

Eli Broad College of Business – Rationale for Moratorium on General Business Administration-Prelaw for Discussion at UCAP, December 17, 2009

Current and planned budget reductions require that the Broad School review the efficacy of its majors and specializations. The General Business-Prelaw program was selected for possible termination for two reasons. First, the major is not central to the mission of the Broad School, which is, in part to excel in the education and development of business leaders. In the last five years (2005-06 to fall 2009) the average annual enrollment in this major has been 103 students (junior and senior). Excluding 2005-06 the average drops to 94. Moreover, those students who desire to pursue a legal career are well-served by a degree in general management or by a major in one of the functional business fields. Second, MSU provides alternate paths to acquire a prelaw education. For example, a prelaw major is offered by the Department of Political Science in the College of Social Science and the Humanities Prelaw option is offered by the College of Arts and Letters.

The request for moratorium was discussed with the following Broad School constituencies: all senior administrators, undergraduate students (through the Broad Undergraduate Student Senate Dean's Forum), ongoing tenure stream business law faculty, the College Advisory Council, and the Undergraduate Programs Committee. Also, an email was sent to General Business Administration-Prelaw alumni, and there was a discussion at the college faculty meeting on November 20.

The review of the major will be conducted in the spring 2010 semester. It will allow a thoughtful discussion of whether the major should be discontinued and ensure that all relevant constituencies are heard. These constituencies include but are not limited to the directly affected students and faculty, appropriate Broad School governance bodies, and external stakeholders.

It is anticipated that if the major is discontinued, the process would begin with the fall 2010 semester. All students currently enrolled in the major would be given the opportunity to complete the major within a two-year time period. This time frame recognizes that the major is typically selected by the student in the junior year.