

## Executive Session Faculty Meeting Minutes

February 17, 2023

*The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Dean Camille Carey, once a quorum was reached. The following people were present for at least some portion of the meeting.*

**Faculty:** George Bach, Camille Carey, Elizabeth Elia, Scott England, Sonia Gipson Rankin, Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez, Vinay Harpalani, Steven Homer, John Kang, April Land, John LaVelle, Jennifer Moore, Ernesto Longa, Nathalie Martin, Alfred Mathewson, Nadine Padilla, Michelle Rigual, Joseph Schremmer, Alexandra Siek, Laura Spitz, Sarah Steadman, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Sherri Thomas, Peter Winograd (20 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold)

**Staff:** Beverly Akin, Stephanie Grant, Bonnie Stepleton, Ernest Tafoya, Renee Ferrell, Rachel Foster, Emilie McVay-Ash

**Students:** Sheyla Lopez (3L Representative), Paul Havern (2L Representative), Vanessa Springer (1L Representative)

### Announcements:

**Senior Director of Advancement -Dean Camille Carey:** Courtney Holmes is our new Senior Director of Advancement. She is ill today, but will be here for the next meeting. She is a great fit and has hit the ground running.

**Albuquerque Bar Monthly Meetings- Peter Winograd:** Some of the meetings are lunches and some are virtual. Dean Carey will be the speaker for next Tuesday's virtual meeting. If you want to attend, please let Beverly Akin know by this afternoon at 5:00PM. Peter will send out a calendar for the rest of the Spring speakers as soon as possible.

**UNM Black Alumni Association's 2023 Trailblazer Award- Sonia Gipson Rankin:** This year's recipient is Gerald Byers. He is currently the District Attorney in Las Cruces. The event is Saturday, February 18 at 6:00 PM in Hodgins Hall.

**Reminders- Nathalie Martin:** First, there will be a celebration for Sonia Gipson Rankin, Gabe Pacyniak, and Sarah Steadman in honor of their promotions. Gabe is not feeling well, so he will not be able to attend. The second reminder is a request that you participate in the recipe book for her Wellness class. The recipe does not have to be an original, just a favorite of yours. The students will sell the books to raise money for charity. Please send your recipes to Pauline Wayland.

**UNM Faculty Resolution- Marc-Tizoc Gonzalez:** Last semester, the UNM Faculty Senate asked the UNM SOL faculty for assistance and training on racial and gender justice. A number of our faculty, including Professor Harpalani, Professor Gipson Rankin, and others helped draft a resolution that has been passed by the UNM Faculty Senate.

**HB417- Ernesto Longa:** He had the good fortune to draft a piece of legislation proposing the establishment of a living wage for all faculty at New Mexico colleges and universities. It needs support to pass. If you are so inclined, there is a petition where you can express your support. It was circulated to the members of the union, but if you did not receive it and would like to show support, please reach out to him and he will send you a link.

**Human Rights Survey- April Land:** This survey is part of an effort to make sure that our students, staff, and faculty have their basic needs met. The survey, which was included in the Provost's message of February 10, went out to every university across the state. Please take the time to complete it and consider giving your students time in class to complete it. If you have any questions, please see, April, Bonnie Stepleton, or Beth Kaimowitz.

**Action Item: Approval of Minutes from January 20, 2023 faculty meeting - Dean Camille Carey:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. There were no amendments or discussion. The minutes passed with 20 yea, 0 nay, and 3 abstentions.

**Honors and Awards Committee Update - Professor April Land on behalf of the committee:** The committee hopes to get a lot of participation this year. They will be sending out a link on March 6 calling for nominations. The list of awards will be attached. The committee revamped the Formstack nomination with the assistance of Christian Warren in IT. Rachel Foster showed the faculty where to find a list and description of the awards on the Law School website. She then showed them the new Formstack nomination link and form. Professor LaVelle reminded the faculty that only the students whose names have been submitted for an award can be considered, but once a student has been nominated for one award, they may be considered for all other awards. Professor Gipson Rankin thanked the committee for the early reminder and encouraged faculty to think back when choosing students to nominate. These are students who started their 1L year during Covid and it may be difficult to remember as many specifics because the classes were not in person.

**Ad Hoc Bar Passage Committee Report - Professor David Stout:** The committee was charged with reviewing the Bar Passage Task Force recommendations, determining the status of their implementation, and making suggestions regarding those recommendations that have not been implemented. As a broad overview, the task force recommendations have been implemented. There are some variations because faculty are going to approach things in their own way, but overall, the faculty should be commended and recognized for the efforts they put in to helping our students prepare for the Bar exam. We are implementing those recommendations related to faculty and academic advisement. We are recommending bar classes and giving students the opportunity to discuss the efficacy of those classes. The committee does recognize a few areas where the faculty might want to further implement some of the recommendations.

