

University of New Mexico School of Law
Faculty Meeting Minutes
March 7, 2006

Present: Marsha Baum, Michael Browde, Sherri Burr, Laura Gómez, Em Hall, Evan Hobbs, Steven Homer, Scott Hughes, John LaVelle, José Martínez, Alfred Mathewson, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Daniel Ortega, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Suellyn Scarnecchia, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber

Students: Brendan O'Reilly

Staff: Sandra Bauman, Claire Conrad

The meeting was called to order at 3:42 pm on Tuesday, March 7, 2006.

I. Approval of Minutes:

Motions to adopt with no corrections the minutes of each of the Faculty Meetings on December 13, 2005, January 17, and January 31, 2006 were separately voiced, voted on and unanimously passed.

II. Dean and Associate Deans' Reports and Other Announcements:

A. Dean Scarnecchia:

Dean Scarnecchia reminded the faculty about and encouraged their attendance at the many upcoming social events by listing them verbally.

B. Associate Dean Norwood:

Associate Dean Norwood asked everyone, if they had not already done so, to please reply to the curriculum memo regarding next year's schedule preferences. The memo includes the core curriculum for full time teaching faculty. He invited input regarding filling in 'holes' in the curriculum with adjuncts. Decisions regarding adjuncts will be made during Spring Break. He also briefly described why faculty assignments look as they do.

C. Library Director Carol Parker:

Director Carol Parker provided details about the King Reading Room Dedication ceremony.

D. Professor Jenny Moore:

1. Professor Moore spoke of the curriculum committee's review of the practicum course. Professor Moore thanked the ten who have responded to the committee's survey so far, and asked the remainder to complete the survey as the committee's goal is 100% response.

2. She also announced and provided details about the upcoming 2nd Annual Peace and Justice Fair on March 29th in the SUB.

III. International Committee – Proposal for New Certificate Program

Professor Sherri Burr, Chair of the International Committee, described how the proposal grew out of the committee's review of the strategic plan. She spoke of two areas the committee identified to strengthen or develop.

A. Faculty Exchange

1. Professor Burr explained the process involved in a faculty exchange program, specifically Tasmania. She invited interested faculty members to contact her, and opened the floor for questions.
2. Daniel Ortega has information on the current and ongoing faculty exchange programs, and is working to set up additional exchanges with other countries.
3. Dean Scarnecchia spoke of efforts to revive the program with Chihuahua, and develop a new program with Juarez.

B. Certificate Program in International Law. Professor Burr introduced the concept:

1. The curriculum currently includes many courses relating to International Law, which while not enough for an LLM can be used as a certificate program.
 - a. Such a program would keep the SOL current with the many other law schools trying to ramp up international law programs.
 - b. An International Law Certificate program will increase global perspective within the community.
2. The certificate program will be modeled on the current Indian Law Certificate (ILC) and Natural Resources Certificate (NRC) programs.
3. The International Committee has identified five potential advisors.
4. The Curriculum Committee approved the development of a certificate program by a vote of six to zero, with three abstentions.

C. Discussion of International Law Certificate Program

1. Some of the general questions and responses arising in the open discussion included:
 - a. Clarification of stated requirements.
 - b. Whether a student pursuing more than one certificate would be required to produce more than one advanced writing assignment. A response indicated that a precedent exists for this within dual degree programs.
 - c. The number of hours required compared with other certificate programs.
 - d. Student support, which was found to be strong when the curriculum committee polled the students.
2. Associate Dean Norwood expressed some broader concerns from the perspective of the general curriculum, including:
 - a. The nature and meaning of certificates relating to branding and competition with other schools.

- b. Staffing issues.
 - c. Whether the relatively small number of students currently graduating in certificate programs justifies the use of resources allocated.
 - d. The current programs, ILC and NRC, are natural to the New Mexico legal system. International Law is not as practical in real-world NM employment.
 - e. Using the “there are enough courses already offered” argument allows for a number of other potential programs, which are not currently in place. Should we go forward with a program just because we can?
3. Professor Burr responded to Associate Dean Norwood’s concerns:
 - a. Branding – our website already prominently advertises that we offer international curriculum.
 - b. Staffing – the majority of the suggested courses are already taught by regular faculty, rather than adjuncts.
 - c. Despite the small number of students choosing to follow the current certificate programs, and the practical real-world legal environment in New Mexico, students perceive an International Law certificate may make them more marketable.
 - d. It would be beneficial for the discussion to remain focused on the specific certificate program proposed, rather than including possibilities that have not been suggested.
 4. Dean Scarnecchia tabled further discussion until the next Faculty Meeting on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. She thanked Professor Burr for her work and presentation. Dean Scarnecchia then asked those who were not tenure track or tenured faculty to leave the meeting in preparation for the next agenda item.

IV. Faculty Affairs – Report to Committee on Promotion, Tenure and Reappointment (tenure track and tenured faculty only) meeting followed immediately. Separate minutes were taken.

Dean Scarnecchia thanked Associate Dean Norwood and the committee for all their work, as well as the faculty present. The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to Dean Suellen Scarnecchia