

University of New Mexico School of Law
Faculty Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2007

Present: Marsha Baum, Norman Bay, Barbara Blumenfeld, Kip Bobroff, Michael Browde, Jim Ellis, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gómez, Em Hall, April Land, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Nathalie Martin, José Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Margaret Montoya, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Sergio Pareja, Liz Rapaport, Leo Romero, Suellyn Scarnecchia, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Joshua Allison, Esteli Juarez, Brendan O'Reilly

Staff: Sandra Bauman, Susan Mitchell

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 pm on Tuesday, April 10, 2007

I. Announcements

- A. Dean Scarnecchia announced that the minutes from the March 6th meeting will be presented for approval at the April 24th meeting.
- B. Dean Scarnecchia spoke briefly about the UNM Deans' meeting with incoming President Schmidly, which was mostly a meet and greet. President Schmidly will start on June 1, and is planning a week of symposia in September. Dean Scarnecchia will inform everyone of the date as soon as it is set.
- C. Dean Scarnecchia provided a brief update on the process of the LRRW hire. The interviews are finished and the dean will be meeting with the Faculty Appointments committee to discuss the candidates. She reminded the faculty that the reason this is a dean-appointed position rather than a faculty hire is that a long-term contract is not yet in effect partly due to UNM-wide talks among the faculty regarding a policy this may fall under, so SOL was required to post this as a lecturer position which is a decanal hire. She asked everyone to please forward feedback on the candidates to her, the committee members or Theresa Montoya, to aid in the decision making.
- D. John LaVelle invited everyone to the PLSI Symposium and 40th reunion on Saturday, April 21st.

II. Admissions Committee

- A. Dean Scarnecchia outlined the proceedings: brief comments, amendments (beginning with the one still on the table, then dealing with others one at a time), then a final vote on the initial proposal as amended – if any amendments pass. She explained that as soon as the vote is final the proposal becomes policy, the goal being that the faculty will review and adopt the admissions policy by the end of this school year.
- B. Dean Scarnecchia told the faculty she was glad they were having the conversation regarding the admissions policy, as this is an ongoing national conversation garnering great disagreement across the country. In that vein it is not so odd that we have disagreement among ourselves, but it is healthy that we can talk and disagree openly.

She provided the “ground rules” adopted by students in the Difficult Dialogue series to help with the context (building community and making joint decisions) of this conversation: suspend judgment, question your own and others’ assumptions, listen as though you’re never heard this person speak before, assume good faith on the part of everyone, show respect and be courageous.

- C. Dean Scarnecchia reviewed the motion still on the table from the last meeting: striking the parenthetical statement in the second paragraph that reads: *(including those related to race, ethnicity and/or national origin)*.
1. Dean Scarnecchia stated her view of the implications of removal of that statement, and there was additional clarification asked for and given by various faculty members.
 2. Dean Scarnecchia then opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued.
 3. A vote was called and taken by secret ballot. Upon tallying the votes the motion failed.
- D. Margaret Montoya moved to amend the proposed policy by adding a new 3rd paragraph that reads: *This policy reaffirms the Law School’s longstanding commitment to one particular type of diversity, that is, racial and ethnic diversity with special reference to the inclusion of students from groups which have been historically discriminated against, like African-Americans, Hispanics, and Native Americans, who without this commitment might not be represented in our student body in meaningful numbers. This policy aspires to create diversity among the students that promotes educational benefits for all, including cross-racial understanding and the breaking down of stereotypes, improved learning outcomes, preparation for working in a diverse workforce, and acquiring the skills needed for leadership in the global marketplace, the military, and the legal profession. These benefits are not theoretical but real, and the skills needed in today’s increasingly global marketplace can only be developed through exposure to widely diverse people, cultures, ideas, and viewpoints.* Alfred Mathewson seconded the motion. Both professors Montoya and Mathewson handed out additional supporting material for this amendment.
1. Discussion commenced.
 2. During the conversation a friendly amendment was proposed and accepted to include “Asian American” in the list of ethnicities, with the possibility discussed of changing that term to “Asian/Pacific Islanders.”
- E. Dean Scarnecchia wrapped up the current discussion due to time constraints. She will keep the list of people waiting to make comments and will resume this discussion with those people at the next meeting. She asked that anyone wanting to communicate via e-mail with those attending faculty meetings regarding the proposal or amendments to send such e-mails to Sandra Bauman, who will see they are distributed to all of the usual meeting attendees.

III. The next meeting, on Tuesday, April 24, will begin at 3:00 and end by 5:30. This meeting will allow for completing the discussion on the admissions policy and move to a discussion of the self-study. It is hoped that a draft of the self study will be available by April 18. She thanked everyone. Ted Occhialino reminded everyone that the deadline to submit nominations for Honors and Awards is Thursday, April 12.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia