

University of New Mexico
School of Law

Faculty Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2005

In attendance:

Faculty: Barbara Blumenfeld, Steven Homer, Ronald Wheeler, Laura Gomez, Evan Hobbs, Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Jose Martinez, Sheryl Wolf, Ted Occhialino, Rob Schwartz, Sherri Burr, Christine Zuni Cruz, Chris Fritz, Carol Suzuki, Mike Norwood, Norman Bay, Em Hall, Jennifer Moore, Suellyn Scarnecchia

Students: Brendan O'Reilly, Ed Perea

Others: Sandra Bauman

The meeting was called to order at 3:29 p.m. on Tuesday, October 25, 2005. Dean Scarnecchia thanked all in attendance for being there. Ed Perea, first year Student Representative, and Sandra Bauman, the Dean's temporary assistant, were introduced.

I. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the 8/30/05 meeting were unanimously approved with the clarification that the Tax Clinic is part of Economic Development (page 2) noted by Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez.

II. Dean and Associate Dean's Reports:

A. Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia:

1. **Judicial Responsibilities:** Dean Scarnecchia reported that she had given four and a half days this month to the judiciary in her capacities as Chair of both the Judicial Nominating Commission and the Judicial Compensation Commission (as of legislation passed last session). Evaluation of the amount of time the dean spends in these appointments is ongoing to determine if any adjustments may eventually be necessary.
2. **Capitol Campaign:** The dean presented a brief description of the draft of Needs Assessment she and Herb have submitted. Study of past giving projects a reasonable five-year campaign to be \$15 million. The Needs Assessment, written with the philosophy of including everything and letting the "experts" make cuts, puts the estimate at \$50 million. The emphasis of the Assessment was aimed at endowing Faculty Chairs in an effort to stabilize funding and give UNM SOL more discretionary dollars. Dean Scarnecchia mentioned the excellent introduction written by Michael Browde describing UNM SOL's historic innovative role, and how additional funding will allow the SOL to maintain that role. The Dean will share the finalized version of the report with the faculty when it becomes available.

3. Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner: The faculty was reminded of the dinner on Friday, October 28, and encouraged to attend by seeing Herb or Carmen if they had not yet registered. Honorees will be Ruth Kovnot, Richard Gerding, and Tommy Jewell.
4. Pot Luck: The faculty were reminded of the potluck dinner at Dean Scarnecchia's home on Sunday, October 30, and asked, if possible, to RSVP.
5. Difficult Dialogues: The second of the Difficult Dialogues will be Wednesday, October 26, on the subject of Church/State issues and the Intelligent Design Debate. The faculty was invited to attend. The dean expressed excitement about the energy and learning process she sees among the students involved in planning the series. She hopes to share some of the students' reflection papers with the faculty at a later date.

B. Associate Dean Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez:

1. Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez described the course she and Mike Norwood are currently working on with District Attorney's and Public Defender's office to develop. This course would:
 - a. Teach applied evidence, appellate process, etc., and
 - b. Place students in the offices of either the PD or DA, under their supervision, with the teacher having a partnership role with the students' supervisors.

As Dean Scarnecchia mentioned this course would address pedagogical interests as well as career interests. Anyone interested in teaching or having any questions should direct inquiries to Dean Norwood or Dean Sedillo-Lopez.

2. UNM SOL will offer two Access to Justice courses this summer, Economic Development for Small Businesses, taught by Sarah Berger, and Law Office Management for Community Based Practice. These courses will be open to both law students and lawyers for CLE credit. Dean Sedillo-Lopez feels that UNM SOL is taking small steps towards developing a "Summer in the Southwest" educational theme, and each time summer courses are offered the SOL learns something new.
3. Dean Sedillo-Lopez, a member of the Faculty Senate's Mentorship Committee, described briefly an upcoming report focused on best practices within the mentorship function. Some of the committee's findings were that mentorship should be separate from the evaluation process, that the mentor should be chosen by the individual being mentored, and that it would be helpful to have a written policy on mentorship. She plans to share the report when it comes out, and encouraged anyone with questions or insights to see her.

