

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

3:30 p.m. Workman 101

Minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Mike Hargather called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm with a call for approval of the March 1, 2022 minutes.

2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Anwar Hossain moved to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

a. Undergraduate Advising Committee – *Wes Cook*

Please download your Spring 2022 Academic Advisor Evaluations from Canvas by Tuesday, April 12. The Advisor Course Shells will be removed from Canvas after April 12. If you need access to your course analytics prior to April 15, please contact Curtis Warren in ACT.

Dr. Cook announced that there was a good turnout with the number of students that took the survey at 67%. The committee has yet to come to a consensus on any changes, but did agree that an annual survey is too frequent. They could potentially do a bi-annual survey. Dr. Cook noted that there was also some discussion that came from a different committee on Canvas suggested adding if the students had a new advisor or if their advisor changed to question #3.

Dr. Cook announced that the committee is still working on the survey, but they will bring a formal recommendation proposal to move this to a bi-annual survey given its current state. The committee plans to evaluate the results for this one time.

b. Retention Committee – *Brian Borchers*

Dr. Borchers stated that the committee is tasked with monitoring student success measures of retention from the fall of their first year to the fall of the second year along with looking at persistence for their third year and four-year graduation rates. They also have recently been looking particularly at what happens to first year freshman as this where they either sink or swim.

Trends show that the four-year graduation rate for freshman retention improved due to the 15-credit requirement with the lottery scholarship. Covid retention rates got off to a good start, the pandemic happened, but students were already doing

well enough before that they were able to recover. NMT also made efforts to provide additional support to students during this time. Overall, the retention and graduation rates and first semester GPAs do not seem to have been significantly impacted by the pandemic.

Another task is to help develop goals for retention and graduation rates as required by HLC. As part of the accreditation cycle, NMT has proposed a Quality Initiative focused on retention to the HLC. A task force has been set up to implement this Quality Initiative. A second task force is developing a strategic enrollment management plan for NMT. Finally, a new strategic planning process is being started. The Retention Committee would like to work with all of these groups in setting new goals for retention and graduation rates.

c. Mental Health Committee – *Yulia Mikhailova*

Dr. Mikhailova stated that in order to achieve their goal of helping students with mental health, the committee had a list of questions that they tried to find the answers to. The information obtained were two student supported surveys that were conducted by the Dean of Students in 2018 and 2021. Additional steps taken included submitting a request to the IRB, where they received their approval. Started a collaboration with the Socorro County Prevention Coalition and with the National Institute on Disability Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at Temple University.

The recommendation is for the committee to report the student data to the Faculty Senate annually.

d. Regents Faculty Committee – *Subhashish Mazumdar*

Dr. Mazumdar reported on the results of the survey. There were five questions. They received a total of 50 responses. The committee reviewed the answers and tried to group them into categories of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats, and overall suggestions for changes.

Comments and suggestions regarding the report were to include the number of faculty who listed certain concerns. A better summary should be sent to the Regents after some more discussion has been done and those mentioned have been able to add their responses. Important highlights should be identified instead of a full report. However, the committee felt that it was important that faculty comments were seen. Rank choice surveys might help address the number of concerns on one issue in the future. We should also state that here are the problems we identified and here is what we are doing to address them.

Dr. Wells addressed several of the issues or concerns that were noted. There is a senate budget committee that used to meet and he noted that we are happy to start meeting again. Admission standards have not changed, with the exception of ACT and SAT scores not being available during COVID and we had to make a decision

on what to do. Intersessions and proctored exams were approved by this body but we haven't dropped standards. Admissions engage with faculty far more than what they were doing under a different administration. Faculty salaries are low but we have added \$700k over the last five years mostly in equity but also in merit. Additionally, AA engages with the Chairs and the Senate once a month and then on demand. Dr. Wells can also meet with each department every semester or once a year if faculty would like to do this. Faculty numbers have also grown.

Dr. Creech-Eakman moved to refer back to the committee try to distill this down to a two-page summary, seconded by Dr. Sessions. Motion passed with 9 nays.

4. Council of Chairs Report – Doug Wells

a. Sabbatical Policy Dates

Dr. Wells stated that we put deadlines in this policy. By doing so, this text makes bullet 2 redundant and not needed.

Friendly amendment was made to add under question #9 a. Sabbatical application due "to department Chair" November 15.

There was some concern with the dates for the spring deadline.

Dr. Borchers moved to adopt including parallel spring deadlines, seconded by Dr. Kramer-Simpson. Motion was moved and approved with several nays and abstentions.

Motion to accept this updated policy with the friendly amendment was moved and approved.

b. Commencement Protocols

Dr. Wells stated that there has been some concern mostly with graduate students not finishing their thesis in time to walk that will petition. This proposed protocol will help address these concerns. Dr. Wells noted that the commencement program, in turn, will note that the names of students listed in the program has no bearing on a student's official graduation status.

