

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

### **INITIAL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFFILIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY AND THOMAS M. COOLEY LAW SCHOOL**

Western Michigan University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School declare through this initial memorandum of understanding signed by their Presidents that they intend to enhance and expand their current relationship by beginning to implement the comprehensive affiliation agreement, dated July 19, 2013, that will advance their respective educational, research, and public service missions and goals. The affiliation allows Cooley and its students, faculty, and staff to realize the benefits of being part of a major research university. It allows Western and its students, faculty, and staff to realize the benefits of being associated with a national law school that shares its values of access, diversity, practical education, and quality.

#### **Introduction and Background**

Western Michigan University and Thomas M. Cooley Law School entered into an affiliation agreement on July 19, 2013 by which Cooley will operate as the Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School. The affiliation becomes effective upon favorable reviews of the affiliation agreement by the institutions' accrediting agencies, being the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, and the Council of the Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar of the American Bar Association. Those reviews are pending.

To implement the affiliation agreement as soon as practicable after the accreditation reviews, Western and Cooley have asked their faculties and administrators to confer on a wide range of topics. These conferences are a natural and intended result of the affiliation agreement, which expressly calls for additional agreements as necessary to implement new programs or realize specific benefits contemplated by the affiliation. Western and Cooley intend that the details of the affiliation be developed based upon the participation and input of their respective internal constituencies. This memorandum of understanding is thus the first subsequent agreement as called for by the affiliation agreement.

Faculty and administrators of the institutions have met and together developed a list of initiatives that they recommend be pursued once the affiliation agreement becomes effective. They realize that some of the initiatives will require formal approval by various bodies within their institutions or by the accrediting agencies. The Presidents of the institutions agree to pursue the initiatives listed below.

## Implementation of the Affiliation Agreement

### *Immediate Action*

1. Appoint joint oversight committee to coordinate implementation of the affiliation agreement. (This effort is assigned to the Presidents of the institutions.)
2. Coordinate on accreditation matters to assure that the respective accrediting agencies understand and appreciate the nature of the affiliation and its importance to both institutions and to continue to assure that the submissions to the accrediting agencies are accurate and complete. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective accreditation and communications officers.)

### *Near-Term Action (Complete by fall 2014)*

1. Coordinate veterans' programs and integrate services where possible. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective veterans' affairs, student services, and instructional support officers.)
2. Create secure electronic access between the institutions. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective IT and institutional effectiveness officers.)
3. Coordinate websites and other electronic and social media presence. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective marketing and communications officers.)
4. Hold joint alumni receptions to promote the affiliation at all locations of each school. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective university outreach and alumni relations officers.)
5. Coordinate positioning and public communication to achieve the maximum benefit of the affiliation to the students, faculty, and staff of the schools. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective marketing and communications teams.)
6. Confer and coordinate regarding learning management systems. Both institutions have employed various learning management systems, including D2L and Blackboard and believe that students will benefit from collaboration. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and assessment and enrollment management officers.)
7. Integrate shared joint access to student services. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective student affairs and business operations officers.)
8. Coordinate academic support programs for students. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and assessment and instructional support officers.)
9. Coordinate literacy and reading skills programs. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and instructional support officers.)

10. Discuss and plan possible integration of Western Michigan's student retention efforts through use of its early-alert study and potential technology solutions to assist students. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and planning, assessment, and student services officers.)
11. Confer and coordinate approaches to assessment and student retention. Both institutions have deep expertise and long experience with assessment, but they have determined that they will benefit from working with each other. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective assessment and institutional effectiveness officers.)
12. Confer on pre-law course offerings and prelaw advising at Western Michigan. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and enrollment management and assessment officers.)
13. Confer on pre-law course offerings at Western Michigan's other locations. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans, campus deans, and educational leadership officers.)

*Mid-Term Action (Complete by fall 2015)*

1. Commence a "3+3" program by which Western Michigan students may gain admission to Cooley in accelerated fashion, apply certain Cooley credits toward their Western Michigan degrees to graduate in three years, and ultimately graduate with two degrees more quickly and at reduced cost. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans, faculty bodies, and planning and enrollment management officers.)
2. Plan additional joint degree programs to expand the three currently offered, including a J.D./Ph.D. dual degree program and a new Masters of Taxation program at Western Michigan to be taught in conjunction with Cooley's J.D and LL.M. tax programs. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and planning and assessment officers.)
3. Offer six law degree credits on Western Michigan University's Kalamazoo campus, followed by an additional six credits in the winter semester, and three in the summer. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans.)
4. Develop a plan that broadens library space access for students and faculty, coordinates acquisitions and resources, and shares collection usage. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective library deans.)
5. Confer and coordinate use of Western Michigan's entrepreneurship program and Cooley's Intellectual Property and Corporate Law programs, to help develop an entrepreneurial mindset for Cooley students and bring Cooley faculty legal skills to bear on Western Michigan's efforts. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and faculty, university outreach officers, enrollment management officers, and intellectual property management officers.)

