To: Heather Chermak, Registrar, and University Curriculum Committee

From: Jeffrey A. Dodge, Associate Dean, College of Law

RE: 3+3 Program with Bachelors and Juris Doctor Degrees

I’m writing to request the reactivation of the University of Idaho’s 3+3 program between the baccalaureate and Juris Doctor degrees. This long-standing collaboration slid off from the list of active programs and has been in a dormant state ever since. There is increased interest by a number of baccalaureate degree advisors who support undergraduate students beginning their Juris Doctor degree early. Moving the 3+3 program from the dormant list of programs back into an active status will enhance our ability to recruit undergraduate students seeking to enroll in law school and retain them for their law degrees. The College of Law has active 3+3 degree programs with BYU Idaho, College of Idaho, and Boise State University, so the moving of the program back into active status is also about ensuring our own undergraduate students have this opportunity. The College of Law faculty adopted the 3+3 program years ago. The 3+3 program still carries the support of the College of Law faculty and the move to the dormant programs list was done administratively. At a recent faculty meeting, I notified the College of Law faculty that we are pursuing reactivation of the 3+3 program.

About the 3+3 Program
The American Bar Association’s accreditation standards permit law schools to enroll students still in the process of completing their baccalaureate degrees so long as it will be completed by the end of the first year in the Juris Doctor degree. As a result of this standard, many law schools have 3+3 programs that allow undergraduate students, with the permission of their major advisor, to count up to 30 credits of the first year law curriculum toward the completion of the baccalaureate degree. A qualified student would complete three years of the baccalaureate degree and finish the remaining credits through the courses in the first year curriculum of the law degree. The law degree takes three years to complete, thus the 3+3 program title. The combined curriculum takes a year off a of student’s schooling.

The conditions that must be met for a 3+3 degree student to receive serious consideration from the College of Law Admissions Committee are: (1) demonstration of outstanding ability by a cumulative grade point average at the most recently entered class median or higher, currently a 3.24 GPA; (2) demonstration of excellent aptitude for law study by a score on the LSAT at the most recently entered class median or higher, currently a 152; and (3) submission of a letter from the undergraduate major department attesting to the fact that the applicant will receive the baccalaureate degree after the successful completion of up to 30 credits of law study.

Result of Reinstatement
Students may be approved for admission to the College of Law after successful completion of 90 semester credits of undergraduate study. University of Idaho students who receive the approval of their undergraduate department major may use up to 30 credits of the first year law degree towards their baccalaureate degree. The College of Law Admissions Office will advise students on the law school admissions requirements. University of Idaho degree programs may decide individually if this opportunity works for their students and advise accordingly.