

UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS
2023-2024

ACADEMIC SUCCESS COMMITTEE:

John Kang, Chair
Maryam Ahranjani
Paul Figueroa
Jenny Moore (spring only)
Vanessa Racehorse
David Stout

CHARGE: Identify and implement academic success strategies for students entering law school with below average LSAT scores and undergraduate GPAs. Identify and implement strategies to close the gap in academic success, bar passage, and career development for first-generation, underrepresented, and non-traditional students.

The members of this committee will provide one-on-one academic support to students who are or were on academic probation or warning or who are at risk of being on academic probation or warning. The committee may also identify and engage other faculty members to work individually with students who need additional academic support.

ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE:

Sonia Gipson Rankin, Chair
Scott England
Vinay Harpalani (fall only)
Serge Martinez
Sergio Pareja
Renee Ferrell

CHARGE: Admit the incoming 1L JD class and Master of Studies in Law (MSL) students.

BUILDING, ART, AND SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Aliza Organick, Chair
Barbara Creel
John LaVelle
Jennifer Laws
Michelle Rigual
Alexandra Siek
Krista Allen
Tony Anderson
Ryan Barber
Cheryl Burbank
Greg Garcia
Student
Student

CHARGE: Serve as a liaison to Law School administration and facilities staff concerning building and safety issues. Consider proposals for art gallery shows or art displays in light of whether the art would promote and enhance the learning environment. Arrange and manage art gallery openings and functions.

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE:

Scott England, Chair
Allison Freedman
Laura Gomez (spring only)
Veronica Gonzales-Zamora
Bonnie Stepleton, ex officio
Student

CHARGE: Educate students about judicial clerkships and actively assist students in obtaining clerkships. Conduct outreach to judges in order to improve our clerkship yield. Solicit faculty recommendations for students who should be prompted to apply for clerkships. Work to increase diversity of applicants for judicial clerkships.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:

David Stout, Chair
Allison Freedman
April Land
Serge Martinez
Courtney Holmes, ex officio

CHARGE: Create opportunities for meaningful engagement, collaboration, and networking between our faculty and the New Mexico bench and bar.

Strategize to increase the Law School's visibility and reputation locally and nationally and participate in the creation of media, marketing, and email communications that promote the Law School.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE:

Mary Pareja, Chair
Christy DeSanctis
Steven Homer
Jennifer Laws
Sam Winder
Ernest Tafoya, ex officio
Student

CHARGE:

Advise the Dean and Associate Dean for Academic Affairs concerning the Madrid Summer Law Institute (MSLI), including which course(s) will be taught during the summer of 2024 in addition to International Business Transactions and Overview of EU Law. Review and, if appropriate, approve any new proposed MSLI courses before being selected for MSLI.

As needed, advise the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs regarding courses that the Law School should offer to meet core curricular requirements, including certificate program requirements, and courses that the Law School should offer during the 2024-2025 academic year to meet the interests and needs of students.

Consider and approve or reject new course proposals.

Consider the law school's writing and drafting requirements and, if appropriate, propose changes to the full faculty.

D.C. PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

Josh Kastenberg, Chair
Christy DeSanctis
Sonia Gipson Rankin
Bonnie Stepleton, ex officio
Courtney Holmes, ex officio

CHARGE: Recruit and select students for the Semester in Washington, D.C. program, advise selected students on work placement and housing options in the D.C. area, engage with participating students and their supervisors to ensure that students are receiving and completing substantive work with regular feedback, and cultivate relationships with area law school alumni.

Examine how the work of this committee might otherwise be accomplished without a committee and make a recommendation to the Dean.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE:

Maryam Ahranjani, Chair
Reed Benson
Elizabeth Elia
Gabe Pacyniak
Nadine Padilla

CHARGE: Execute the plan to hire one new faculty member to teach in our Natural Resources and Environmental Law program. Work to create a pool of talented and diverse candidates for the full faculty to consider.

FACULTY COLLOQUIUM COMMITTEE:

Vinay Harpalani (fall only), Co-Chair
Laura Gomez (spring only), Co-Chair
Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez

CHARGE: Develop and implement a colloquium speaker series for the 2023-2024 academic year. Select speakers based on the academic and pedagogical value of the speaker or lecture topic to our faculty. Actively seek and implement junior faculty exchange opportunities so that our junior faculty can present at other law schools.

FACULTY RETENTION, PROMOTION, AND TENURE COMMITTEE:

Sarah Steadman, Chair
Josh Kastenberg
Ernesto Longa
Aliza Organick
Mary Pareja
Carol Suzuki
Sherri Thomas

CHARGE: Review candidates for consideration for retention, promotion, and tenure. Specifically, review Sam Winder for promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor, Scott England for tenure and promotion to Professor, and Jennifer Laws for promotion from Senior Lecturer III to Principal Lecturer. The committee may also review Alexandra Siek for promotion from Senior Lecturer III to Principal Lecturer.

