

Addis Ababa University

Faculty of law

Annual Report from the Dean
1980-81 (1973 Ethiopian Calendar)
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This academic year, the year in which we celebrated the 30th anniversary of University education in Ethiopia, has been quite a remarkable one. Not only have we, as a University, come of age by celebrating our 30th anniversary, but we have taken decisive steps to ameliorate the academic standards by reverting to some of the better methods of our old educational system. Thus, in the Faculty of Law, the duration of legal studies has been increased by one additional year, which will certainly enable us to produce more competent and mature lawyers.

The brief report hereunder gives the basic facts about staff and students, and highlights of major activities in terms of research, curriculum review, and efforts to form an alumni association, and concludes by pointing out some of our major needs and problems.

1. **Students**

At the opening of the school year 1980-81 there enrolled in the Law Faculty 214 students in our regular degree programme and 176 students in our evening diploma programme.

The breakdown of students by year and academic status is shown in the table hereunder.

Students Enrolment in the LL.B. Programme of the Faculty of Law, Academic year 1980-81 Semester One

	Enrolment	Warning	Probation	Dismissal	Drop-outs	Withdrawal
Law I	78	7	7		2	3
Law II	84	24	4	4	3	1
Law III	43	14	1			
Law IV	9					
	<hr/> 214	45	12	4	5	4

Semester Two

	Enrolment	Warning	Probation	Dismissal	Drop-out	Withdrawal
Law I	73	2	5	2	1	
Law II	84	8	9	4	1	2
Law III	45		1			
Law IV	8				1	1
	210	10	15	6	3	3

Evening Diploma Programme

During the academic year 1980-81, the diploma programme ran at full capacity. In the 1st semester we had 101 first year students, and 75 in the second year.

At the close of the academic year 7 students were granted LL.B. degrees and 61 were granted diplomas.

The academic performance of many LL.B. students during the 1st semester was not quite satisfactory, and as a result the faculty was compelled to start a system whereby students who were placed on warning and probation were assigned faculty advisors. Every faculty member was assigned three or four students in need of advice, and from the performance of these students during the 2nd semester we are convinced that the advisory system has been quite successful.

Another way by which the faculty has attempted to ameliorate the standard of students is by re-introducing the summer reading programme, in which students are assigned to read chosen material, upon which they are examined at the beginning of the academic year.

Finally, the faculty is in the process of beginning a trust fund to be known as the George Krzeczunowicz Fund, to enable it to give an award to the best law student every year. This will hopefully create and stimulate an atmosphere for attaining academic excellence.

II. Staff

A. LL.B. Programme

Our Teaching staff this year was composed of 14 members, of whom 11 were Ethiopians and 3 were expatriates. At the beginning of this year Professor G. Krzeczunowicz retired after 29 years of distinguished service to the Faculty

Also at the end of this year, the contracts of the two expatriate staff, Dr. Henryk Leszczyna and Dr. Z. Galicki, expired. The two expatriates who had been seconded to us from Warsaw University, Poland, had been active members of our faculty for the past three years, and we are confident that this exemplary relationship between the Faculty of Law of Warsaw University and our Faculty will be enhanced and developed in the future.

Furthermore, in accordance with our staff development plan, two of our Ethiopian staff, Ato Belayneh Seyoum and Ato Solomon Jiru, were sent abroad for further training. Ato Belayneh went to McGill University, Canada, and Ato Solomon went to Columbia University, U.S.A.

The arduous task of replacing these highly competent staff members started quite early, and we are glad to report that the efforts of the Faculty were generously rewarded by its ability to attract first-rate scholars. As of the beginning of the coming academic year, Dr. Michael Herman from the Peoples Republic of Poland, Dr. Horst Kelner from the German Democratic Republic, Ato Mesfin Ghebre Hiwot and Ato Zekarias Kennea will be joining the Faculty.

The teaching staff has been engaged in many academic and administrative duties, indicating not only the contribution of individual teachers but also the variety of functions that the Law School is involved in.

In addition, in order to keep each staff member abreast of his area of specialization and to assist us in discussing recent developments, we have this year started what we call "faculty seminars". This year's seminars were limited only to senior students and staff, but we hope that in the future we shall expand them to include our alumni, who have expressed keen interest in the seminars. During the past academic year the following lectures and seminars were conducted.

1. "Problems of Development of Socialist Democracy", by Dr. Alexander Popov of Moscow State University.
2. "The Idea of Equality in the Marxist Theory of State", by Dr. Henryk Lesczyzna of our Faculty.
3. "Legitimation of Modern States in Africa", by Dr. Heinrich Scholer of the University of Munich.
4. "Products liability", by Professor G. Krzeczunowicz.

B. Evening Diploma Programme

It has always been the policy of the Law Faculty to integrate, as much as possible, Continuing Education in Law with the day programme. One way this has been done was by arranging for the daytime instructors to participate in the evening teaching. Hence, of the 14 instructors that have been teaching in the 1st and 2nd semesters, only 2 have been recruited from outside the Law Faculty teaching staff. Almost invariably the instructors have been allocated to teach the same course in the evening as they teach in the day programme. Also, in pursuance of University regulations, no instructor has been allocated more than one subject at one time in the evening programme.

III. Curriculum Review

Since review of the curriculum is an ongoing process, the concern of the Faculty in general and of the Academic Standards and Curriculum Committee in

particular was focused on this major item. Even though the major task of composing and submitting the new five-year LL.B. curriculum was completed during the academic year 1979-80, the Committee was then faced with the task of applying this programme to students who were already in the pipeline. Its recommendation that students who were in Law III (University 4th year) should graduate at the end of the 1st semester of the academic year 1981-82 was approved by the Academic Commission of the Faculty and the University Curriculum and Standards Committee.

