

Faculty Meeting Minutes

September 20, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 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, Warigia Bowman, Camille Carey, Christy DeSanctis, Elizabeth Elia, Scott England, Paul Figueroa, Allison Freedman, Laura Gomez, Felipe Guevara, Vinay Harpalani, Steven Homer, John Kang, Josh Kastenber, April Land, Jennifer Laws, Nathalie Martin, Serge Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Aliza Organick, Nadine Padilla, Mary Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Michelle Rigual, Leo Romero, Alexandra Siek, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Peter Winograd (18 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold)

Staff: Beverly Akin, Rodina Cave Parnall, Courtney Holmes, Patrick Lopez, Emilie McVay-Ash, Ernest Tafoya

Student Representative: Kieran Raney (2L)

Announcements:

Welcome - Dean Camille Carey: Dean Carey began the meeting by welcoming Professor Warigia Bowman to her first faculty meeting. She also announced that Vanessa Springer will continue as the 3L representative and welcomed Kieran Raney as the new 2L representative. Dean Carey asked Professor Land to introduce Felipe Guevara.

Visiting Professor Felipe Guevara - Professor April Land: Professor Land introduced Visiting Professor Felipe Guevara. He will be teaching in the Community Lawyering Clinic this year. Professor Land reminded faculty that in the past, visiting faculty have been permitted to vote in meetings upon approval of the faculty. She moved that Visiting Professor Felipe Guevara be permitted to vote on decisions not related to hiring or promotion or tenure. The motion passed unanimously with 25 yes votes.

Additional Faculty - Dean Camille Carey: Dean Carey mentioned two other additions to the faculty this Fall, Visiting Professor Paul Spruhan and Adjunct Professor Robert Butkin. While Professor Butkin is an adjunct, he is teaching two classes and will be included in many events at the law school.

Events on the Webpage - Courtney Holmes: If the faculty have any events planned which they would like to have listed on the law school home page, please contact Courtney. Advancement would like to keep that section updated and full.

PLSI Judicial Clerkship Program - Rodina Cave Parnall: The PLSI program, which is part of the American Indian Law Center, is receiving an Outstanding Legal Program award from the State Bar of New Mexico for their Judicial Clerkship Program. There will be a presentation on October 25 at 5:00 PM at the State Bar of New Mexico Annual Meeting followed by a reception.

Rodina extended an invitation to the faculty to attend. The PLSI Judicial Clerkship Committee was formed in 2013. Prior to 2016, there were only six judicial clerks in the 45-year history of the program. Since 2016, there have been an additional 31 state and federal judicial clerkships including in the U.S. Courts of Appeal, federal district courts, and state supreme courts.

Gathering of Communities and Nations Convocation with Distinguished Alumnus John Echohawk, Pawnee Nation - Professor and LIPP Director Aliza Organick: On October 16 at 5:30PM, we will be holding the first convocation since 2019. The first Native American graduate from UNM School of Law will be our featured speaker. The students are very excited, and this event will be an opportunity to shine a light on the Law and Indigenous Peoples Program and the Indian Law Certificate Program. While that will be a very busy week with the Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner, Professor Organick expressed the hope that the faculty would all attend and reminded everyone to RSVP as soon as possible.

Disturbing Messages - Dean Camille Carey: Dean Carey has received a series of text messages from different anonymous phone numbers regarding unfair treatment of men in law school. Professors John Kang and Sonia Gipson Rankin found articles stating that this was happening to law professors and women law students in leadership positions across the country. If any faculty members receive a message or hear about a student receiving a message, please notify Dean Carey. The FBI is investigating the messages. Professor Josh Kastenberga cautioned against responding to the messages in any way.

Action Items:

Approval of Minutes from April 19, 2024 Faculty Meeting - Dean Camille Carey: A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2024 meeting. There was no discussion. The motion passed with 19 yes votes and 4 abstentions.

Vote on Primary and Alternate Representatives to AALS House of Representatives - Dean Camille Carey: Dean Carey asked for volunteers. Professor Warigia Bowman and Professor Paul Figueroa both expressed interest in serving. After brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded to select Warigia Bowman as the representative and Paul Figueroa as the alternate. The motion passed unanimously with 25 yes votes.

Discussion Items:

Admissions Report - Director of Admissions and Financial Aid Renee Ferrell: Nationwide, law school applications were up by 5.7%. They were up 12% in the Mountain West and 5% in New Mexico. There were 224 people from New Mexico who applied to any law school. One hundred-seventy of those applied to UNM. UNM received 510 completed applications. Last year we received 451 completed applications, and 165 of those were from NM residents. This year, we admitted 265 people, which is an increase from the 238 admitted last year. We admitted 114 New Mexico residents and 151 nonresidents. Our 1L class has 99 students, and 70 of those are from New Mexico. We had a more stable class than last year and lost very few students after they paid their second deposit. The median LSAT score was 157 which is up one point from last year. The median GPA was 3.57 which is a little lower than last year. Students in this year's

class have ages that range from 19 to 45. They come from 14 different states and Canada. They bring a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to the law school community. Five students in the current 1L class were part of the PLSI program. Thirty-five of the students are UNM graduates. Fifteen of the students have master's degrees, and 10 have prior military service. The faculty discussed the numbers and outreach efforts to encourage more applicants from New Mexico. Some faculty members raised concerns that 30% of the class is comprised of nonresidents. Dean Carey explained that reports regarding recent graduates indicate that the more nonresidents who are admitted, the more graduates stay in New Mexico. Of the class of 2021, 80% remained in NM. Of the class of 2022, 83% remained and of the class of 2023, 91% remained in NM. The Admissions office is working on outreach efforts and pathways initiatives throughout New Mexico. They are focused on talking to students earlier in their freshman and sophomore years and even talking to high school students. They are also looking into a 3/3 program which would allow students to complete their undergraduate degrees earlier and move more quickly into law school.