Form evaluation subcommittees to perform an annual evaluation of all lecturers – excluding principal lecturers – and tenure-track faculty – other than other than faculty members being considered for promotion – through observation of classroom teaching, assessment of scholarly progress, and assessment of service. Each evaluation subcommittee will be charged with providing a report to the committee and the Dean by April 1.

Coordinate as needed with the Faculty Appointments Committee regarding lateral hires and review any lateral candidates for status if needed.

HONORS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE:

April Land, Chair
Veronica Gonzales-Zamora
John LaVelle (spring only)
Ernesto Longa
Jenny Moore (spring only)
Vanessa Racehorse
Courtney Holmes, ex officio
Bonnie Stepleton, ex officio

CHARGE: In the fall semester, recommend process to the faculty regarding how students will be selected each spring for honors and awards. In the spring, seek input regarding student awards from the faculty who generally teach in the areas covered by the awards. Determine the honors and awards for the May 2024 ceremony that the committee would like to recommend for adoption by the faculty. Seek input from the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs regarding disciplinary and other issues that may be known about nominees.

The following awards, which are directly tied to our clinical program and our two certificate programs, shall be handled differently as follows:

Clinical Program Award (Margaret Kaiper Daily). Faculty members who have taught in the law school's mandatory clinic at least once since the summer of 2023 shall meet as an ad hoc committee to nominate student recipients of the Margaret Kaiper Daily Award. Those nominations shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee.

Law and Indigenous Peoples Program (West Award and Henry Kent Anderson Award). Faculty members who have taught at least one course in the law school's Law and Indigenous Peoples Program during academic years 2022-23 or 2023-24 shall meet as an ad hoc committee to nominate student recipients of the West Award and the Henry Kent Anderson Award. Those nominations shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee.

Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program (Utton Natural Resources Award, Domenici Environmental Award, and Gauna Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program Award). Faculty members who have taught at least one course in the law school's Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program during academic years 2022-23 or 2023-24 shall meet as an ad hoc committee to nominate student recipients of the Utton Natural Resources Award, the Domenici Environmental Award, and the Gauna Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program Award. Those nominations shall be forwarded to the Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW COMMITTEE:

Reed Benson, Chair
Elizabeth Elia
Gabe Pacyniak
Nadine Padilla
Adrian Oglesby
Student*
Student**

*Student committee member selected by the incoming board of the Natural Resources Journal.

**Student committee member selected by the incoming board of the Environmental Law Society.

CHARGE: Review the Natural Resources Certificate Program requirements and make curricular recommendations to the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the 2024-2025 academic year no later than December 1, 2023. Recommendation should identify courses that must be taught during the 2024-2025 academic year to ensure necessary course coverage for purposes of the certificate program as well as recommended courses that go beyond the core requirements of the certificate program.

The Committee will consult with other committees and/or departments of the law school that are responsible for curriculum, long-term hiring needs, recruitment, student academic success, bar preparation, and other matters related to the needs of students enrolled in the certificate program.

Review applicants for next Director of the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Program and make recommendation to the Dean.

STAFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE:

Emilie McVay-Ash, Chair
Daniel Cisneros
Shelby Deyapp
Jacqueline Ibarra
Haley Johnston
Nancy Valdez

CHARGE: Handle matters under the jurisdiction of the committee as they arise. Consult with members of the faculty and evaluate the role of this committee at the law school, including the various ways that it can be used to enhance faculty and staff relations.

STUDENT RETENTION, SUSPENSION, AND READMISSION COMMITTEE:

Carol Suzuki, Chair
Barbara Creel
Paul Figueroa
Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez
Alexandra Siek
Sam Winder
Student
Student
Ernest Tafoya, ex officio
Renee Ferrell, ex officio
Beth Kaimowitz, ex officio

CHARGE: Handle matters under the jurisdiction of the committee as they arise.

BULLETIN AND HANDBOOK POLICY COMMITTEE:

These two subcommittees will examine specific policies in the Bulletin and Handbook of Policies and, if appropriate, propose specific changes – including the wording of the proposed changes – to the full faculty. Each subcommittee will work independently but should consult with the full committee before proposing changes to the full faculty.

STUDENT DISCIPLINARY SUBCOMMITTEE:

CHARGE: Review student disciplinary policies of the Bulletin and Handbook of Policies for the JD and MSL programs and propose any appropriate revisions to the full faculty. Review Appendix A (Honor Code), Appendix B, and Appendix C and propose procedural and substantive revisions, if appropriate. Proposals should be made to the full faculty during this academic year.

Sergio Pareja, Chair
Steven Homer
Bonnie Stepleton, ex officio

GRADING SANCTION SUBCOMMITTEE:

CHARGE: Examine current sanctions for faculty late submission of grades and, if the committee finds it appropriate, submit revised policy for consideration by the full faculty. Consult with faculty and student body on any proposed sanction(s) for faculty late submission of grades. If the committee suggests a new policy, it should be proposed at a faculty meeting no later than March 2024.

Sherri Thomas, Chair
John Kang
Michelle Rigual
Sarah Steadman
Ernest Tafoya, ex officio