

Minutes for Faculty Meeting May 5, 2020 (via Zoom)

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm by Dean Sergio Pareja, once a quorum was reached. The following people were present for at least some portion of the meeting.

Faculty: Maryam Ahranjani, George Bach, Reed Benson, Sherri Burr, Camille Carey, Lysette Romero Córdova, Barbara Creel, Elizabeth Elia, Scott England, Paul Figueroa, Joseph Gallardo, Marc Tizoc González, Vinay Harpalani, Steven Homer, John Kang, Joshua Kastenberg, April Land, John LaVelle, Jennifer Laws, Ernesto Longa, Nathalie Martin, Serge Martinez, Jennifer Moore, Gabe Pacyniak, Mary Leto Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Sonia Gipson Rankin, Michelle Rigual, Leo Romero, Alexandra Siek, Joseph Schremmer, Laura Spitz, Sarah Steadman, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Sherri Thomas, Cliff Villa, Samuel Winder, Peter Winograd, **Jeanette Wolfley** (20 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold)

Staff: Beverly Akin, Krista Allen, Chad Covey, Stephanie Grant

Students: Jessica Arreola, Natalie Duran

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dean Pareja welcomed the faculty to the second “Zoom” faculty meeting and apologized in advance for any glitches that may occur. Dean Pareja announced that Vice Dean Camille Carey would be monitoring questions and comments, and Tony Anderson would be monitoring the technology in the background.

Dean Pareja announced that the emergency funding for students in the amount of \$25,000 had come through. About half of it has already been distributed to students. Dean Pareja explained that he, Bonnie Stepleton, and Vice Dean Camille Carey met (virtually) and went through the students’ requests, which exceeded the amount that we had received. Therefore, they decided to focus on students with a “critical emergency” that exists now. They will take additional requests from students for emergency support throughout the summer. Vice Dean Carey noted that the money for students had been dispersed into students’ bursar accounts.

Dean Pareja announced that because of the pandemic many of our students had job offers revoked. He thanked the faculty who came forward willing to take on student research assistants over the summer. To the Dean’s knowledge, all students who requested to be placed with a faculty member have been placed.

Dean Pareja announced two events will be happening this week:

- A *Virtual Honors and Awards Ceremony* will take place Friday, May 8, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. Invitations have been sent out to students who will be receiving awards, as well as to the faculty who are presenting awards. For those who would like to watch the *Virtual Honors and Awards Ceremony*, it will be streamed on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsmIpY5S0Wm6ZYkgLt4onOw/>. Tony Anderson has indicated that it would be best to watch the events either on a laptop or desktop as you'll be able to see names listed as well as the face of the person who's receiving that award.

- A *Virtual Celebration of the Class of 2020*, will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom and will be streamed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsmIpY5S0Wm6ZYkgLt4onOw/>.

Dean Pareja thanked the faculty members who graciously volunteered to present or read the names of the students in our 3L class. The Dean asked the faculty to please give some thought to this and make it fun; please feel free to go with the flow and do what works.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from April 21, 2020 faculty meeting – Dean Sergio

Pareja: A motion was made to approve the minutes and was seconded. The minutes were approved with 31 yes votes, no nay votes, and 4 abstentions.

ACTION ITEM: Vote on postponing trial acceptance of GRE by one year – Professor

Maryam Ahranjani, Chair of Admissions Committee: A motion was made by the Admissions Committee to postpone the trial acceptance of the GRE for one year. It was discussed and voted on. The motion passed with 32 yes votes, no nay votes, and 3 abstentions.

Discussion and vote on grading policy for summer classes – Dean Sergio Pareja:

Dean Pareja opened the discussion by noting that he and Vice Dean Carey had reached out to faculty who are teaching classes this summer to see if they had any strong opinions on how they would like their classes graded, given that all summer classes will be online. There are three real broad options: (1) standard letter grading, (2) mandatory credit/no credit for all summer classes, or (3) along the lines of what is happening this semester, prior to the start of summer classes faculty members would choose to have their classes be graded credit/no credit or, prior to final exams, and student could opt to have a particular class graded credit / no credit. The feedback received from the faculty teaching this summer is that a significant majority prefer the third option. Associate Dean Serge Martinez reported to the faculty that he had met with the clinic faculty members who are teaching this summer, and they generally support option 3 for summer grading. After much discussion a motion was made and seconded to accept option 3 as the grading policy for the summer of 2020. The motion passed with 92 percent voting in favor. The Dean asked that the faculty members who will be teaching this summer to please decide prior to the start of classes if they will be electing to have their class graded credit / no credit. Dean Pareja reminded the faculty that they need to start thinking about grading for the fall semester as well. He would like to vote on this at an additional faculty meeting, which will be held this summer by Zoom.

Discussion regarding fall semester – Dean Sergio Pareja: Dean Pareja announced that in response to the last meeting he has formed a COVID-19 Task Force consisting of Steven Homer, Jennifer Laws, Serge Martinez, Jenny Moore, Mary Leto Pareja, Sonia Gibson Rankin, Cliff Villa, Bonnie Stapleton, and Tony Anderson. This Task Force will work in conjunction with the Building & Safety Committee. It will work on such things as:

- How to handle orientation
- How to mentor and build community for 1L's, including faculty mentors and mentorships and support for 2Ls and 3Ls
- How to use the building; should it be a prioritized for 1Ls; how is the building to be used for safe in-person interaction
- Exams and Assessment
- Contingency plan for faculty absences; how do we ensure continuity of classes?
- Best practices for online and hybrid teaching. Professor Mary Pareja sent an e-mail to faculty urging them to register for the CALI conference this year (online and free and focused on such topics). Professor Jen Laws is reaching out to the UNM Learn department on main campus to see if they can provide some training on that platform.

- What technology do faculty need to facilitate their style of instruction? We will likely need a faculty poll on this front. Tony Anderson has offered to host virtual “drop in” hours, where faculty could get brief training or refreshers on various technology.

Dean Pareja said his goal for the fall, as of right now, is to have some in-person classes, being mindful of social distancing, to the extent possible. To the extent that it’s not possible, classes will have to be on-line. All faculty will need to be fully prepared to suddenly switch to all online classes. Dean Pareja asked the faculty to start to think about this for the next faculty meeting and to reach out to the COVID-19 Task Force with any additional comments or concerns. Professor Michelle Rigual sent the following useful link via the Zoom chat:
<http://libguides.law.unm.edu/remote/pedagogy>.

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:01 p.m.