

## Faculty Meeting Minutes April 11, 2025

*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.*

The following people were present for at least some portion of the meeting. Faculty: **Camille Carey, Elizabeth Elia, Paul Figueroa, Allison Freedman, Laura Gomez, Verónica Gonzales, Marc-Tizoc Gonzales, Vinay Harpalani, Steven Homer, John Kang, Josh Kastenber, April Land, Jennifer Laws, Nathalie Martin, Serge Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Nadine Padilla, Mary Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Michelle Rigual, Sarah Steadman, Sherri Thomas, Samuel Winder, Peter Winograd** (*17 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold*)

Staff: Beverly Akin, Krista Allen, Lawrence Begaye, Renee Ferrell, Stephanie Grant, Courtney Holmes, Ernest Tafoya

Student Representatives: Vanessa Springer (3L), Andrew Kessel (1L)

### **Announcements:**

**Admissions Report - Renee Ferrell:** We currently we have deposits from 105 students, with 88% of them being New Mexico residents. Law school applications are up across the country.

**Staff Updates - Dean Camille Carey:** We hired a new Faculty Services Representative, Nate Joe, who has been working at the UNM School of Architecture and Planning. He starts April 21. The position is decoupled from Faculty Support and has moved to the HR unit under supervisor Krista Allen. The posting for the Director of Student and Careers Services is live, and there is a large pool of applicants. The best consideration date was this Wednesday, April 9. Bonnie Stepleton is retired but is returning quarter time to help with the transition.

**Update on House Bill 2 - Dean Camille Carey:** House Bill 2 (the budget bill) passed at the end of the legislative session. A sentence appeared at the last minute in the bill, stating “All tenured professors at the School of Law shall teach at least one core class per semester.” Dean Carey has been working to get this sentence removed from the bill. We do not know who added this language to the bill at the last minute before it passed.

### **UNM School of Law Rankings - Dean Camille Carey:**

- General Ranking: Dropped from 94 to 107
- Clinical Ranking: Up from 19 to 14
- Environmental Law Ranking: 30
- Federal Clerkship Placement Ranking: 11

**Increased Costs from Student Unionization - Dean Camille Carey:** The recent unionization of student employees has increased annual costs by over \$343,000. The School of Law is on a fixed recurring budget, so a plan is needed to reduce the costs.

**Main Campus Updates - Dean Camille Carey:** UNM has changed its policies on use of DEI language for faculty and staff hiring, but the hiring practices are still the same. A small handful of UNM students have had their status revoked in SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System). These students all had some involvement with the criminal justice system. The Department of Homeland Security can make changes in the system, but UNM and ICE cannot. We do not have any undocumented students attending the law school at this time. We have one student on a student visa, one student who is a lawful permanent resident, and one student who is Canadian.

**Upcoming 1L Oral Arguments - Associate Dean Steven Homer:** 1L oral arguments are scheduled for the week of April 21-25. A few students are scheduled to argue during 1L elective meeting times, but none of those students are enrolled in a 1L elective. Additionally, a few arguments may run right up to the start time of other classes, but those faculty have been contacted individually.

**Action Item:**

**Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2025 Faculty Meeting Minutes - Dean Carey:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the March 7, 2025 meeting. There was no discussion.

*The motion passed at 2:28pm with 17 yes votes, 0 no votes, and 5 abstentions.*

**Action Item:**

**Proposed Change to Upper-Division Writing Requirement - Professor Mary Pareja, Chair of Curriculum Committee:** The Curriculum Committee has been working on these changes for many years. The proposed policy removes the distinction between writing seminars and drafting classes that we currently have in our writing requirement. The new proposed policy requires students to take five credits of an upper-level writing class that can be writing seminars or drafting classes. This change would provide more flexibility for students to design their curriculum. There is concern that students are taking writing seminars in subject areas that they are not actually interested in because they need to fulfill the requirement. This policy would become effective in Fall of 2026. The classes of 2026, 2027, 2028, and any flex-time student who matriculated prior to Fall of 2026 must take two “writing” courses. For those students, any pre-Fall 2026 writing seminar or drafting course will count as a “writing” course that fulfills this requirement. The class of 2029 and subsequent classes must take five credits of “writing” courses.

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the proposed change to the Upper-Division Writing Requirement. The motion passed with 13 yes votes, 6 no votes, and 4 abstention votes.*

**Action Item:**

**Faculty Hiring Priorities for 2025-26 - Dean Carey:** Professor George Bach, Professor Scott England, and Professor Maryam Ahranjani are leaving at the end of this academic year, and Professor Aliza Organick is retiring this summer. The faculty discussed top hiring priorities for next year and reached consensus on open rank hiring with the following priorities:

- Indian Law, including SILC- up to 2 hires
- Legal Writing- up to 2 hires
- Clinic
- Criminal Law

*A motion was made and seconded to vote on the above Hiring Priorities. The motion was passed with 17 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstention votes.*

*The meeting moved into Executive Session at 3:44 pm.*

**Executive Session, Action Item:**

**Honors and Awards - Professor April Land, Chair of Honors and Awards Committee:**

Professor Land presented the Committee's proposed slate for recipients of Honors and Awards for the Class of 2025.

*A motion was made and seconded to vote to approve the slate presented by the Committee for Honors and Awards. The motion was passed with 17 yes votes, 0 no votes, 0 abstention votes.*

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