

University of New Mexico School of Law  
Faculty Meeting Minutes  
February 21, 2007

Present: Norman Bay, Kip Bobroff, Michael Browde, Sherri Burr, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gómez, Em Hall, April Land, John LaVelle, Nathalie Martin, José Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Daniel Ortega, Sergio Pareja, Carol parker, Leo Romero, Suellyn Scarnecchia, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Brendan O'Reilly, Ed Perea, Steve Vigil

Staff: Sandra Bauman, Susan Mitchell, Bill Uher

The meeting was called to order at 3:43 pm on Tuesday, February 21, 2007.

I. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the January 16, 2007, were unanimously approved with no changes or corrections.

II. Announcements

A. Dean Scarnecchia

1. Welcomed back Sherri Burr from leave, announced Jenny Moore's leave for spring semester, and apologized for overlooking these announcements at the last meeting.
2. Asked faculty members to let the Office of Career and Student Services know if they receive any student requests to review an exam but are not able to follow up quickly. OCSS, which has received expressions of anxiety from students about lack of response from some faculty, will let students know that their requests are not being ignored.
3. Forwarded regards to the faculty from Suedeen Kelly, sent from her as part of an e-mail exchange going on regarding setting up externships.
4. Announced the UNM Regents selection of a new president, David J. Schmidly, and passed a copy of Dr. Schmidly's letter to the UNM community around for perusal. The dean voiced her good impression of him and support for his selection. She also thanked Professor José Martinez for his work on the Presidential search committee.

B. Professor Nathalie Martin announced her participation on the UNM committee working on staff and faculty benefits. She passed out information regarding a proposal to allow individuals to move from alternative retirement to state retirement. She briefly described the current options, and a short discussion ensued regarding the implications, demand, possible future steps, etc. There was a concurrence of opinion that Professor Martin arrange a meeting with representatives from the State Educational Retirement Board.

C. Associate Dean Mike Norwood provided a brief Self-Study Committee update and thanked everyone for their work so far. He announced the three additional topics and dates for the upcoming Deans' Hour meetings: Building Community (3/2 – Friday, lunch); Law School Teaching Enhancement (3/20 – Tuesday @ 3:30 p.m.) and Facilities and Technology (4/3 – Tuesday @ 3:30 p.m.).

D. Professor Sherri Burr invited everyone to Arts Talk tapings on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

E. Law Library Director Carol Parker, who is chairing the Utton Transboundary Center director search, spoke about the upcoming candidate visit schedule, and referred to the e-mail sent earlier in the week for details. She also announced that the librarians are conducting a search to replace Ron Wheeler, candidates for which will be coming through after spring break. In addition she

provided an update on the renovation to the library by announcing the hope for the circulation desk area to be completed by spring break.

III. Admissions Committee – Proposed Amendment of Policy

- A. Professor Laura Gómez provided handouts for the faculty.
- B. She then briefly described the current admissions procedure, and named the rest of the committee (Assistant Dean Susan Mitchell, Professor Leo Romero, Professor Marsha Baum and Steve Vigil, 3L student).
- C. Professor Gómez gave a short overview of the history of admissions and affirmative action at UNMSOL.
- D. She then presented the committee's recommendations, referring to the handout, describing that these changes are either editorial or serve to further define evaluative criteria.
- E. Professor Gómez reported the committee unanimously endorses these substantive changes, with varying degrees of enthusiasm. They all agree the proposed changes are not likely to affect student body make-up.
- F. The committee urged the faculty to take one of three positions (preferably the first:
  - 1. adopt the proposed changes without revisions;
  - 2. revert to the 1996 policy; or
  - 3. direct the dean to appoint a special committee (including none of the current committee) to redraft 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph of the current proposal.
- G. Discussion ensued concerning the several proposed changes.
- H. Due to the number of issues raised and the time constraints of the meeting all agreed to defer additional discussion and a vote on the proposal to the next meeting.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 5:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman  
Administrative Assistant to Dean Suellen Scarnecchia