

Faculty Meeting Minutes November 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: Maryam Ahranjani, Reed Benson, Camille Carey, Barbara Creel, Christy DeSanctis, Elizabeth Elia, Scott England, Paul Figueroa, Allison Freedman, Verónica Gonzales, Marc-Tizoc González, Vinay Harpalani, Steven Homer, John Kang, Josh Kastenberg, April Land, Jennifer Laws, Ernesto Longa, Gabriel Pacyniak, Nadine Padilla, Mary Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Vanessa Racehorse, Michelle Rigual, Alexandra Siek, Sarah Steadman, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Sherri Thomas, Samuel Winder, Peter Winograd (*17 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold*)

Staff: Beverly Akin, Krista Allen, Tony Anderson, Renee Ferrell, Stephanie Grant, Courtney Holmes, Ernest Tafoya, Emilie McVay-Ash (minutes)

Announcements:

New Mexico Law Center Building Remodel - Dean Camille Carey: There will be a faculty workshop with Dekker Perich Sabatini Architects on December 6 at 12:00PM in the faculty lounge. There will be tours of the building on November 29 at 1:00 PM and again on December 6 at 11:00 AM.

Legislative Days - Associate Dean Steven Homer: He corrected an error in the email he sent to faculty. The Wednesday is November 29, not November 39.

Website - Dean Camille Carey: Courtney Holmes and the Advancement Team are updating the School of Law website. We anticipate that the ABA Site Visit team will start using our website in January. Faculty should look at their individual profile pages and send any needed updates to Courtney. Courtney and Emily Romero will also be coordinating with faculty to take new pictures for the profile pages.

Journal Symposia - Vanessa Racehorse: Each of the symposia were exceptional. The Tribal Law Journal Symposium had over 100 people register, and about 100 people attended. All of the students involved put in a tremendous amount of work, and they were outstanding.

Syllabi - Beverly Akin: All faculty should send their current syllabi to Beverly as soon as possible.

Action Items:

Approval of Minutes from October 27, 2023 Faculty Meeting - Dean Camille Carey: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the October 27, 2023 meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Report from the Faculty Appointments Committee - Professor Maryam Ahranjani, Chair of Appointments Committee: Two faculty candidates visited the law school earlier this week, a third candidate will be here on November 30, and the committee is deliberating on a fourth candidate. Please remember to complete the evaluation forms. The evaluations are anonymous, and they are really helpful.

The faculty will meet to vote on the candidates on December 8.

Discussion Items:

Proposed AALS Bylaws Amendment and nominations for President-Elect and New Members of the Executive Committee - Professor Carol Suzuki as the UNM School of Law Representative to AALS House of Representatives: The proposed amendment to the AALS Bylaws would change Section 1-2. There is a slate of nominations for President-Elect and for New Members of the Executive Committee. Professor Suzuki stated her intention to vote for both in the affirmative. Faculty members did not have any feedback to the contrary.

Proposed Revised Anti-Discrimination Policy (in preparation for Site Visit)- Associate Dean and Site Visit Co-Chair Steven Homer: ABA Standard 201(d) states “The policies of a university that are applicable to a law school shall be consistent with the Standards. The law school shall have separate policies where necessary to ensure compliance with the Standards.” Associate Dean Homer looked at the UNM policies, the UAP, the Regents’ policies and the Faculty Handbook. Some of the policies did not quite line up with ABA standards, and the law school policies are a little outdated. He provided a proposed a new policy which would align with the ABA standards and UNM policies. The handout presented to the faculty for reference included footnotes and a chart comparing ABA standards with various UNM policies.

Associate Dean Homer asked the faculty to send him their comments. He will incorporate those comments, and the faculty will vote on a new policy in a future meeting.

Strategic Planning for Faculty Hiring - Dean Camille Carey: Dean Carey started the discussion with required classes. Faculty members were polled on their perceptions of course coverage for required classes. Required classes are those that all students must take to graduate. The poll did not include the writing seminar or drafting courses as those requirements can be filled by many different courses.

The results of the iClicker poll are as follows:

Areas with the greatest need: First year required courses (24), Constitutional Rights (1), Clinic (1), Ethics (0), Legal Research (0).

Classes with the greatest need in the first semester 1L required courses: Contracts I (12), Criminal Law (10), ELA I (1), Lab (2), Torts (2).

Classes with the greatest need in the second semester 1L required courses: Civil Procedure I (16), ELA II (0), Introduction to Constitutional Law (5), Introduction to Legal Research (0), Property I (5)

The classes with the greatest need in the IL curriculum: Contracts (10), Criminal Law (6), Civil Procedure I (10), Introduction to Constitutional Law (2), Property I (0).

Is there sufficient coverage for Constitutional Rights? Yes (8), No (17)

Is there sufficient coverage for Applied Legal Research? Yes (21), No (1)

Is there sufficient coverage for Ethics? Yes (11), No (15)

Is there sufficient coverage for Clinic? Yes (13), No (14)

Areas of greatest need in the Clinic: Child and Family (4), Community Lawyering (3), Economic Justice (2), NREL (7), SILC (7).

The poll provided a starting point for a discussion about coverage for the required courses. Faculty discussed the need to provide students with the best possible start in the 1L year and also ensure that they have access to a variety of upper level bar courses. They discussed class size and how UNM SOL's small class size is a benefit to students that they do not always receive at other larger schools. Several professors agreed that they can give the students more individual attention and provide different learning opportunities when the class sizes are kept small.

The faculty then discussed how many faculty members currently teach each required class. The faculty reframed the answers presented by the poll in light of this information. A consensus was reached as follows. Our greatest coverage needs for required classes are in Contracts I and Property I. Constitutional Rights is the next greatest coverage need. We have some coverage needs in Civil Procedure I, Introduction to Constitutional Law, Criminal Law, and Clinic (especially summer Clinic).

Dean Carey asked everyone to complete a course coverage questionnaire indicating which required courses, if any, that they are interested in or willing to teach in the future. The questionnaires were collected at the meeting.

Future discussions will include non-required classes.

The meeting moved into executive session at 3:42 PM.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ACTION ITEM: Discussion and Vote on Possible Targeted Hire of Alex Ritchie - Dean Camille Carey: There was a motion to bring Alex Ritchie to campus to interview as part of a targeted hire through the alternative hiring process. After some discussion, Dean Carey called the question, and the faculty voted by secret ballot. The motion did not pass.

The meeting was adjourned by majority vote at 4:27 PM.