**New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology**

**Faculty Senate Meeting**

**Tuesday, March 5, 2013**

**Workman Center 101, 4:00 p.m.**

1. **Call to order.** Having determined there to be a quorum, Faculty Senate Chair Richard Sonnenfeld called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

**2.a Approval of the minutes of February 5, 2013.** Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes as written. Ken Eack seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**2.b Approval of the Agenda.** Members approved the Agenda by unanimous consent following several minor revisions made by Dr. Sonnenfeld.

1. **Announcements.**
2. **Peter Gerity.** None.
3. **Mary Dezember.** Dr. Dezember announced that 67 students have registered as presenters for this spring’s Student Research Symposium, compared with 47 registered presenters last year – before nine dropped out. Presentation and poster competitions will be held during both morning and afternoon sessions. Dr. Dezember said more reviewers are needed; those interested can register on the SRS website. She asked faculty to encourage students to attend the Symposium, or include it as part of class time. Registrar Sara Grijalva reminded faculty that the one with the most students attending gets first choice for preferred time and class this fall.
4. **Sohaib Soliman – Legislative Update.** Mr. Soliman reported on the status of legislation to cut tuition, and what he called “UNM’s bill” – HB586, which would use a GPA sliding scale to determine Lottery Scholarship eligibility up to 80 percent. Joining Tech in opposition to the bill are NMSU, WNMU, NMHU and ENMU. “You guys did a great job, and it isn’t easy,” noted Thomas Engler, in recognizing the efforts of Soliman and others to galvanize support for legislation relevant to higher education and the Institute, including numerous trips to Santa Fe.
5. **GSA.** Heather Bloemhard reported that of $9200 in requests, $7500 was awarded for graduate student travel.
6. **Janet Ward.** The Chair introduced Ms. Ward, Director for the Office of Counseling and Disability Services; and she in turn informed the Senate about the services provided through the office. Of particular note is a federal law that public institutions must accommodate students with documented disabilities that would substantially limit life activity. During discussion, it was noted that accommodations that might serve one department, would be unreasonable for another. In particular, Mathematics faculty noted that in some cases, certain allowances, in particular allowances for late homework are really not doing the student any favors. Ms. Ward invited faculty to contact her, or Rande Brown, with questions. Lorie Liebrock noted that CITL will be offering a class on disability services, and this might be a good time for the CDS office to get involved.
7. **Committee Reports.**
8. **Budget & Research – Ken Minschwaner.** In the absence of Dr. Minschwaner, committee memberBarbara Bonnekessen reported that the committee in December 2012 recommended having the Institute’s workforce and salary data made more publicly available, particularly in electronic format, and asked the Senate to approve a resolution to that effect. Dr. Bonnekessen also acknowledged the efforts of Institutional Researcher Stephany Moore in preparing the electronic files; the files are categorized for EEO class, position, salary, full- or part-time, start date, tenure status, ethnicity and sex. Brian Borchers noted that even though no names or other personal information will be posted, it would be possible in many cases to ascertain identities. Dr. Gerity objected to the inclusion of ethnicity, and Dr. Borchers pointed out that salaries vary according to discipline. Dr. Bonnekessen replied that the statistics are standard U.S. Dept. of Labor data critical to the committee study under way, and should be available to everyone on campus. Dr. Borchers moved to table the issue until the committee “comes up with better answers to these questions.” Annette LaRussa seconded the motion, which failed to pass on a 25 (no) to 14 (yes) vote with four abstentions. Dr. Sonnenfeld clarified the data being collected and said that it would include what the budget committee deemed necessary to accomplish their research goals. For example, it will probably include supervisor name and department for each position. The vote on the original motion made by Dr. Bonnekessen (no second was needed) passed on a 37 (yes) to six (no) vote with three abstentions.
9. **Old Business.**
