

University of New Mexico School of Law
Faculty Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2006

Present: Cynthia Aragon, Marsha Baum, Norman Bay, Eileen Gauna, Laura Gómez, Em Hall, Evan Hobbs, Scott Hughes, Barbara Lah, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Nathalie Martin, José Martínez, Alfred Mathewson, Margaret Montoya, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Marilyn O'Leary, Daniel Ortega, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Leo Romero, Suellyn Scarnecchia, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Sherry Wolf

Students: Brendan O'Reilly, Ed Perea

Senior Admin. Staff: Cyndi Dean, Pat Trainor

Staff: Sandra Bauman, Claire Conrad

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 pm on Tuesday, April 4, 2006.

- I. Approval of Minutes: A motion to adopt the minutes from March 7, 2006, with a correction to item III:B:4, was made, voted on and passed.

- II. Dean and Associate Deans' Reports:
 - A. Dean Scarnecchia:
 1. Announced that she will provide detailed budget and faculty information in her report at the May meeting, which will be held on May 9th, instead of the original May 2nd date. Later in the meeting, Dean Scarnecchia announced that the meeting in May will be scheduled for a longer than usual time frame to allow to cover the many agenda items.
 2. Gave a brief description of the outcomes of the UNM Budget Summit, and the potential SOL tuition differential for next year.
 - B. Associate Dean Sedillo Lopez
 1. Offered some background information regarding the DA Clinic and the reasoning behind the upcoming changes.
 2. Announced plans to host a luncheon for Lisa Torracco, and asked faculty to indicate their interest in participating.
 - C. Associate Dean Mike Norwood
 1. Announced next Deans' hour is April 18, at 4:00 pm, with the topic to be: Student Advisement.
 2. Laid out timeline for curriculum planning: currently in the final stages of putting together the Fall '06 schedule, to be available for students by April 17; the Spring '07 schedule will be done shortly and the hope is to have the 2nd year curriculum finalized before the end of the year.

- D. Library Director Carol Parker
 - 1. Announced two teachers' classes might be impacted by the King dedication event on April 6 due to their proximity to the Forum.
 - 2. Reminded faculty of reception on April 14 she is hosting to thank the Library faculty, staff, RA staff and CATS for all their work. The event will be held in the newly dedicated Bruce King room from 4 – 6 pm.
 - E. Miscellaneous Announcements throughout the remainder of the meeting:
 - 1. Rob Schwartz reminded everyone of the farewell party he is hosting for Sherry Wolf.
 - 2. John LaVelle announced the Cohen Handbook Symposium taking place on April 8, from 8:30 – 3:30, and provided some history and background on SOL's connection with the Cohen Handbook.
- III. International Certificate Proposal
- A. Associate Dean Antoinette Sedillo Lopez and Professor Jenny Moore presented due to Professor Sherri Burr's absence.
 - 1. The discussion and points made at the previous Faculty Meeting regarding the International Certificate Proposal were briefly reviewed.
 - 2. It was agreed that the presentations represented a motion from the International Committee to adopt the International Certificate Proposal as currently defined.
 - 3. Discussion ensued, with the following topics and concerns raised:
 - a. The number of students in the program
 - b. Adding certificate programs in general
 - c. Focus and scope of program
 - d. SOL strategic plan and where certificate programs fit;
 - e. ABA self-study
 - f. Supporting colleagues' efforts and the processes committees go through before presenting to the faculty as a whole
 - g. Timeline for development, advertisement and implementation
 - B. After presentation and discussion a vote to adopt the International Certificate Proposal as presented was taken. The motion did not carry.
 - C. A second motion to further develop and explore the International Certificate Program and present it at a later date was raised, seconded and voted on. This motion carried.
- IV. Laptop Policy
- A. Assistant Professor Norman Bay introduced the motion that the SOL requires each student to own a laptop computer meeting certain basic requirements, beginning with the class of 2009.
 - 1. A survey of 1Ls showed that 94% of these students currently have laptops, 2/3 use them to take notes in class, and 85% use them to take exams.
 - 2. The survey also showed that the students would not want to be dictated an exact computer they would have to own. SOL's CATS department would not provide technical support as a particular brand or type would not be endorsed or specified.

- B. Pros and cons
 - 1. Pros:
 - a. Almost all students currently own a laptop.
 - b. Laptops are becoming increasingly affordable.
 - c. Individually owned laptops would aid research training by library staff. (A point later expanded on by Library Director Carol Parker.)
 - d. Requiring laptops would facilitate communication and the dissemination of course materials between professors and students.
 - e. Regular use of technology will increase students' practical skills.
 - 2. Cons:
 - a. The requirement would increase the cost of Law School, which would be an additional burden on those with limited resources.
 - b. There is the possibility of misuse in the classroom.
 - c. Students may resort to simply data entry rather than active participation in class.
 - d. Students may feel that there are already too many requirements.
 - C. Discussion ensued.
 - 1. Brendan O'Reilly and Ed Perea presented some student perspectives.
 - 2. Assistant Professor Sergio Pareja expressed concern about students who would not be able to afford to purchase a computer, since financial aid may not extend coverage of such a requirement to every student.
 - 3. Dean Scarnecchia proposed the possibility of developing a program to help students who could not get a loan to help with the additional cost.
 - 4. Assistant Professor Pareja asked that the motion be amended to add that the SOL administration will investigate affordability issues.
 - D. A vote was taken on the amended motion, which carried.
- V. Discussion of proposed changes to Natural Resources Certificate
- A. Professor Sherry Wolf presented motion to offer alternative way for students to gain a Natural Resource Certificate.
 - 1. Current requirement is 12 hours on Natural Resources Journal and 12 hours of classroom credit. Proposed change would offer an additional option to complete 24 hours of classroom credit with no Journal requirement.
 - 2. Proposal has been approved with some reservations by the Natural Resources Committee, and in principle by the Curriculum Committee who requested a full discussion with the faculty on the issue.
 - 3. Professor Em Hall's reservation, as expressed by Professor Wolf, is the future survival of the Journal if it is no longer a requirement.
 - 4. Dean Scarnecchia clarified the issue that students are not able to write to the Journal due to limited spots so are unable to complete the certificate requirements.
 - 5. Discussion ensued encompassing topics including the possible need for creative curriculum to ensure enough hours, the reality of limited Journal spots, the fact that some students want the certificate but do not want to write on to the Journal, the amount of weight student decisions on a

student-run Journal carry in eventual certificate award, and whether the Journal requirement limits other Natural Resource and Environmental Law activities or opportunities.

- B. Given the number of unresolved questions, a motion was made to table the motion to revise the Natural Resource Certificate requirements until the next Faculty Meeting, which is in May.

VI. New JD-MCAT (Accounting) Program – discussion postponed to next Faculty Meeting

VII. Honors and Awards (Faculty only)

- A. Professor Rob Schwartz identified the Honors and Awards Committee to be Professors Browde, Burr, Martinez and himself. He thanked the faculty for a great response, discussed the nature of the awards and indicated that the committee worked to spread the awards out in order to recognize as many students as possible.
- B. Discussion among the faculty ensued regarding placements and awardees based on the list presented by Professor Schwartz.
- C. It was proposed that the Honors and Awards Committee meet early in the fall to give greater lead time in discussing various issues involved with Honors and Awards.
- D. A motion was made to approve the presented list, which, when voted on, carried with one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia