

June 25, 2010

Memorandum 10-10

To: Deans of Member Schools

From: Susan Westerberg Prager

Subject: Amendment of Executive Committee Regulation 3.1 Establishing Membership Dues for Calendar Year 2011

At its May meeting, the Executive Committee adopted the Association's budget for FY 2010-11 (July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011), and amended Executive Committee Regulation 3.1 to establish the membership dues for Calendar Year 2011. The Executive Committee concluded that the dues for Calendar Year 2011 should be increased by 2%. The actual dollar amount of the increase ranges from \$125 to \$505, depending on the size of a school's student body. For most schools the increase ranges from \$190 to \$315. Member schools will be sent invoices in November.

In this economic climate, we know that most member schools are experiencing serious financial dislocations and difficult choices. Knowing what you are facing, it was a difficult decision to increase dues. We did so reluctantly, but ultimately the Executive Committee concluded that the very small dollar increases involved were preferable to cuts in services. There will be no increase in registration fees for the 2011 Annual Meeting or AALS professional development programs.

The recent action revised Executive Committee Regulation 3.1 to read as follows:

3.1 Annual Dues. Each year each member school shall pay membership dues to the Association. For the calendar year 2011, the dues shall be \$6,435 ~~6,310~~ for a school whose enrollment does not exceed 250 students; \$9,645 ~~9,455~~ for a school whose enrollment exceeds 250 students but does not exceed 500 students; \$12,880 ~~12,625~~ for a school whose enrollment exceeds 500 students but does not exceed 800 students; \$16,065 ~~15,750~~ for a school whose enrollment exceeds 800 students but does not exceed 1100 students; \$19,300 ~~18,920~~ for a school whose enrollment exceeds 1100 students but does not exceed 1400 students; \$23,380 ~~22,060~~ for a school whose enrollment exceeds 1400 students but does not exceed 1700 students; and \$25,730 ~~25,225~~ for a school whose enrollment exceeds 1700 students.

In accordance with Bylaw 5-4, unless objection is received from at least ten member schools within 60 days of mailing a copy of these regulations, Executive Committee Regulations 3.1 and 7.1(c), as amended, will continue in effect.

Income and Expense Summary: Attached as Appendix A is a summary of income and expense for FY 2007-08 and FY 08-09; FY 09-10 estimated income and expense (based on projections from actual expenditures through March 31, 2010), and the operating budget for FY 2010-11. The operating budget adopted by the Executive Committee for Fiscal Year 2010-11 contemplates

operating income of \$5,172,055 and expenditures of \$5,298,898, for a net loss of \$-126,843. This amount will be funded from reserves.

Financial Statements: Attached as Appendix B are the AALS audited financial statements for FY 2008-09.

Comment: As you know, the Association of American Law Schools is the academic society for law faculty and provides a number of services and resources to its member schools and their faculty and professional staff. These services for 2010-2011 include both hard copy and on-line publication of *the Directory of Law Teachers*. Other AALS services include the 90+ AALS Sections; Faculty Recruitment Services, including the annual on-line Faculty Appointments Register, Faculty Recruitment Conference, Placement Bulletin, Visiting, Foreign Visiting and Retiring Faculty Registers; the Annual Meeting; professional development programs for faculty and administrators; services of the Resource Corps. The AALS represents legal education to the larger world of higher education, the government, interdisciplinary societies, international law school/faculty associations, and the public.

AALS has made some progress in this past year in improving services offered to law schools, deans, faculty and professional staff. We launched a new web-based software allowing for better online services, enabling faculty to update their biographical information online at any time during the year. While we will continue to work on the problems identified by a number of your faculty in using the new system, having the online capacity is an essential step forward. We have also launched the new communication platform which provides Section officers the ability to communicate electronically making announcements, offering online discussions, posting news, events, links, uploading documents, and conducting polls and surveys. These technology improvements were funded from reserves. One of the benefits of the new system is that information can be organized by topic, retained for future reference, and will be searchable. Particularly in this time of curricular innovation, these new capacities should be useful and productive. They also will enable individual faculty members to have course related models easily available.

During my first months as Executive Director, I have been highly impressed with the dedication of the AALS staff and with the energy, creativity and devotion of our hundreds of faculty volunteers. This spring, I have now seen first hand the impact on individual teacher-scholars of the AALS Professional Development effort through the specialized conferences. The programs were exciting, and attendees have been engaged and appreciative. Participants ranged from new law teachers to the most acknowledged scholars in their fields. They even included retiring deans preparing to teach courses in their new life after the dean's office! Perhaps most significant, some faculty personally funded their own attendance because of the economic difficulties now facing their law schools. This spring I have also felt the appreciation of faculties and deans who jointly requested the assistance of a targeted school visit from our Resource Corps. A few deans and faculty have sought informal advice, and many have contributed to my understanding of issues of importance today.

I hope that you will not hesitate to call me with any questions or comments about the recent Executive Committee decision, about any other aspect of the AALS, or if I can be of help to you in any way, informal or otherwise.

cc: Members of the 2010 AALS House of Representatives

Enclosures: Appendix A: Income and Expense Summary
Appendix B: AALS Audited Financial Statements for FY 2008-09

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