

**Faculty Meeting Minutes**  
March 25, 2022

*The meeting was called to order at 2:05 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, Camille Carey, Elizabeth Elia, Paul Figueroa, Vinay Harpalani, Steven Homer, Joshua Kastenber, April Land, John LaVelle, Jennifer Laws, Ernesto Longa, Nathalie Martin, Jennifer Moore, Gabe Pacyniak, Mary Leto Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Alexandra Siek, Carol Suzuki, Sherri Thomas, Cliff Villa, Peter Winograd (19 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold)

**Staff:** Krista Allen, Beverly Akin, Ryan Barber, Bonnie Stepleton, Emilie McVay-Ash, Nickie Vigil, Lena Kassich, Madison Spratto

**Students:** Ari Burks - 3L Rep

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**ELA II Oral Arguments - Professor Steven Homer:** The ELA II oral arguments will be Tuesday, April 19 through April 22. The arguments are scheduled for one hour so they shouldn't interfere with any required classes, but some do bump up against scheduled elective classes. Please excuse late students. They will be holding the arguments via Zoom in an attempt to prevent any super spreader events.

**Associate Dean Process - Vice Dean Camille Carey:** Vice Dean Carey is very pleased with the quality and character of all of the Associate Dean candidates. She has interviewed all of them and is hoping to make announcements next week.

**Contract Negotiations -Professor Ernesto Longa:** The faculty union, United Academics, is currently in negotiations over compensation. The administration has agreed to an across-the-board increase of 3% effective April 1 and an additional 4% across the board increase beginning July 1. This will result in a cumulative across the board increase of 7.12%. They are still negotiating salary minimums, minimums across ranks, and efforts to create a pool of money for retention and equity raises. Dean Pareja added that Associate Deans and non-union staff positions will see a similar 3% raise beginning April 1 and an additional 4% increase beginning July 1.

**LSSSE – Associate Dean Sherri Thomas:** The Law School Survey of Student Engagement (LSSSE) is going on right now. Students have received four reminders. The response rate so far is about 24%. It is usually around 50%. In your classes, please request that students complete the survey. They are very important because they help us understand what the students are experiencing during their time here.

**ABA Annual Survey – Bonnie Stepleton:** Rachel and Patrick have contacted all of the 2021 graduates for the employment survey. The 10-month employment rate is 80%. Dean Pareja added that these numbers are a factor in the US News rankings for law schools. The

major factors in rankings are the admissions stats (median GPA and median LSAT score of the incoming class) and our career placement stats, particularly the 10 month data. Over the last three years, our placement numbers have gotten progressively better thanks to Bonnie's office and the work they're doing. The improved numbers for this year's survey will factor in to next year's rankings.

**Marshall Brennan Constitutional Literacy Project – Professor Maryam Ahranjani:**

The deadline for students to apply in April 1. They will be reaching out to professors with a list of students who are applying. If you have any concerns about a student's ability to lead a class, or want to sing their praises, please respond. It can be in-person or in writing. They pair the students up, and the more information they have about each, the better.

**NCB Open Comment Period – Professor Nathalie Martin:** There is an open comment period for the National Conference of Bar Examiners' next generation bar exam until April 18. Please go to their website to comment. Vice Dean Carey is also a drafter for the NCBE, so anyone who wants a more direct line can give her their feedback.

**Thank you to Professor Mary Leto Pareja and Ramona Garcia – Professor Nathalie Martin and John LaVelle:** Professors Martin and Lavelle presented flowers and a gift to Professor Pareja in appreciation for all her hard work. They also had flowers and a thank you gift for Ramona Garcia who was not present at the meeting. Gifts were then presented to the recently promoted faculty members.

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from December 3, 2021 - Dean Sergio Pareja:**

Associate Dean Sherri Thomas moved to approve the minutes. Professor Jenny Moore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved with a vote of 17 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention.

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2022 - Dean Sergio Pareja:**

Associate Dean Sherri Thomas moved to approve the minutes. Professor Jenny Moore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved with a vote of 13 yes, 0 no, and 5 abstentions.

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from February 25, 2022 - Dean Sergio Pareja:**

Associate Dean Sherri Thomas moved to approve the minutes. Professor Jenny Moore seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The minutes were approved with a vote of 13 yes, 0 no, and 5 abstentions.

**Report on the work of the Advancement Team – Advancement Team:**

Nickie Vigil: The mission of the Advancement Team: "We strive to cultivate life-long relationships and impactful financial investments through engaging and strategic communications while promoting and celebrating the contributions made by the School of Law community."

