TO: College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee

FROM: Geoffrey Peterson, Chair of Political Science

DATE: August 27, 2013

RE: Program Change

We request implementation of the following program change with the next possible Catalog.

Name of Program — Pre-Professional Program: Pre-Law

Program Code — 425-900

Date of Department/Program Approval — 2/6/13

From: Page 56 of the 2013-14 Undergraduate Catalog

To: We wish to eliminate this program.

Why: There are two primary reasons we wish to eliminate the Pre-Law Pre-Professional Program. The first reason we wish to eliminate the program is to reduce confusion on campus. Every semester, a surprisingly large number of freshmen and transfer students are put into the Pre-Law program believing it is a major despite repeated reminders from the political science department. Also, advisors have sent students to the political science department to add the "Pre-Law major" recently, only further muddying the waters. On average, the department processes 10-15 major changes every semester for students that believe they're in the "Pre-Law major" only to discover they have no major at all. It is clear that students, staff and faculty are confused by the existence of both the Pre-Law Pre-Professional Program and the actual Legal Studies Emphasis within the political science major.

The second reason is that the program is largely superfluous. In any given semester, between 85-90% of the Pre-Law designated students are already political science or criminal justice majors or minors. Outside of existing as a rarely-used e-mail distribution list, the Pre-Law designation provides no clear value to the students and staff.
We have already discussed elimination of the program with the Admissions office and have worked with them to develop a method by which they will continue to admit "pre-law" students and then direct them into the Legal Studies Emphasis in the political science program.