

Faculty Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm by Dean Camille Carey, once a quorum was reached. The following people were present for at least some portion of the meeting.

Faculty: Reed Benson, Camille Carey, Barbara Creel, Christy DeSanctis, Elizabeth Elia, Scott England, Paul Figueroa, Allison Freedman, Sonia Gipson Rankin, Laura Gomez, Verónica Gonzales, Marc-Tizoc González, Steven Homer, John Kang, April Land, John LaVelle, Jennifer Laws, Ernesto Longa, Serge Martinez, Jennifer Moore, Aliza Organick, Nadine Padilla, Mary Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Vanessa Racehorse, Michelle Rigual, Alexandra Siek, David Stout, Sherri Thomas, Peter Winograd (20 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold)

Staff: Beverly Akin (minutes), Courtney Holmes, Ernest Tafoya, Stephanie Grant, Krista Allen, Dominique Lange (announcements only), Patrick Lopez (announcements only)

Student Representatives: Vanessa Springer (2L), Samuel People (1L)

Announcements:

February 2024 Bar Passage Results - Patrick Lopez and Bonnie Stepleton: Statistics about the February 2024 bar passage rates were presented in a PowerPoint presentation. UNM first time passage rate was 82%. UNM repeat bar takers had a 52% pass rate. UNM graduates had higher pass rate than other schools. The PowerPoint included charts with pass rates by race/ethnicity and gender. Career and Students Services reached out to the Native American students who took the exam to discuss what worked and what did not work in terms of test preparation. They will be incorporating that information going forward.

Bonnie presented information obtained from the pilot testing for the NextGen Bar in the PowerPoint presentation. Another pilot test will be held in October, and the July test takers from UNM will be participating and receiving \$300. This will give us a good idea about how the NextGen Bar compares to the current exam. AccessLex is funding the creation of teaching modules with practice materials, hypotheticals, and assignments for use in classrooms. They are offering a \$10,000 stipend to team members who create modules. It is her understanding that the modules will be available for free for use in classrooms. She will be sharing them with the faculty as she receives them.

Additional Announcements - Dean Camille Carey: The podium in this room has been replaced. Please let us know how you like it. We will be replacing some of the other podiums, and there are a lot of models to choose from.

Professor Cliff Villa has requested another year leave of absence. Depending on the results of the election, he may ask to stay longer. It is up to main campus to approve his request.

US News Rankings - Dean Camille Carey: UNM School of Law has gone up a little bit in the US News Rankings. Last year we were ranked 96. This year we are ranked 94. Our Environmental Law program is ranked 25. Our Clinical Law program is at 19. The other rankings include: 115 for Business and Corporate Law, 88 for Constitutional Law, 91 for Contracts and Commercial Law, 92 for Criminal Law, 57 for Dispute Resolution, 132 for Health Care Law, 156 for Intellectual Property Law, 142 for International Law, 113 for Tax Law, and 134 for Trial Advocacy.

Faculty Union Announcements - Professor Ernesto Longa: The union is engaged in compensation negotiations. It requested an 8% increase for full time faculty. Administration started with a 3% increase. An increase of 3% does not cover the cost of living increase so the union will be making the case for 8%. There was also a legislative appropriation of non-formula funds. The administration has proposed distributing that to faculty for merit, equity, and retention in an effort to close the pay gap between UNM and other R1 institutions. It would take \$12 million to get the UNM faculty salaries to the average salary among our peer institutions.

Both the union and the Provost agree that the proposed grading deadline sanctions policy relates to discipline and is best addressed as part of the collective bargaining agreement. The full contract negotiations will begin after July 1.

Dean Carey reiterated that grading deadlines are still in effect even though she will not enforce the fines sanction for late grades in the Bulletin and Handbook of Policies.

Johnson vs. Board of Education - Professor Marc Tizoc Gonzalez: The NM Supreme Court will hear oral arguments on Johnson v. The Board of Education for Albuquerque Public Schools on Monday, April 29. The court will be holding the oral argument at CNM. Unfortunately, Property students will be taking their final exam at that time.

Final Exams - Ernest Tafoya: Please do not entertain questions from students regarding rescheduling their exam. Forward those emails directly to the Registrar's office. They will work with the students as they always do.

Second, professors can speak to students about the exam at any point up until the exam is given. Once the exam has been administered, please do not speak to the students about the exam until after you have turned in the final grades.

Summer Activities - Courtney Holmes: Courtney asked that anyone engaging with students during the summer take photographs and share those with the Advancement Team.

Action Item:

Approval of Minutes from March 22, 2024 Faculty Meeting - Dean Camille Carey: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 22, 2024 meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 19 yes votes and 8 abstentions.

Discussion Items:

ABA/AALS Site Visit Debrief and Next Steps - Associate Dean Steven Homer: Once we receive the ABA site visit report, we will have 30 days to respond. We can provide additional materials in that response if needed. After that, the report goes to the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar. The Council meets in May, August, November, and February. We were the second to last school visited this year, so the Council would review our report in August at the earliest but more likely in November. He does not anticipate anything too negative to be in the report, and we do not anticipate any sanctions.

Dean Carey shared some comments the site team had after their meeting with students. The site team commented multiple times on the strong sense of community at the law school.

Students appreciate the faculty. The students did share concerns about getting exams and homework returned to them in a timely manner. Students also want more bar courses above the introductory doctrinal classes. The site visit team reported that we could do better in providing outcome assessments. Students also expressed concern regarding faculty retention. Students are very split on academic advising. Some were very happy, and others felt it was insufficient.

The site visit team reported that there was feedback that faculty salaries are not competitive with other law schools. There was also substantial feedback regarding our promotion and tenure standards. Some tenure-track faculty expressed that the scholarship requirement for promotion and tenure is not clear enough in terms of the number of publications required in each probationary period. One site team member was concerned that we do not have a clear standard for hiring a tenure-track or tenured librarian.

Students shared positive comments about the IT department. An issue with accessibility to a library restroom was raised. One site visit team member was concerned that there is not a sufficiently precise succession plan if something happens to the Dean.

We receive feedback that some students are confused about how accommodations are implemented.

Executive Session:

Vote on Honors and Awards for Class of 2024 - Professor April Land, Chair of the Honors and Awards Committee: The faculty was presented with and voted on a list of nominees recommended by the committee.

Vote on Emerita/Emeritus Status for Professors Reed Benson, Barbara Creel, and John LaVelle - Dean Camille Carey: The faculty voted to award emerita/emmeritus status to Professors Reed Benson, Barbara Creel, and John LaVelle.

The meeting was adjourned by majority vote at 4:14 PM.