Melissa Lobato is the Senior Director of Advancement Operations, Alumni, and Annual Programs. Donations up to \$25,000 go through Melissa. She is our alumni relations person.

She is in charge of all our events and planning our annual fundraiser. She supervises the communications portion of the Advancement Team.

Nickie Vigil is the Director of Development and the Major Gifts officer. She works for the UNM Foundation and is assigned to the Law School. Gifts over \$25,000 go through her. Please reach out to her if you want to seek funding for an amazing and meaningful cause, if a donor has contacted you to support your program, if you want to explore grant funding, or if you have an idea that would support, enhance, or supplement the educational experience at the Law School.

Lena Kassicieh is the Communications and Outreach Specialist. She manages marketing, social media, and communications for the Law School. If you would like to share your research or have stories to tell, please reach out to her.

Madison Spratto is the Public Information Representative. She coordinates events, contributes to social media efforts, writes internal and external communications, assists in stewardship efforts (specific expressions of gratitude to those who contribute to the Law School through donations of time or money), and generally supports the Director of Development.

The Advancement Team is currently working on a couple of upcoming events. The 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary campaign and the Fred Hart Memorial. The Fred Hart Memorial will be held on April 7. Professor Desiderio will serve as the Master of Ceremonies. There are 7 scheduled speakers who will each speak for about 5 minutes. Once the scheduled speakers are finished, other attendees will be invited to share their memories.

**Report on Building Safety –Dean Sergio Pareja:** A few weeks ago, on a Saturday, Albuquerque Police pursued a man into the Law School parking lot. The man then left his vehicle and attempted to hide in the Law School. He entered the building by throwing a rock through the glass door near the Dean’s Conference Room. Students attending a Saturday class were in a room nearby. When they heard the glass break, they thought it was a gunshot. They thought there was an active shooter in the building and were very distraught. A campus alert was not issued regarding this incident.

In response to the concerns of the students, Dean Pareja, Vice Dean Carey, Professor Homer, as Chair of the Building and Safety Committee, Krista Allen, Tony Anderson, and Greg Garcia met with Lieutenant Guevara from the UNMPD. Lt. Guevara explained that APD had been pursuing somebody to the campus. During the pursuit, APD notified UNMPD and UNMPD mobilized in accordance with their existing policy. Although the students in the building were unaware of their presence, UNMPD arrived at the law school immediately after APD. The man was not in the building long. The police caught and arrested him. There was no danger to anyone in the building, but this incident has prompted us to re-evaluate existing building safety.

We are taking the following steps: Jeff McDonald from UNMPD will be inspecting all our facilities from a safety perspective to assess what we can do to improve safety in the event something like this happens again. That inspection has not been scheduled, but should happen soon. UNMPD will be giving a presentation on safety. The presentation hasn’t been scheduled yet, but it will be open to the community, students, staff, and faculty. Finally, starting Monday, March 28, the entrances to the

building will remain locked until 8:00 AM when the building officially opens. Law school students will have access to the building at 7:45 AM with their proximity cards. Faculty will continue to have 24-hour access with their proximity cards.

### **Report on the spring break Border Justice Intensive class –Professor April Land and Professor Carol Suzuki:**

Professor Suzuki reported on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday:

**Monday:** The students started with a border crossing. They accompanied people in Mexico who have received permission to come to the United States. The people were subject to some very horrible violence in Mexico. In this case, they have been paroled into the United States and can stay here while they apply for asylum and move forward with that process. Students worked with one of our collaborating agencies, Las Americas. We met the immigrants on the International Bridge which is also called the Paseo del Norte Bridge. That was an intense start for the students. Even the students who are from Juarez, Las Cruces, or the El Paso area said they had never really seen it like this. Even though they read about it in class, to actually have this kind of experience really was eye opening. After the Accompaniment, students were able to ask questions of the Las Americas staff member about the process. Then the group went to the Annunciation House shelter which assists immigrants. Dean Pareja and Professor Mary Pareja were with the group at Annunciation House. They watched a short 15-minute presentation titled “Know Your Rights.” That is all the instruction or information the immigrants receive before starting the process. They do not have the right to an attorney to assist them.

