

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 04, 2017

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Kieft called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a call for approval of the March 7, 2017 minutes. Motion passed unanimously. Amendment was made to change the wording for the course evaluations committee section. It needs to state that the committee will also be evaluating the wording.

2. Short announcements

a. Research Development – *Carlos Romero*

Carlos Romero announced a webinar will be held on Thursday in Spear Hall. We have a research strategic plan that came out of the larger strategic plan. One item faculty talked about was having more resources and looking for funding opportunities. The webinar will include ProQuest to preview it Pivot tool. Pivot is a compressive funding opportunity tool. It connects researchers and financial support by leveraging comprehensive global source of funding opportunities.

A handout was provided that discussed the other three initiatives related to research development that were requested by the faculty through the strategic planning process. These include: providing proposal development and preaward support, continued support for large proposals, and continued development of contractual mechanisms and partnerships.

b. Hazardous Materials – *Van Romero*

Dr. Romero made a brief announcement on hazardous material and hazardous waste. He stated that we have seen a need to have a round of training for people who have hazardous waste. There was a recent incident where an employee was injured due to hazardous waste not stored properly within a lab. There is a new energy to get this training out. It's serious that those who need this training take it when it becomes available.

c. Distinguished Research Award – *Van Romero*

Dr. Romero stated that the committee is soliciting awards for the Distinguished Research Award. He asked that faculty submit their nominations.

d. Distinguished Lecture – *Bill Stone*

Dr. Stone announced that a week from tomorrow, Dr. Rafael Lara-Martinez will be the next distinguished lecturer. He will be speaking on Bordering the New Spain next Wednesday at 7:00 pm at Macey Center with a reception to follow.

e. New Registration Hold – *Sara Grijalva*

Sara announced that as part of our federal compliance requirements, we are required to do training with the student body regarding their responsibility with maintaining and creating a safe campus environment. As part of those training initiative, this semester there will be a hold on the student's registration until they watch a three minute video. Sara brought this to the faculty's attention as their advisors they will be aware of the hold.

f. SRS Faculty Evaluators – *Rebecca Clemens*

Rebecca announced the 6th annual SRS will be held in April. This year, the oral presentation will be on Wednesday evening, April 19. On Thursday morning, the 3 minute speech will take place. Then from 11:30 – 4:30, there will be four poster sessions. Rebecca is asking for faculty to be a reviewer for these students.

g. Engineers Without Borders Fundraiser/Banquet – *Steve Simpson*

Dr. Simpson announced on behalf of the Engineers Without Borders Club that they will be holding a fundraiser paired with a dinner event at Bodega on Saturday April 22 from 1:00 – 9:00 pm. It will be \$50 per person which includes dinner and live entertainment.

h. Socorro March for Science – *Richard Sonnenfeld*

Dr. Sonnenfeld announced on April 22 is the Socorro March for Science. On April 12 will be a pizza and sign making event from 6:30 – 8:00 pm.

i. Budget - *President Wells*

President Wells stated that no budget has been approved. There most likely will be a special session that will be called. The budget has been submitted with a 1% reduction which will require an increase in taxes and tax reform. We know that the executive offices right now have said that they would not do that. Both the House and Senate approved the 1% reduction. Also, no SRP's were removed.

j. Commencement – *President Wells*

President Wells stated that the commencement process will be changing. The details of the awards will be moved to an awards ceremony the night before in conjunction with an Alumni reception. This will allow more time to focus on the students. Additionally, there will not be a Proem but there will be a commencement speaker. President Wells stated that it will be a person who inspires people, and he has asked Dr. Frank Etscorn. A student speaker will also provide inspiration to the students.

k. Website Update – *Iver Davidson*

Dr. Davidson announced that we hired iFactory last summer. Since then, they have gone through a number of stages. The first stage involved personas. There were four personas chosen: perspective undergraduate students, perspective graduate students, Alumni, and the general public. Present users of the site such as faculty and staff will be served through an intranet which will be incorporated into the website. This is a separate development. Following personas was the site map and wire frames. The last to be released is the functional specs. The next phase will be look and feel. The website is scheduled to be released in early January. iFactory should be finished in the fall. At that time their product will be turned

over in template form to whoever we chose to run our content management system. If Dr. Davidson had to characterize the website it will be very modern with large photos and videos and easy access to departments and faculty. The Administration is looking at ways to provide as much support as possible.

1. Opportunities - *President Wells*

President Wells announced at 9:00 am on Friday in Brown Hall 210 there will be an opportunity for faculty. A world class IP intellectual law firm company will be available for faculty to meet with.

