California residents beginning in the fall of 2017, informing potential JD students on its website that "[i]f you qualify for California resident tuition, your total tuition and mandatory fees for your three years of law school will not exceed \$141,000."

Law schools follow a similar approach for their LLM programs. NYU Law School charges \$29,779.00 a semester for students taking between 1 and 18 credits per semester in each of its LLM programs (including its top-ranked LLM in Taxation). Indiana University Maurer School of Law charges \$43,485 a year for its LLM programs. Berkeley Law School charges \$28,735.50 a semester or \$57,471.00 a year for its LLM programs.

Very few law schools describe their block tuition schemes. One law school that does is Michigan State College of Law. Its website states that "tuition is assessed at a 'block rate' whereby students enrolled in 10-17 credit hours in the fall or spring semester pay a standard rate. Students taking less than 10 credit hours in a semester are assessed tuition on a per-credit hour basis and students enrolled in more than 17 credit hours a semester will be assessed a per-credit hour surcharge."

2. Explain how the University will ensure that sufficient courses are available to meet student demand.

The College of Law is required by the American Bar Association to offer a sufficient number of courses each semester so that JD students are able to graduate in a total of six semesters (or three years). The College of Law has met that requirement for decades. Because students in the LLM in Environmental Law and LLM in Comparative Law programs primarily take the same courses offered to JD students, they also have sufficient courses available to graduate in two semesters (or one year). Finally, the College of Law has long offered a sufficient number of tax LLM courses such that students are able to graduate in two semesters (or one year).

3. Describe how the proposal for block tuition is aligned with the mission of the University and the College.

The advantages of block tuition are numerous but, most critically, block tuition will encourage JD students at the College of Law to compete for summer employment opportunities, which will optimize their post-graduation employment opportunities. In addition, block tuition is more transparent for students as they make important financial

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decisions and reduces the pressure to take over-loaded semesters in the hopes of subsequent "lighter" semesters.

The principle advantage of block tuition is that it incentivizes JD students to complete paid summer work rather than take summer courses. In the current per-credit model, many students use the summer to take courses in order to reduce the number of credits they will need to take in their final semesters. This hurts the College of Law's job placement efforts and student success because students with paid summer jobs are the most likely to get good-paying, full-time jobs upon graduation. Increasingly, law firms report that they are looking for substantial work experience when hiring first-year lawyers. Students also often receive full-time offers at the firms for which they work during the summer between their second and third years.

In addition, block tuition permits greater financial planning and provides incentives for students to spread courses more evenly over the required semesters. Rather than having to adjust their financial aid requests from semester to semester, students will know their fixed cost of attendance for the whole year. Thus, students and their families will have more concrete information with which they to make important financial planning decisions. Students will also be better able to focus on their coursework without facing the pressure to take extra credits in any one semester in the hopes of subsequent "lighter" semesters.

Finally, block tuition will allow the College of Law to utilize facility and faculty resources more effectively. Instead of a handful of students enrolling in a summer course, the College of Law will be able to fully enroll these same courses in the fall or spring. Faculty will then have more time to complete research and scholarship over the summer, helping the College of Law strengthen its scholarly reputation. The College of Law's reputation will likely also be strengthened by joining the vast majority of top 50 law schools who already charge block tuition.

4. Provide an explanation of how, and a declaratory statement to the effect that, offering the proposed program(s) under block tuition will not increase the state's fiscal liability or obligation.

Block tuition will not increase the state's fiscal liability or obligation. Enrollment in courses may be increased during the fall or spring semesters, but no additional faculty or staff will be required to support those courses.

5. Provide an explanation of any proposed restrictions, limitations, or conditions to be placed on the program(s) as a result of block tuition.

None.

6. Provide a clear statement that any student that is a beneficiary of a prepaid tuition contract, purchased prior to the first fall term in which the block tuition is implemented, will not be included in any block tuition policy and will be billed on a per-credit-hour basis.
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Any student who is a beneficiary of a prepaid tuition contract can apply their tuition benefit to law courses on a per-credit basis so long as benefits remain. Once benefits are exhausted, the student will be included in the block tuition plan.

7. An estimation of the economic impact that implementation of the proposal will have on the University and on a typical student by identifying the incremental revenue the University anticipates collecting if the proposal is implemented.

Block tuition will not increase the costs of obtaining a JD or LLM degree unless students choose to take optional courses during the summer, and the College of Law predicts that the vast majority of students will not. The College of Law therefore will likely receive no incremental revenue.

8. Provide a description of any outcome measures that will be used to determine the success of this proposal, including but not limited to, time to degree, course load impact, and graduation rates.

The College of Law will closely track and monitor employment outcomes and job placement success, time-to-degree trends, graduation rates, credits taken per semester, and course enrollments.

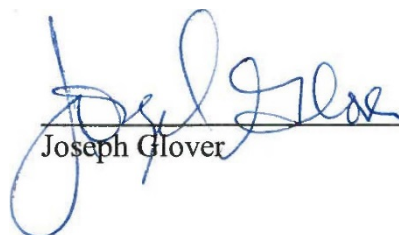
Submitted by:

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Laura Rosenbury

8/29/17

Date

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