**Tuesday:** Students spent the morning observing Federal Judge Kenneth Gonzales’s court in Las Cruces. Afterwards they had lunch with Judge Gonzales, a UNM SOL alumnus, and his clerk, a recent UNM SOL graduate. The students were able to ask questions. Throughout the week, students met with advocacy lawyers, and were exposed to immigration, and they hope to have students who will practice immigration law, either full time or on a pro bono basis. After lunch, students met with a group of UNM doctors at the Family Medicine Center in Las Cruces. Next, the group visited a shelter in Las Cruces and had a tour. They saw some folks including children who are trying to go through the process alone. They've been released to the United States temporarily as they seek asylum. People only spend a few days in that shelter until they meet with their friends or relatives who are elsewhere. The group also visited an office and travel bureau where they arrange transportation with friends or relatives who will be paid to transport the immigrants while they undergo their asylum process. Finally, they met with a lawyer and fierce asylum advocate. She taught at NMSU and then retired and now she practices immigration law. Half of her practice is pro bono to assist immigrants seeking asylum and other relief.

**Wednesday:** The morning was spent observing non-detained immigration court where students were split up into different courtrooms. The hearings were conducted remotely so, the students were in a courtroom, but were observing the attorneys who are on screen, and the chat was in person. After the hearings, students met with the judges. Prior to the trip, students had done some readings and watched a video of a trial, so they came with really

informed questions. Later on Wednesday, we met with Border Patrol agents and they gave a talk about the work that they do and what their work is. It was kind of framed as humanitarian because they rescue people who are drowning in the river prior to crossing. It was a little weird for the students because they have a different understanding of what Border Patrol does. The students were able to ask some really important questions of the Border Patrol and Professor Suzuki tried to do some informal discovery on the dispossession by deportation project.

Professor Land reported on the remainder of the trip:

On **Wednesday night**, one of our Alumni, Jesse Miles held an open house at her house, and she invited a lot of lawyers to meet with our students. They were really inspiring with the work that they were doing.

**Thursday:** The group did some shadow telephone intakes to give the students a chance to see an intake done by Las Americas. They had yet another amazing meal at Taconeta with some of the local advocates that they've been working with long distance. It was exciting to finally meet face to face and follow up on some of the work that they've been doing in the Clinic, as part of their project work, and as part of the Advanced Immigration Law practice class. Thursday and Friday afternoon, the group was able to partner with *Justice for Our Neighbors* and observe the migrant protection protocol dockets in the non-detained court. Thursday evening the group had a meal the person who runs the UN High Commission on Refugees Service which was also incredibly eye opening.

**Friday:** After the court observations, the group had a really beautiful experience. They crossed the border where they were supposed to go see a shelter. The shelter didn't work out, but they ended up in an amazing part of Juarez at a bakery that just smelled so good. In addition to the rich smells and delicious coffee, the group then went next door and he had a print shop where they are making the Yellow Pages for immigrants. So just like the green book for African Americans, they have the yellow pages and the beautiful handmade patinas and posters saying freedom of movement is a human right and no human is illegal forever and for always.

Dean Pareja then thanked the Professors for their work and expressed the students' stated appreciation for the opportunity and experience. The donor who provided funding for the program also joined them on the trip and was very impressed.

Dean Pareja briefly discussed the Junior Bill, which the Governor vetoed, and summarized his and the university's ongoing efforts to obtain additional funding.

*At 2:55 PM the general meeting was adjourned and the faculty moved to Executive Session.*

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION (only voting faculty):**

Dean Sergio Pareja moved for an invitation to lecturers to stay for the Executive Session. The motion was seconded and passed with 17 yes, 0 no, and 1 abstention.

**ACTION ITEM: “Sense of the Faculty” vote regarding the tenure plan for Professor Sonia Gipson Rankin – Dean Sergio Pareja:** Under the terms of Professor Gipson Rankin’s contract, she may request that the Committee on Tenure, Reappointment, and Promotion conduct her promotion and tenure review during her 5<sup>th</sup> year, rather than her 6<sup>th</sup> year, on the tenure-track, based on the fact that she spent many years as a lecturer at UNM prior to obtaining a tenure-track position at the law school. This request requires the approval of both the Dean of the Law School and the Provost. Dean Pareja and Vice Dean and Dean-Designate Carey both support this request. The Provost supports it as well, but he has requested a “sense of the faculty” vote before approving the request. After some discussion, there was a motion and second in support of Professor Sonia Gipson Rankin going up for tenure next year. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion with no abstentions.

*The Executive Session was adjourned at 3:28 PM.*