

## Executive Session Faculty Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2021

*The meeting was called to order at 2:02 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, Camille Carey, Elizabeth Elia, Scott England, Sonia Gipson Rankin, Verónica Gonzales-Zamora, Marc-Tizoc González, Vinay Harpalani, Steven Homer, John Kang, Joshua Kastenburger, John LaVelle, Jennifer Laws, Nathalie Martin, Serge Martinez, Jennifer Moore, Aliza Organick, Gabriel Pacyniak, Mary Leto Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Michelle Rigual, Joseph Schremmer, Laura Spitz, Sarah Steadman, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Sherri Thomas, Clifford Villa, Samuel Winder, Peter Winograd (19 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold)

**Staff:** Beverly Akin, Ramona Garcia, Renée Ferrell, Bonnie Stepleton, Emilie McVay-Ash

**Students:** Claire Cooley (3L Rep), Daniel Goodwin (1L Rep)

### **Announcements:**

The Dean welcomed everyone and thanked Professors Laura Spitz and Josh Kastenburger for providing refreshments in celebration of Vice Dean Camille Carey's selection as the next Dean of UNM School of Law. There was a spontaneous standing ovation for Vice Dean Carey. Dean Pareja spoke briefly about the vote. Voting faculty will receive a link from the Provost's office so that they can view the results of the vote themselves. This link will only be available for a limited time, and Dean Pareja stressed that the information is very confidential and should not be shared with anybody else. That said, the Provost authorized Dean Pareja to share some of the results publically: 94% of the faculty voted that Vice Dean Carey will provide positive leadership for the law school; approximately 2/3 of the faculty ranked Vice Dean Carey as their first choice for the law school's next Dean; and nearly 90 percent ranked her as their first or second choice.

Dean Pareja talked about how he has personally witnessed Vice Dean Carey's strong leadership and administrative skills over the past four years. He also noted that the good thing about having an internal candidate is that it provides time for a smoother transition. Over the next six months, Vice Dean Carey will be involved in all key decisions, and Dean Pareja will give even greater deference to her views as we get closer to her start date. She also is likely to accompany Dean Pareja to monthly meetings with the Provost and will become even more involved with alumni, donors, and budget planning.

Dean Pareja next discussed plans to update some areas of the building. We are getting bids to update the flooring upstairs in the Mountain Wing to match the flooring downstairs. In addition, we are getting bids to replace the old wooden doors throughout the building. Finally, we are getting a bid to remove the wood paneling surrounding the Leo Romero Classroom and to replace it with a nicer, more modern looking wall.

Nathalie Martin will be holding an information session for all students interested in the Madrid Summer Law Institute on Monday, November 22, at 12:00 PM in Room 2401. If you have previously taught in this program, please try to stop by add your observations.

### **Action Items:**

**Approval of the minutes from November 5, 2021 – Dean Sergio Pareja:** Dean Pareja called for a motion to approve the minutes from the last faculty meeting. The motion was made and seconded. The motion passed with no opposition and one abstention.

**Revision of NREL Certificate requirements – Professor Reed Benson, Chair of the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Committee:** Faculty approval is required to make any changes to the Certificate requirements. The NREL Certificate requires a student to complete 21 hours of relevant coursework. To earn the Certificate, a student must complete two out of three “core” courses, and either a writing seminar or drafting course in the NREL field. S/he must also complete at least two skills/experience courses from a menu that currently has six items: Natural Resources Journal I-IV, Pace Environmental Law Moot Court Team, externship related to Natural Resources/Environmental Law, individual research related to Natural Resources/Environmental Law, approved non-law graduate course, and the NREL Clinic. The NREL Committee proposes to add two items to this menu: Advanced Clinic (NREL Section) and Semester in DC (placement must relate to Natural Resources/Environmental Law).

Advanced NREL Clinic is available, at the clinic supervisor’s invitation, to students who have completed their clinic semester. An Advanced Clinic student typically continues working on one matter that s/he handled during her/his regular clinic semester. This arrangement helps the student gain deeper experience in handling a matter that s/he has already learned, and helps the clinic maintain continuity on especially complex and long-running matters.

A student taking a Semester in DC has essentially a full-time placement with an organization, often a government agency. Two students in the Spring 2022 DC Semester will be working for government agencies in the NREL field (EPA and the Department of the Interior). The Committee believes that students who work in the NREL field during the Semester in DC gain very valuable knowledge and experience that should be recognized for purposes of the Certificate.

Because only a few students per year take Advanced Clinic or the Semester in DC, these additions to the menu will have little effect on the number of students who earn the Certificate. The Committee proposes to add these items based on their educational value, which seems at least equal to several other items on the skills/experience menu.

Approval of this proposal would add items to the menu, but a student would still need to complete two to meet this Certificate requirement.

The Dean opened the floor for questions and discussion. There were no questions. Because the proposal came from the committee, a second was not required. The faculty voted unanimously to approve the changes.

At this time, the meeting moved to Executive Session. Claire Cooley, Daniel Goodwin, Renée Ferrell, Bonnie Stepleton, and Ramona Garcia left the meeting.

### **Executive Session (voting faculty only):**

**Action Item: Discussion and vote on candidates for the EJC position- Dean Sergio Pareja:**

Members of the committee then gave brief reports on the reference checks for each candidate.

**40% Acceptability Round:** In the first round of voting, faculty members voted by secret ballot for each of the four candidates they consider acceptable for the EJC position. All four candidates received more than 40% of the faculty votes. Discussion about all four candidates followed this vote.

**The Ranking Round:** Following a discussion on the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate, faculty voted by secret ballot and selected only one candidate whom they preferred. In the initial vote, none of the candidates received a majority of the votes; therefore, a Runoff Round was necessary.

**Runoff Round:** Faculty voted by secret ballot for the one candidate out of the top two candidates from the Ranking Round whom they preferred. One candidate received more than 50% of the votes and moved to the official #1 spot.

**Second Ranking Round:** The faculty voted by secret ballot for the one candidate they preferred from the remaining three. One candidate received more than 50% of the votes and moved to the #2 spot.

**Third Ranking Round:** The faculty by secret ballot voted for the one candidate they preferred from the remaining two candidates. One candidate received more than 50% of the vote and moved to the #3 spot. The remaining candidate moved to the #4 spot.

**60% Offer Round:** The faculty voted to extend offers in the order the candidates were ranked in the Ranking Rounds. All four of candidates received at least 60% of the votes in this round. As a result of this vote, it was decided that, subject to Provost approval, the Dean would offer the position to the top ranked candidate. If that person does not accept,

the Dean will offer the position to the second ranked candidate. If that person does not accept, the Dean will offer the position to the third ranked candidate. If that person does not accept, the Dean will offer the position to the fourth ranked candidate.

The Dean will make the offer as soon as possible as several of the candidates have received other offers.

*The meeting was adjourned at 4:10PM.*