On October 16, 2012, the College of Public Affairs and Administration Curriculum Committee met to assess, through suggestions, the program review of the Legal Studies (LES) M.A. program. The CPA&A Curriculum Committee acknowledges the on-going development and growth of the LES Department and would like to acknowledge:

- The UIS LES M.A. program faculty have worked hard to stabilize and grow this program. During the last program review (2004-2005), the low enrollment numbers at that time initiated discussions at various program review levels of significantly adapting the program or otherwise eliminating it. Since this review, substantial program changes have been implemented that have resulted in a noteworthy increase in enrollment, to the point that the program is actually starting to turn applicants away due to lack of space and resources necessary to accommodate demand for this program.

- To specifically address the troubling low enrollment numbers from the last program review period, the UIS LES M.A. program faculty worked with the CPA&A Dean and the Provost to implement an entirely online Legal Studies Masters program. This was added to the already existing on-campus Masters program. The LES M.A. program has become successful as a result of going online, and this online program is supportive of UIS’ online education initiatives.

- Another significant revision to the LES M.A. program came with the addition of a Legal Studies Online Coordinator, who works with all graduate students, whether on-campus or online. This coordinator engages in every aspect of student recruitment and retention. Such efforts by the program’s faculty and staff have resulted in increases in retention among both on-campus and online graduate students.

- The UIS LES M.A. program faculty have worked hard since the last program review to distinguish the graduate curriculum from the undergraduate curriculum. The program has shifted from a focus on training students for
paralegal work and knowledge of substantive law to an emphasis on law in a broader context. This program has also moved toward teaching an understanding of laws’ effects on public policy and the reflective effects of public policy on creation and application of law in turn.

- The LES faculty’s achievements and leadership in teaching, service, and research in spite of low numbers of tenured program faculty and accompanying heavy workloads during this program review period.

As far as recommendations for the future, the CPA&A Curriculum Committee would like to see:

- Continued work on the recruitment and retention of new students for both the on-campus and online LES M.A. programs. This committee applauds the LES M.A. program’s efforts at recruitment and retention through the use of social media, email, and phone communication between faculty, staff, and students.
- Discussion of additional faculty lines to support the growing LES M.A. program. While the program is currently turning away applicants, future demand can be better accommodated through an increase in faculty and the number and range of course offerings that such faculty could provide.