   1. **Motion to investigate feasibility of adding New Mexico Tech to HJR09 – Richard Sonnenfeld.** Fred Phillip chaired the meeting for this issue to allow Dr. Sonnenfeld to address the Senate as “citizen Sonnenfeld.” In doing so, Dr. Sonnenfeld noted that he has taken a more active role as Senate chair “because you asked me to.” In his updated report on HJR09, to add a faculty member to boards of regents, he noted that Tech wasn’t included in the bill, which was dead at this point. Dr. Sonnenfeld said HJR08 was very simple, and moved that the Senate approve a resolution endorsing HJR08 and its concept of establishing nominating committees for boards of regents at state institutions. The motion was seconded by Dave Raymond. During discussion, Dr. Borchers said that although he was in favor of the resolution, there was nothing in the legislation stating how the nominating process would work. “I don’t trust legislators to work out the details,” Sonnenfeld said. Gary Axen commented that he’d rather have a committee select nominees rather than leave the authority to an individual. The motion in support of the resolution to support HJR08 passed on a 35 (yes) to four (no) vote with eight abstentions.
10. **New Business.** 
    1. **Council of Chairs – *Peter Gerity.***
       1. ***CS & IT changes – Subhashish Mazumdar.*** Dr. Mazumdar brought forward for Senate consideration a request from CSE to add CSE 241 and MATH 352 to its program requirements (deleting MATH 221); to offer a 19-hour minor in CS; and to add CSE 107, Introduction to Computer Programming Using Python, to course offerings. He then made a motion asking for approval. Anwar Hossain seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
       2. ***Psychology changes – Mark Samuels.*** Dr. Samuels asked the Senate to approve a request from the Psychology Department for two course changes – changing PSY 310, Science and Pseudoscience, to PSY 189; and adding PSY 335, Human Factors in Science and Engineering, which was taught in the past, to offer more social science options. He then moved for Senate approval. Dr. Liebrock seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
       3. ***Materials option – Bhaskar Majumdar.*** Dr. Majumdar proposed a Biomaterials Engineering Option for a Bachelor’s degree in Materials Engineering, and the addition of two courses. He then moved for program approval. Bill Stone seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
       4. ***Course addition and TC course change – Barbara Bonnekessen.*** Dr. Bonnekessen asked for Senate approval to add Theater 314, Introduction to Theater, to CLASS Department course offerings; and to remove MGT 330 as a requirement and replace it with three hours of a TC elective. Fred Phillips seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.
       5. ***EES UG catalog changes – Gary Axen.*** Dr. Axen asked for Senate approval to remove a number of degree options, primarily because of the loss of faculty to teach them, with the departure or pending retirements of Kent Condie, Andy Campbell, John Wilson, Jeff Johnson and Philip Kyle. Dr. Axen also proposed to drop courses that have not been taught over time. Presumably, some courses will be brought back, but new faculty have their own interests, he said. Dr. Borchers noted that Dr. Axen is sending a strong message that “you’re giving up.” “How can we offer courses without faculty to teach them?” responded Dr. Axen. During discussion, Dr. Gerity noted that Tech is legally obligated to honor degree options for students currently in these programs. Dr. Axen them moved for approval of the changes. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.
       6. ***ASAC Committee – Andrei Zagrai.*** Chair Sonnenfeld tabled this item until the March meeting.
11. **Graduate Council – *Lorie Liebrock.*** Dr. Liebrock reported to the Senate that the following departments wanted to sign off on course programs for their students: Mechanical Engineering, Chemistry, Mineral Engineering and Petroleum Engineering. In addition, the Graduate Council voted to accept both the TOEFL and the IELTS language test scores, the latter an optional “live test”; and to make available online an optional Grade Improvement Form as a requirement for all graduate courses; the Time Extension/Grade Extension form is basically an agreement between students and faculty to keep students on track for degree completion. Dr. Liebrock then turned the floor over to Mark Cal, who moved to delete two obsolete courses in Environmental Engineering. Dr. Borchers seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously. A motion to offer Theater 514 also passed unanimously. Dr Eack introduced a proposal to overhaul the graduate program in Physics to increase the breadth of core courses; and to change course numbers for a minor in Physics. He thanked Sharon Sessions for “leading the charge on this.” Dr. Eack’s motion for approval passed unanimously. Dr. Liebrock announced a meeting for March 7 at 3 p.m. to discuss five-year plans for departments. She explained that any new graduate program that is planned for the next five years has to be in a department’s five-year plan for HED approval.
12. **Adjournment.** Before adjournment, SA President Sohaib Soliman announced that anyone wanting to send a postcard to the Governor’s Office regarding changes to the Lottery Scholarship can still do so. There being no further business, Chair Sonnenfeld adjourned the meeting at 5:14 p.m., on a motion by Dr. Axen.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Valerie Kimble for Jacoby Boles*