Changes to Commencement Participation Rules

Students that are on track to finish degree requirements this Spring my participate in commencement if the following is satisfied:

1. Submitted an intent to graduate and intent to walk form by the deadline of April 15th, 2022,
2. for undergraduate students, receive confirmation and approval of requirements being met from Registrar office,
3. for graduate students; have an approved course plan on file showing that they are on track to finish all their coursework by the end Spring 2022 semester

(May 10th, 2022), submitted an intent to walk to the Registrar office by the April 15th deadline, and

4. for MS (with thesis or independent study) and PhD students have the following
 - approved committee form,
 - sent the graduate office information about your defense date by May 6th, and
 - defended successfully by May 10th, 2022.

If all the above conditions have been met you will be able to walk during commencement.

If you are a Graduate Student and all your completion paperwork has been submitted and finalized by the original date of April 15th, 2022 you will also be on the conferral list for May 2022 pending the Faculty Senate and the Board of Regents. If not, your degree will be on the June list of conferrals presented to the Faculty Senate and Board of Regents for approval.

If you are an undergraduate student completing an FE exam or geology field camp during the summer you will be able to participate in commencement. Your degree will be conferred at the time of completion of these exceptions.

Motion was moved and approved unanimously.

5. Graduate Council Report – Aly El-Osery

a. 300-500 Cross-listed Courses

Dr. El-Osery moved that 500 level courses can only be cross listed with 400 level courses. There is currently only one course that they could find that would be affected and Dr. El-Osery met with them on this.

Motion was moved and approved unanimously.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

a. TA/RA Contract Rates – Doug Wells/Aly El-Osery

Dr. Wells stated that there are two prospective increases for TA's since tuition is going up. We will cover as an institution for the tuition increase for the upcoming year for graduate students including quarter time. Then there is also a question of raises. We believe that we should track what we are doing for faculty and do a 7% increase for TA's and RA's. We can cover it for TA's but we want to make sure that we can cover it for RA's.

Dr. El-Osery stated that it would be around 7.3% total for the RA's. If faculty had budgeted a 5% increase annually, this increase would only cost about \$500.

This will be coming and if there are issues, reach out to Dr. El-Osery.

b. Guidance on T&P Package Format – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells noted that we still see tenure and promotion packages that are several thousand pages. We need to publish a guideline on what it should look like. Dr. Wells hopes to get feedback from this body and will draft the document and bring it to this body ready to be voted on.

Dr. Liebrock moved to refer to the Academic Freedom & Tenure committee, seconded by Dr. Harrison. Motion passed.

c. Challenge Exams – *Mike Jackson*

Dr. Jackson noted that we have made changes to help provide guidance on the challenge exams. After the Chairs have reviewed and approved it, we will bring it forward to Faculty Senate for approval.

8. Announcements

a. Assessment – *Mike Jackson*

Dr. Jackson noted that the assessment report for the institution is completed and is on the website. The Taskforce did look at intuitional learning outcomes and the recommendations are based on some uncertainty of where they came from as well as the generation of essential skills and component skills. The recommendation is to sunset these for now and if we want to have institutional learning outcomes, develop with collaboration across the university either as part of the strategic planning component or as a separate component.

b. Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence (S-I-R) – *Mike Jackson*

The 2023-2024 Scholar-in-Residence host institution application will close on June 1, 2022 at 5:00 pm Eastern Standard Time. Please let me know if anyone is interested, particularly those who have been Fulbright scholars.

c. Teaching Tea Time – *Beth Kramer-Simpson*

Dr. Kramer-Simpson announced that the next Teaching Tea Time is tomorrow on motivation and how to juggle technology at noon in CITL. April 13 there is a zoom only where Curtis Warren and Rob Helper from ACT will discuss best practices with zoom and canvas.

d. Cybersecurity – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock announced that there is a Cybersecurity Working Group meeting tomorrow. On Friday there is a Sandia and NMT AI meeting. Let Lorie know if you need more information.

e. SRS Reminder – *Mike Hargather*

Dr. Hargather reminded faculty that the Student Research Symposium will take place on April 20 – 22.

f. Graduate BBQ – *Aly El-Osery*

Dr. El-Osery announced that the Graduate BBQ will be held on Thursday April 14 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm.

g. Departmental Awards – *Heather Juarez*

Heather will be reaching out to the departments on departmental awards for the commencement program.

h. Strategic Planning Listening Session – *Peter Phaiiah*

This will be held after the Faculty Senate meeting adjourns.

9. Adjournment

Motion adjourned at 5:23 pm.