- There is no automated process for tracking which students have taken bar courses, how they've done on the exam, and any recommendations they may have received. The data can be compiled manually, but it is a huge undertaking.

- Faculty have indicated they would appreciate assistance in drafting multiple choice questions.
- Beth Kaimowitz has stated that she could certainly use faculty volunteers to answer students' questions in the weeks leading up to the July exam.
- Do we want to create a standing committee on Bar passage?
- Finally, UNM SOL does not exist in isolation in terms of helping students prepare for the bar. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion section of the state bar has worked with other sections to pair students preparing for the bar with mentors. These mentors help students stay on track with their preparations.

Sheyla Lopez asked about the 3-credit course in recommendation #5. It was not fully implemented. She then mentioned recommendation #6 regarding faculty collaboration about teaching. The faculty who do meet do so informally and infrequently. There is no organized or formal collaboration.

David Stout responded: The 3-credit course had two professors and 5 students. That is not a sustainable commitment of resources. We do have other courses which offer similar preparation such as ELA III and Advanced Legal Analysis. In regards to classes, it is a conversation worth having.

Formal collaboration is more likely for the first-year classes. It's a little harder for the stand-alone classes. He thinks there is communication between professors of the stand-alone courses that may not be reflected on the survey.

There were changes made in terms of offering certain bar classes multiple times a year. Many of the course which were only offered once a year are now being offered twice such as Civil Procedure, Business Associations, and Evidence. Creation of an attack outline and a repository is another area that deserves further discussion.

Dean Carey mentioned the intention to hire an additional academic support person to assist with bar passage should the funding be available.

Sheyla Lopez asked about enrollment caps in the bar courses and Dean Carey explained that meaningful classroom discussion and assessment, pedagogy, and classroom sizes are factors.

**Policy on Late Grades and Faculty Disciplinary Actions - Dean Camille Carey and Professor Ernesto Longa:** There will be a committee created in the Fall to examine the policy and in the meantime, fines or other consequences will not be enforced. There is also some concern that enforcing the penalties stated in the Bulletin and Handbook of Policies may violate the faculty bargaining agreement. There is some overlap with the prior faculty disciplinary policy and the new bargaining agreement. The committee will need to look at the agreement and the proposed consequences of violating the grading policy. Dean Carey would also like the students to have the opportunity to share their thoughts. She doesn't want to make any changes to the 20-day deadline, but the consequences and how the timeframe is calculated may need to be adjusted.

Discussion continued among the faculty and students regarding the history of the policy and importance to students of reporting grades in a timely manner.

**Curriculum Committee's Report on Lab - Associate Dean Steven Homer:** Lab was proposed by the experiential learning committee in 2017. It was going to be a 2-semester practicum called Anatomy of Law Practice and cover an ambitious array of topics. It was to be a skills-based class for first year law students to teach certain basic skills. The curriculum

committee approved it and it came before the faculty as a 3-year pilot program. We should have reviewed it after 2 years, but now we are in year 4.

Serge Martinez and Steven Homer led the program the first two years, Sonia Gipson Rankin and Serge Martinez led it this year, and next year Sonia Gipson Rankin and Christy DeSanctis will lead. The course varies a little but there are some constant themes and small groups taught by adjuncts. There is an emphasis on professional identity development, the Rules of Professional Conduct, some skills, and some client work. Each section has its own client with similar issues across the sections.

Lab has had some challenges. They have had trouble determining the best way to assess students in a way that is compatible with the adjuncts outside professional demands. It is also hard for students to meet with the adjunct professors who all have full time careers outside the law school. The original idea that Lab would coordinate with Torts, Crim Law, and Contracts has been nearly impossible to implement. There is some hope that it will align with ELA, but that is a long term conversation. There was also some conversation about Lab being preparation for clinic, but it is difficult because of the gap between first and third year, when students generally take clinic.

The Curriculum Committee and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs were to evaluate the effectiveness of the course at the end of each year and make a recommendation regarding its continuation. The committee recommends that it continue as a requirement in the first-year curriculum.

The faculty discussed some of the specific skills taught in lab and varied needs of the students based on their prior life experience. They also discussed the challenges in assessing a skills-based course. The student representatives shared their experiences and thoughts about the class. Paul Havern, who took the class in person last year, found it valuable. Sheyla Lopez, who took the class online during Covid, didn't find it quite so valuable.

Associate Dean Homer concluded the discussion by thanking Sonia and Serge for their hard work on this class.

*The meeting was adjourned at 3:51 PM.*