

TO: Dean David Hood

RE: Prof. Ben Hopkins

The majority of the Law School students have voted to support the following two positions:

1. We demand that Prof. Hopkins's association with the Social Decision Making Course be terminated immediately. (This includes classroom appearances and the writing and grading of the final exam).
2. We urge the administration to eliminate all future teaching by Prof. Hopkins.

These two positions result from the widespread judgment that Prof. Hopkins is an incompetent teacher. Below are some of the reasons why we feel Prof. Hopkins should be relieved of all teaching functions:

1. Reading materials selected (for both Fall and Spring courses) are of questionable pedagogical value for purposes of the courses. Materials are usually too general, too vague, too out-of-date, too truncated, too eclectic to be useful.
2. Prof. is unable or unwilling to explain materials or show their relevancy to the central purpose of the course. Very little is learned from the lectures. Prof. doesn't seem to understand materials and has only a vague awareness of what really happens (in real life) in the areas under consideration.
3. Prof. poses questions which are unreasonable, unhelpful, and don't promote clear thinking. For example, "What does the author say about that?" in response to a question which clearly indicates that the student didn't extract the meaning "of that" from the reading.
4. Teaching method discourages student response and questions. Prof. frequently is insulting and rude and belittles and interrupts students' comments. Prof. is antagonistic, especially to certain students, and is defensive and intolerant of challenges to his opinions.
5. Prof. Thinks he is promoting development of arguing abilities of students, when what he actually does is nit-pick about relatively unimportant details.
6. Prof. refuses to discuss evaluation techniques and objective standards used by him in the grading of Methodology exams.
7. Prof. is unwilling to be available for consultation with students -- he refused to go over exam papers with any students other than those in his seminar. A frequent comment he gives to students is "I have a life outside the law school and I'm not going to devote my entire life to students."