

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY
Amended Minutes – Changes are highlighted
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, September 13, 2011
Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

1. Dr. Stone called the meeting to order at 4pm.
2. Dr. Borchers moved to accept the minutes from the May 13th 2011 meeting. It was seconded. A discussion presented by Dr. Salehpoor was brought to the Senate. Dr. Stone asked for discussion. Dr. Wilson asked for clarification from Dr. Gerity as to the accuracy of the report in the minutes. Dr. Gerity stated he remembering making the announcement regarding missing grades. Dr. Salehpoor asked for a count of those members who were at the May 13th meeting that remembered the announcement being made. ~~Thirteen members remembered this announcement. One member did not remember this announcement.~~ The majority voted in favor of the statement reported in the May minutes. Dr. Stone called for a vote on the approval of the minutes. The motion passed with one member voting against approval.

3. Announcements.

a. Introduction of New Faculty and Staff

Dr. Gerity introduced the Associate V.P. for Academic Affairs, Dr. Mary Dezember and the Dean, Center for Graduate Studies, Dr. Lorie Liebrock, stepping in for the interim work by D. Westpfahl. Dr. Gerity explained both searches were conducted internally to honor the efforts of our professional colleagues at NM Tech.

Dr. Lopez is hosting his annual Potluck next Monday. Details will be going out via email. Faculty are encouraged to participate.

Dr. Warren Ostergren, Chair, Mechanical Engineering introduced Dr. David Grow, Assistant Professor. Dr. Grow comes to NMT from Johns Hopkins University with a strong emphasis on robotics with a biomedical application. He is already busy with the Mechanical Engineering design clinic projects.

Dr. Mark Cal, Chair, Civil and Environmental Engineering introduced Dr. Ana Orozco, Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Orozco, a UNM graduate is a returning Visiting Professor. We are happy to have her back.

Dr. Jeff Altig, Associate Chair, Chemistry introduced Dr. Juliet Hahn, Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Hahn comes to us from Stony Brook, N.Y. with ten years of teaching professor experience.

Dr. Gary Axen, Chair, Earth and Environment Science, introduced Dr. Jamal Assad, Visiting Professor. Dr. Assad, comes to us from the University of Houston within the field of Geophysics with Petroleum emphasis.

Dr. Mark Samuels, Chair, Psychology and Education introduced – Michelle Osowski, Education Coordinator and Instructor. Ms. Osowski, an NMT alumnus, is completing her PhD at UNM. She comes to NMT from the Albuquerque Public Schools where she has extensive experience as a teacher and administrator.

Dr. Mike Topliff, Director, TCC introduced Dylan Etscorn, Manager of User Services. Mr. Etscorn has an IT degree from Wyoming. He is already busy meeting with department chairs to discuss computer issues.

Dr. Mike Pullin introduced Susan Cordova, an NMT alumnus. Ms. Cordova will be heading up the learning community effort.

Dr. Pullin introduced Pier Gutierrez, a graduate of UNM and University of Connecticut. Ms. Gutierrez will be heading up the CITL effort.

b. Enrollment Update – Dr. Gerity reported student enrollment is up to an all time high with two thousand twenty nine total students. This is a five percent increase over last year. Enrollment ratio of seventy-five percent undergraduate and twenty-five percent graduate students is pretty close to the national trends. Retention is at seventy-three point eight percent when including all students. For reporting to IPEDS the retention figure is seventy point six percent. The lower number is just looking at first time freshman compared to third semester. The percentage of transfer students is around forty percent.

c. Christy Neill, Director, Title V, PPOHA gave an update. Peer mentoring program is up and running with Graduate students mentoring undergraduates. Julie Ford, Jeff Altig and Navid Mojtabai will help with this. ESL initiatives are ongoing with fifteen committee members developing services and resources. Learning spaces are being identified and developed in a number of the academic disciplines. The Dissertation and Thesis writing boot camp is on going and a success thanks to the efforts of Dr. Simpson and Dr. Stone.

d. Dr. Mary Dezember gave a presentation on the Student Research Symposium (SRS). The intention is to develop student communication skills while expanding their sense of community to the entire campus. This effort is part of the HLC pathways improvement project in anticipation of the site visit schedule for 2014. Projects will be written for a multi-disciplinary audience through the writing center and workshops, along with the ENGL341 instructors. Electronic journal will be published on line. Rob Hepler will be capturing the presentations electronically providing an opportunity for peer review. Dr. Dezember thanked Chelsea Buffington for the logo design. In conclusion she asked faculty to participate in upcoming surveys that will provide baseline data.

e. Expect Respect Committee – Dr. Bonnekesen reported a follow up on the bullying workshops presented during the Spring 2011 semester. The committee is tasked to look into harassment and bullying. The committee is asking for direction on action items once an incident has been reported. Future effort will address the responsibility of the third party bystander, what can be done. This will take place on Oct 7. In conclusion, Dr. Bonnekesen pointed out the committee needs members and the rotation cycle needs to be clarified.

f. ESL Surveys – Dr. Simpson reported the Title V, ESL committee is in the process of assessing needs of 2nd language students and communication needs of all graduate students. Surveys are out to Department Chairs, to get a sense of the primary language needs. Please work with Dr. Simpson to get involved with this.