Also, starting that afternoon and running all day on Saturday is the entrepreneurship workshop. Through the hard work of Dr. Peter Anselmo and Larry Udall, we have brought world class people. If faculty can't attend, he encourages them to send their students. President Wells stated that if there are any students who are struggling with the \$25 fee to send them to him.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Honorary Awards & Degrees Committee – *Tom Engler*

Dr. Engler announced that the Honorary Awards and Degrees Committee have received no nominations for the Founders Award. This is their last appeal for nominations. Additionally, they have only one nomination for the Langmuir Award. Our next meeting we will discuss the recipients. Dr. Engler agreed to give one week for additional nominations.

b. Gen Ed Committee – *Steve Simpson*

Dr. Simpson gave an update on what is going on with Gen Ed. As a reminder at the February Faculty Senate meeting, we discussed with President Wells about taking what had been a task force and making it an ad hoc faculty senate committee. There was a Senate Bill 103 that did pass the House and the Senate and signed by the Governor. Dr. Simpson noted that he provided two versions of it as additions were made to it. President Wells stated that Secretary Damron is well aware of the concerns and the implementation process of this. We will have great input and opportunity to do that. Dr. Doug Wells has already sent out a memo to this committee stating that we need to have faculty senate involvement and we need to start moving along this line. President Wells stated that we will have a major voice in making sure that the implementation does what we need it to do.

Dr. Simpson stated that the major points in this bill were kept general with the idea that the particulars would be dealt with through the rules and not written in the law. We still have the ability to work on these. The bill calls for the creation of 15 credit-hour "meta majors", though it does not provide details for how this will happen. The bill requires that equivalent courses given a common course number be accepted by receiving institutions in the state and that "courses taken as part of an approved meta-major or transfer module [...] be accepted to meet lower-division graduation requirements of a degree-granting program to which the meta-major or transfer module articulate". There were some red flags, particularly as it pertains to math. Also, they set the required General Education credits at no less than 15 credits for an associate's degree and no less than 30 credits for a bachelor's degree.

Dr. Simpson stated that something the committee was charged with was responding to the Gen Ed Model that was on the NMSU website. They haven't responded yet because they are waiting for a different model that was recently voted on to become available. Once it is available, they have added a specific place for faculty senates to respond and give an institutional response.

Dr. Simpson stated that the ad hoc committee was formed, but faculty senate didn't approve the charge:

To review proposals for the revision of statewide General Education requirements and provide an institutional response representing the position of New Mexico Tech's Faculty Senate and Administration. To oversee the implementation of changes to statewide General Education at New Mexico Tech in consultation with Department Chairs, Deans, the Faculty Senate, and the VPAA and AVPAA.

This committee reports to both the New Mexico Tech Faculty Senate and the Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Dr. Simpson moved to approve these as the charges, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion passed.

c. Retention Committee – *Brian Borchers*

Dr. Borchers stated the retention committee proposes to have the Director of Financial Aid and the Director of Residential Life added to the Retention Committee as ex officio members.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Borchers moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

Dr. Borchers stated the previous Vice President had formed an administrative advising committee that was headed by Patrick Lopez to deal with academic advising issues. The members of that committee, the members of the retention committee, and the Vice President believe this should be a faculty senate committee. The Retention Committee is proposing that a new standing committee of the faculty senate be created, an academic advising committee.

This committee will review NMT's academic advising system and make recommendations to the senate and the administration on how academic advising can be structured to contribute to enhanced student success. Membership will include: 5 faculty members with two year terms and a 3/2 rotation. 3 student representatives including an undergraduate student, an undergraduate transfer student, and a graduate student. Ex officio members: Associate VP for Academic Affairs, Registrar, Director of Admissions, Director of the OSL, Associate Dean for Student Success.

On behalf of the committee, Dr. Borchers moved to accept these changes, seconded by Dr. Soliman. Motion passed with 2 nays.

Friendly Amendment to remove the Graduate student member, change the name of this committee to "Undergraduate" Academic Advising Committee, and add

the Director of Student Affairs and Director of Veterans Affairs as ex officio members.

4. Report of Council of Chairs – *Douglas Wells*

a. Physics – *Richard Sonnenfeld*

Dr. Sonnenfeld discussed the catalog changes for Physics. Dr. Sonnenfeld moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

b. CLASS – *Steve Simpson*

Dr. Simpson discussed the catalog changes for CLASS. Dr. Simpson moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

Friendly amendment to change ancient modern man to modern civilization. The use of future tense as well.

c. Biomedical Sciences – *Bill Stone*

Dr. Stone discussed the Biomedical Sciences program. Dr. Stone moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

d. Earth & Environmental Science – *Glenn Spinelli*

Dr. Spinelli discussed the Earth and Environmental Sciences catalog. Dr. Spinelli moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

e. Psychology – *Mark Samuels*

Dr. Samuels discussed the Psychology catalog changes. Dr. Samuels moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

f. Computer Science Engineering – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock discussed the Computer Science and Engineering catalog changes. Dr. Liebrock moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

g. Management – *Frank Reinow*

Dr. Reinow discussed the Management catalog changes. Dr. Reinow moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

h. Chemistry – *Mike Heagy*

Dr. Heagy discussed the Chemistry catalog changes. Dr. Heagy moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