Bar Passage Report - Director of Bar Exam Success Patrick Lopez: UNM School of Law saw a jump in the bar passage rate. First-time UNM test takers had an 88% pass rate, and repeaters had a 30% pass rate. That is higher than the statewide rates of 83% and 26% respectively. Last year, UNM had a first-time pass rate of 82% and a repeat pass rate of 36%. Patrick is going to take a closer look at the repeaters and see what more he can do to help them with mentorships and individual tutoring sessions. Among the test takers, those who attend UNM SOL pass the NM bar exam at a much higher rate than test takers who attend law school outside of NM. The first-time pass rate for non-UNM SOL takers is 54%.

Faculty Hiring - Professor Nathalie Martin, Chair of Faculty Appointments Committee: The committee is engaged in a search to fill positions in Business Law, the Law and Indigenous Peoples Program, and the area of Evidence and Trial Practice. The best consideration date for applicants is September 27. They will begin the screening interviews next week and then bring candidates to the law school. The first faculty hiring meeting is scheduled for November 25, and there is a second meeting on December 4.

Dean's Updates - Dean Camille Carey: Last fiscal year's fundraising total reached \$7 million – including the \$2.5 million cash gift to establish the F. Michael Hart Chair in Children's Law.

The New Mexico Law Center Building is on the approved list for funding requests to the legislature. Our approved ask amount is \$15,455,738. The renovation will include a new combined entrance to join the two buildings together. The preliminary architectural plans are to have a one stop student center on the top floor with Student and Career Services, Financial Aid, the Registrar's Office, and student counseling. The first floor will have versatile classrooms with new technology that can be used for experiential learning. You will be able to check out those classrooms for discreet teaching exercises rather than having classes assigned to those rooms for the semester. There will also be an event space with an attached kitchen.

The law school received approval to seek increased funding from the legislature to run Judicial Nominating Commissions. It would increase our annual recurring funds from \$53,400 to \$147,064. This would move more of the expense of running the commissions to the state and

lessen the extent to which the law school subsidizes the process. Dean Carey will seek this funding increase in the next legislative session.

SJR 1, the proposed constitutional amendment which would allow the Dean to designate a faculty member, retired faculty member, associate dean, or former dean to serve as chair of Judicial Nominating Commissions, is on the ballot this year. Please vote.

We received the draft report from the ABA site visit. The draft report is what we expected. Dean Carey had a window to respond to specific concerns, and she did. There was an allegation that UNM SOL does not offer an Ethics class. We do. There was concern that our promotion and tenure standards are not specific enough. The faculty will address that. The response to the ABA draft report was due August 21, and we expect the ABA to vote on our accreditation in November. The AALS report was very similar. The response is due September 30. The AALS membership review committee will meet in October, and the vote will be in November. Both reports were very positive, and there are no concerns about accreditation or membership. The Dean thanks Associate Deans Michelle Rigual and Steven Homer for their work on the site visit.

Professor Cliff Villa is planning to return. He is currently on a leave of absence for the Fall semester and has requested sabbatical for the Spring semester.

Dean Carey is currently chairing the search committee for the UNM General Counsel position. They hope to be able to announce the new general counsel before the end of the Fall semester.

The Utton Center celebrated its 25th Anniversary yesterday evening. Thank you to everyone who attended. The Diner En Rouge was held here Wednesday evening. It was hosted by the Alumni Association as part of its homecoming activities. There is a Halloween-themed movie night planned for October 24 on the North Lawn. The Gathering of Communities and Nations Convocation will be October 16. They have invited tribal leaders, community leaders, legislators, alumni, and judges. The Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner is October 18.

Summer Research Grant Policy - Dean Camille Carey: The faculty discussed the Summer Research Grant policy. Faculty who are on a nine-month contract can apply for the basic summer research grant or the enhanced summer research grant. Twenty-three faculty members received a summer research grant this year. Twenty of those twenty-three met this year's requirements for an enhanced grant. Of the remaining three – one would not have been eligible under last year's policy or this year's policy but received an enhanced award under the new policy for pre-tenured faculty; one was borderline eligible under last year's policy but not eligible under this year's policy but received the enhanced award for four weeks; and one is contested. Going forward through Dean Carey's deanship, pre-tenure faculty will receive the enhanced summer research grant without needing to meet the publication requirements. Faculty went on to discuss the policy and the role of the research grant in furthering the Dean's academic agenda. The grant is meant to support faculty in their required scholarship and incentivize the publication of scholarly work.

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