6. Confer on instructional support, especially on training for Cooley's adjunct faculty. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and faculty support officers.)
7. Confer and coordinate on social justice initiatives, graduate placement opportunities, and scholastic competitions. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective student services and career services officers.)
8. Discuss research and discovery planning and execution. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective research and academic planning and assessment officers.)
9. Explore Western Michigan's potential to offer a law orientation course on line. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic, planning, assessment, and accreditation officers.)
10. Discuss and coordinate student safety and security, including at off-campus facilities beyond those covered by the Clery Act. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective operations, educational leadership, student services, legal, and emergency management officers.)
11. Discuss a foster care clinical externship program. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic planning and assessment officers.)

*Long-Term Action (September 2016)*

1. Coordinate on environmental law, and on the campus environments, with a focus on sustainability. This involves not only teaching and research but also campus operations. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans and faculty and to their educational leadership, operations, and sustainability officers.)
2. Coordinate on best practices for facilities, sustainability, and economy of scale. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective operations and facilities management.)
3. Coordinate study abroad programs and opportunities for students. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective foreign study officers.)
4. Coordinate and plan to share space. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic, planning and assessment, accreditation, and operations officers.)
5. Confer on the use of Cooley campuses as extended campuses for Western Michigan's courses. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic deans, campus deans, and educational leadership officers.)
6. Confer on shared teaching. (This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective academic and campus deans, faculty bodies, and planning and accreditation officers.)

7. Coordinate the institutional research platform collection cycles and use of resources.  
(This effort is assigned to the institutions' respective institutional research and planning and assessment officers.)



John M. Dunn  
President  
Western Michigan University

Dated: March 12, 2014



Don LeDuc  
President  
Thomas M. Cooley Law School

Dated: March 13, 2014

### List of Representatives Involved in Discussions to Date

WMU Officials = 35	Position
Diane Anderson	Vice President for Student Affairs
Andrea Beach	Associate Professor, Higher Ed. Leadership; Director, Office of Faculty Development
Brynne Belinger	Manager of Institutional Accreditation and Planning HLC Assurance System Coordinator
Jody Brylinski	Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness
John Dunn	President
Alexander Enyedi	Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences
Daniel Gaymer	Faculty Specialist, Educational Leadership and Organizational Learning and Performance
Harold Glasser	Professor of Environmental and Sustainability Studies Executive Director for Campus Sustainability
Tim Greene	Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Bassam Harik	Vice Provost
Kyle Herm	Manager of Fundraising, Department of Development and Alumni Relation.
Hal Jenson	Dean of the School of Medicine
Carla Koretsky	Dean of the Lee Honors College
Paula Kohler	Director, Special Education (Career Connections Research Center) Associate VP for Research (Special Education and Literacy Studies)
Dan Litynski	Vice President for Research
Ed Martini	Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences
Robert Miller	Associate Vice President for Community Outreach
Dan Morgan	Chair, Special Education and Literacy Studies
Kay Palan	Dean of the Haworth College of Business
Tracy Pattok	Director of Institutional Research
Kathy Purnell	Research Contracts Administrator
Tracey Quada	Military Advocate, Center For Academic Success Programs
William Rantz	Professor and President of the Faculty Senate
David Reinhold	Associate Provost for Assessment and Undergraduate Studies
Joe Reish	Dean of University Libraries
Cheryl Roland	Executive Director of University Relations
Michael Sharer	Director, Intellectual Property Management and Commercialization
Susan Stapleton	Dean of the Graduate College
Peter Strazdas	Associate Vice President of Facilities Management
Christopher Tremblay	Associate Provost for Enrollment Management
Edmund Tsang	Interim Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences,
Patty Van Walbeck	Associate VP for Business and Finance & Assistant Treasurer for the Board of Trustees
Cam Vossen	Emergency Management Administrator
Martha Warfield	Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion

Tom Wolf	Chief Technology Officer
Cooley Officials = 17	Position
Charles Cercone	Associate Dean of Faculty and Knowledge
Christine Church	Associate Dean of Practice and Performance Skills
Lisa Halushka	Acting Associate Dean of Auburn Hills Campus
Don LeDuc	President and Dean
Laura LeDuc	Associate Dean of Planning, Assessment and Accreditation
Layne Maloney	Vice President of Operations
Jeff Martlew	Associate Dean of Tampa Bay Campus
Michael McDaniel	Director of the Homeland and National Security LL.M. Program
Charles Mickens	Vice President of Innovation and Technology
Nelson Miller	Associate Dean of Grand Rapids Campus
James Robb	Associate Dean of External Affairs and Senior Counsel
Duane Strojny	Associate Dean of Library and Instructional Support
James Thelen	Vice President of Legal Affairs and General Counsel
Amy Timmer	Associate Dean of Students and Professionalism
Charles Toy	Associate Dean of Career and Professional Development
Joan Vestrand	Associate Dean of Ann Arbor Campus
Paul Zelenski	Associate Dean of Enrollment and Student Services