5. Report of Graduate Council – *Lorie Liebrock*

a. Earth & Environmental Science – *Glenn Spinelli*

Dr. Spinelli discussed the Graduate Earth and Environmental Sciences catalog changes. Dr. Spinelli moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

b. Biomedical Sciences – *Bill Stone*

Dr. Stone discussed the Biomedical catalog changes. Dr. Stone moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

c. Biotechnology – *Tom Kieft*

Dr. Kieft discussed the Biotechnology catalog changes. Dr. Kieft moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

d. Computer Science & Engineering – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock discussed the Graduate Computer Science and Engineering catalog changes. Dr. Liebrock moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

Dr. Mazumdar discussed the five year program for the CS B.S./M.S. program as it was left out in the prior motion. Dr. Mazumdar moved to accept this. Motion passed.

e. CIP Code – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock announced that the CIP code for the Engineering Management degree has changed from CIP Code 52 Business Management to CIP code 15.1501 Engineering/Industrial Management. Dr. Reinow stated that this enables us to report that it is a STEM degree. Dr. Reinow moved to accept this. Motion passed.

f. Amazon Smile – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock thanked faculty for using smile.amazon.com. By designating NMT as the donee, amazon smile users are providing funding to support graduate students.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

a. Tenure & Promotion Policy - *Douglas Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that there are ways that we can improve the tenure and promotion process. He would like to see several issues addressed.

Transparency: Dr. Wells stated that our current policy does not provide any feedback to the candidate prior to the recommendations of Academic Affairs. Dr. Wells stated at every stage of recommendation, the candidate should be able to see what was written and respond in writing concerning any errors of fact or process and/or any misguided opinions.

Schedule: Our current schedule has conflicts with other schedules. Example: The deadline for the VPAA to advance recommendation for promotion to full professor is April 15. Yet, we also require new contracts to be issued by April 15, and the Board of Regents meeting to consider promotions is always prior to April 15. Dr. Wells' suggested no dates should be in any procedure or policy where there is a schedule. Instead, there should be a "master calendar" published in the Academic Affairs website that lists all relevant dates on one timeline.

Old NMT Tenure Timeline: The current timeline gives little time for review or appeals. Dr. Wells suggested that we ask the committee to put something out in November. The Chair can provide their recommendation in December, followed by Academic Affairs is late January. This would allow plenty of time for any appeal that may happen and we wouldn't be up against time limits and faculty will know what is coming. Dr. Wells stated at each stage where a recommendation

goes forward, the candidate needs to see it and respond. This requires some time in between each step.

Standards of Performances: Dr. Wells stated that there is a wide variety of what standards a candidates should be held to. Faculty should know early such as in their offer letter so that the faculty will know what is required of them.

Dr. Wells stated that he also ran into the following issue: There are faculty who are funded partially by different entities. Our current process has no specified way to include those parties. Should the external funding entity have any say in workload, annual reviews, performance standards, appeals processes, or tenure recommendations?

A question was brought up regarding where research faculty fit? Dr. Wells stated that they are currently not in the Tenure & Promotion Policy. This is something that also needs to be addressed.

Dr. Romero stated that every year they define GRC and other PSP's what they should be doing rather than have the State tell us. He would be more comfortable with getting a small committee together from the departments that are supported by the GRC and define those standards. The two departments supported by the GRC do have quite different standards. It is a good idea to get those closer together.

b. Faculty Workload - *Douglas Wells*

Dr. Wells posed the question what should be the teaching workload of NMT faculty be? We have departments with widely divergent workloads. Should there be a formulated model by which departments establish the workload?

Dr. Wells is proposing that we formulate something.

c. Online Electronic Admission Software – *Mark Person*

Dr. Person stated that there has been a decrease in applications in their Hydrology program. They are concerned that part of that might be due to paper applications. He is hoping to get an updated clarification on the process of moving toward online applications.

Dr. Liebrock stated that she recently went to the Ellucian Live conference. She specifically asked about Banner 9 which we will be moving to next year. They will not be updating the application systems in any foreseeable future. Dr. Liebrock has talked to UNM they are using Hopsins for their graduate applications. She is looking into some other ideas where a content management system would push the applications into Banner. Dr. Liebrock and the Technology Committee are making sure ITC is involved in that discussion.

President Wells stated that we are looking at a position that is process oriented to address these types of things. We just need to see where we are with the budget but we do need to address it. We can also sit and talk with ITC on this.

8. Discussion

Dr. Hossain asked the faculty to think about having Faculty Senate start earlier as we run over the scheduled time quite often.

9. Adjournment.

By unanimous decision the faculty senate adjourned at 5:45pm.