4. Committee Reports.

a. Nominating Committee – Dr. Navid Mojtabai announced the Slate of Nominations is ready for a vote. He thanked Dr. Andrew Campbell who put in long hours to come up with the committees and officers. Five committees still need members. MST Advisory Committee has the following corrections: Iver Davidson, Dave Westpfahl, Barbara Bonnekessen will serve. Dr. Campbell volunteered to serve on the Nominating committee

It was moved to close nominations for officers. The motion was seconded and passed.

It was moved and seconded to accept the partial slate of committees.

Additional members will be presented as this information becomes available.

The motion passed.

Election of officers was held by written ballot. The results are:

Chair - Dr. Brian Borchers

Vice Chair – Dr. Michael Heagy

Parliamentarian – Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld

b. Academic Standards and Admissions Committee – Dr. Borchers gave a short update. The committee thanked the faculty for working with the students to get students back on track. He explained that student appeals go through the Academic Affairs office. When asked if GPA's have been tracked, the answer is no but that will be a project for future committee members.

c. Faculty Development Committee – Dr. Susan Dunston announced there will be a mentoring event with coffee and donuts Monday, September 19th in Skeen Library at 11am. Dr. Dunston thanked Dr. Bonnekessen for her tireless effort on the Faculty Survey conducted last spring. Dr. Dunston pointed out five areas of concern. They are; continuing financial hardships, worsening working conditions, lack of family work balance and support, erosion of faculty governance, and diversity. Our number of women in full time tenure track stem faculty positions is 11% compared to UNM and NMSU at 23% and Colorado School of Mines at 22%. An NSF grant is in the final draft for promoting women in stem fields.

5. Old Business. - None

6. New Business.

a. Faculty Development Committee – Action Items – Dr. Susan Dunston announced the committee will bring action items to the Faculty Senate at a future meeting.

b. Revisit of the one week add deadline. Dr. Penelope Boston pointed out the difficulty for students given the inadequate decision time of one week to add classes. Students are not ready to make decisions, which can lead to a crisis feeling for students who are already on the edge. This change could negatively impact retention. The shortened time removes the student's sense of control over their education. Dr. Boston advocated for change to a two-week policy. It was moved and seconded. Further discussion pointed out the two weeks of missed classes is difficult for many students. Extra flexibility for special grad student classes is reasonable. The change to a one-week duration was vetted through committee, council of chairs then faculty senate. Given that this was the first test of the one-week add period, perhaps another cycle should be experienced to see if the new timeline can work. It was expressed how important it is to have the student in class and ready to work from the first day of the semester.

An **friendly** amendment to allow for adds with consent of instructor was presented and seconded. Discussion felt this would add to confusion for students, advisors and instructors. Dr. Stone called for a vote on the amendment. The vote was negative. Continuing discussion on the original motion, the difficulty to bring late registering students in line with the rest of the class is too difficult. It was suggested that the one-week policy could be used for one more year to see how much of a problem it is.

An **friendly** amendment to change to a two week add date for graduate students was put forward, specifically, "5pm on the second Friday". It was seconded. Discussion suggested that approval of the instructor be required. Given that graduate students often take lower level classes, clarification as to what level of classes would be effected was asked for.

It was moved to table the issue. It was seconded and the motion to table passed.

The policy of missing grades being changed to an A's was brought to the Senate.

Through discussion the following points were made;

Banweb does not show grade changes. When change of grade is requested, the change will be confirmed via email.

The implementation of an automatic A is to motivate faculty to post grades on a timely basis.

Our professionalism toward students is a minimum expectation and posting grades is an important role as professors.

Dr. Stone asked for a motion. ~~A motion to continue on questions presented was made.~~ (added) "Dr. Salehpoor asked for a continued address to the six questions presented by Dr. Salehpoor, sent to the faculty to be discussed regarding missing A's and were emailed to the Senate by Dr. Stone". There was no second.

The new chair, Dr. Borchers asked the Senate to thank Dr. Bill Stone for serving this past year.

7. Adjournment was called for and unanimously agreed on at 5:45p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathi VanFleet