C. Associate Dean Mike Norwood:

1. Curriculum:
 - a. Current course categories (A, B, C, D) were defined, and Dean Norwood asked faculty to speak with him regarding any questions about the assignment of courses to these categories.
 - b. Most of the information needed to figure out scheduling teachers and courses for the next four semesters has been gathered.
 - c. Krista will be contacting everyone to schedule individual half-hour discussions with him about institutional need, individual interests, and opportunities to teach in new areas.

- d. A study of practicum is still planned, with an eye to making a decision for next fall. Dean Norwood would like to have the next semester “completely under our belt” before the study.
2. Faculty Affairs:
 - a. Committee, including Mike Norwood, Antoinette Sedillo-Lopez, Rob Schwartz and Ruth Kovnat, is just beginning the process of studying two candidates, Carol Suzuki and Norman Bay, up for mid-probation review. Please direct comments and discussion to any of the members of the committee. Report should be submitted by mid-February.
 3. Legal Writing:
 - a. An ad hoc committee is studying the possibility of long-term contracts for Legal Writing instructors. Dean Norwood has had conversation with Deputy Provost Richard Holder regarding this issue. The history of legal writing education and educators was described. The goal would be to attract excellent people to teach at legal writing at the SOL, creating career-oriented positions as are other universities. Mr. Holder wants information to study the possibility of offering long-term contracts.
 - b. Dean Norwood invited discussion, which ensued. After the discussion, he felt the consensus was to go forward. He will collect information and bring the issue up to the faculty at a later date.

III. Appleseed Foundation Presentation – Senator McSorley, POSTPONED

IV. Committee Update:

A. Rob Schwartz, Outreach Committee

1. Ted Occhialino has been studying other schools, gathering information on the possibility of SOL offering:
 - a. A four year traditional part-time JD program in Albuquerque, aimed at evenings or Saturdays;
 - b. A special outreach program in Santa Fe, to give the SOL a presence there.
 - c. A border program in El Paso, Juarez, and Las Cruces focusing on issues facing these communities.
2. Funding is available for two surveys. Mr. Schwartz will be meeting with the Institute of Public Policy this week regarding performing surveys in Albuquerque and Santa Fe to establish need, interest, demand, etc.
3. Discussion ensued regarding additional ideas for program scope, impact on traditional degree program, summer possibilities, target populations, and non-degree programs. Mr. Schwartz reiterated that there are many ways the programs can be developed based on the information gathered in the surveys and further study.

B. Ted Occhialino, Strategic Planning Update Committee

1. Dean Scarnecchia has asked an ad hoc committee to check on progress of the plans. An e-mail was sent to the heads of the Economic Development, Indian Law, Natural Resources, Clinical and International Law Certificate programs asking them to look at the strategic plan and report on status. The committee will begin to function next year (January).

C. Gloria Valencia-Webber, Faculty Appointments

1. All AALS and at-large applications have been reviewed. There are 71 Business applicants, and 75 for Natural Resources. All the interviews have been scheduled for the semi-finalists. Twenty-eight 30-minute AALS interviews are scheduled for November 11 - 12, in Washington, DC, divided evenly between Business and Natural Resources candidates. Non-AALS interviews of 15 Natural Resources and six Business candidates will begin Oct. 26, and be conducted both in person and via telephone. The goal is to come up with a ranked list for each of the AALS and non-AALS groups, perform a final ranking and extend invitations to finalists for interviews. There will be only three and a half weeks between returning from DC and mid-December. If everything is done in a timely fashion, an offer for one position can be made before Christmas.

D. Dean Scarnecchia, IPL Update

1. The Dean requested input from anyone who has interviewed any of the IPL candidates.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted (with input from Brendan O'Reilly) by:

Sandra Bauman
Assistant to Dean Scarnecchia