In addition to the task of applying the five-year LL.B. programme, the Committee scrutinized the question of academic standards. In this regard it recommended the following provisions:

- (a) Introduction of summer reading
- (b) Division of classes into smaller sections
- (c) Emphasis to be put on practical experience, and
- (d) The adoption of standard course content.

The recommendations which were submitted at the end of the academic year will be fully implemented during the coming academic year, 1981-82.

Another point which the Committee discussed is the question of examination scrutiny by the Academic Commission. The Academic Commission has been reviewing all exams before they are given, and it is felt that a balance between its powers and the independence of the instructor has become quite essential. The Committee has submitted its recommendation, which will be discussed by the Academic Commission.

IV. Research and Publications

The research and publication activities of the Faculty are being revived, and since not all of its former projects have become fully operative, due to staff shortage in the Faculty, we have been discussing as to how best to revive them, in the hope that our staff will increase.

A. On-going Research Projects

(i) Journal of Ethiopian Law

As the Faculty's oldest on-going project the *Journal of Ethiopian Law* was revived about two years ago. Volume XI, No. 1, came out in 1980, and this year the faculty has been working on the production of *Journal of Ethiopian Law* Vol. XI. No. 2. We hope that this issue will appear in print during the first quarter of the coming academic year, 1981-82.

(ii) Consolidated Law of Ethiopia

This project was revived last academic year and we are in the process of preparing the second Supplement to Consolidated Law of Ethiopia, expected to come out by July 1982.

(iii) African Law Digest

The last issue of this publication appeared in 1974. The Faculty has repeatedly resolved to revive its publication in a number of meetings; however, because of our failure to secure the services of a multilingual expert, we have not been able to secure its revival. We hope that this and other problems will be resolved during the first half of the coming academic year, and that we can recommence publication of the *Digest*.

B. Individual Research Project

In addition to the above on-going Faculty projects, all staff were engaged in individual research, culminating in the production of articles for the Journal and teaching material.

Noteworthy amongst these projects is the manuscript on the formation of contracts prepared by Professor George Krzczunowicz. Professor Krzczunowicz completed and submitted his commentary on the formation of contracts to the Faculty early this year. The work was evaluated both by an internal and external assessor and was found to be publishable. The commentary, along with the evaluations, has been submitted to the Research and Publications Office of the University for its final decision.

The business side of our research and publication efforts are not praiseworthy. The only outlet for our publications remains the University Book Shop (Addis Bookshop) in Arat Kilo Campus. Unless we adopt a system whereby our publications can be made available to the public by giving commission to other bookshops, our operation will remain a futile exercise; and unless our publications are made available to the public, our operation cannot be self-sustaining, far less profitable. While we recognize that we have had problems in the past with this end of our operations, a workable procedure must be worked out, whereby not only the profitability of our operation is ensured but our main goal of educating the members of the legal profession can be attained.

V. Library and Documentation

Library holdings continued to grow this year at a fairly substantial rate. Large gift of books, from the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and from the International Red Cross, have augmented our library collection. The list hereunder shows the augmentations of the library during the period 1 August 1980 to 31 August 1981.

New additions by title	130
Materials received as gifts, by volume	170
Current periodical titles on subscription by title	76
Current periodical titles on exchange, by title	25
Current periodical titles received as gifts, by title	20

In terms of service, not only has the population served by the library increased, but also the frequency of use has shown rapid growth. The library has served a student population of 390, a teaching staff of 16, and technical and administrative staff of 21 persons. Moreover, it has served the students, the teaching and non-teaching staff of other departments of the University, external readers and members of the legal profession.

VI. Alumni

Many attempts to form a Law Alumni Association have been made in the past, and one of the most important developments during this academic year was the laying of the cornerstone for the Law School Alumni Association. A draft constitution was prepared by a drafting committee composed of Ato Haile Kebede (Attorney), Ato Girma Asfaw (Legal Department of the Ministry of Justice), Ato Mekbib Tsegaw (Supreme Court Judge), Ato Yoseph Gebre Egziabher (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law) and Ato Zerabruk Aberra (Chief Legal Adviser, HVA).

The draft constitution was discussed and reviewed by the coordinating committee, composed of representatives from each class, and the Memorandum of Association is currently being redrafted. It is hoped that the Association will become operative by the beginning of the coming academic year.

VII. Needs and Problems

Physical Plant

In terms of students and activities, the Faculty of Law has been expanding at great speed; however, it is still bound in the same premises where it was founded. The main building and the others scattered around it are not only becoming noticeably too small for its activities, but also, because of age and/or lack of maintenance, they are becoming hazardous to work in. It is, in my opinion, high time to start thinking of building a satisfactory construction for housing the Faculty of Law.

Links with the Outside World

The Faculty's high standards and reputation were in the first instance a result of cross-breeding of ideas and heavy financial assistance from several foreign institutions. Our former links have been severely cut, and not much has been done to create new relationships with other institutions. While efforts on the part of each faculty are undeniably useful, a university-wide, centralized approach to this problem is likely to be more fruitful and consideration should be given to a solution to the problem.

Conclusion

We are faced with a challenge which all growing institutions must face: to maintain what we have while at the same time moving forward with ideas. As a former Dean of our Faculty once said, "The laws of science inform us that it is harder to start an object moving than to keep it moving. But for human institutions, we know there is another rule: it is often easier for us to start an institution or project than to continue it or finish it well..." However, I have no doubt whatsoever that, with the corporate spirit of my Faculty colleagues and students, we shall not only be able to keep things rolling but we shall make the school live up to its expectations by producing dedicated professionals with perspectives and ideals worthy of emulation.

