

University of New Mexico School of Law  
Faculty Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, May 8, 2007

Present: Norman Bay, Barbara Bergman, Barbara Blumenfeld, Kip Bobroff, Michael Browde, Sherri Burr, Denise Fort, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gomez, Steven Homer, April Land, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Bill MacPherson, Nathalie Martin, Jose Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Daniel Ortega, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Leo Romero, Carol Suzuki, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Brendan O'Reilly, Esteli Juarez,

Staff: John Feldman, Nancy Huffstutler, Melissa Lobato, Susan Mitchell, Carmen Rawls, Pat Trainor, Bill Uher

The meeting was called to order at approximately 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8, 2007.

#### I. Approval of Minutes

A motion was offered and seconded to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2007 faculty meeting. Upon a vote the minutes were approved with no additions or changes.

#### II. Announcements

- A. Dean Scarnecchia passes around a post card she had received from student Paco Perez.
- B. Faculty were reminded of the upcoming Awards Ceremony and Graduation events:
  - 1. Award Ceremony at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 11, at the Albuquerque Museum outdoor amphitheater.
  - 2. Graduation on Saturday at 6:00 p.m. at the Law School. Faculty were asked to arrive by 5:15 to take photographs with graduates on the back patio. Chief Justice Chávez was announced as the commencement speaker.
- C. Associate Dean Sedillo Lopez announced that the Clinic was the process of applying for a \$600,000 HUD grant over three years, with the primary purpose to hire a fellow to assist with the economic development clinic.
- D. Associate Dean Mike Norwood reminded everyone they were eligible for summer research grants, and the application deadline was Friday, May 11.

#### III. Academic Support Committee – report given by Professor Alfred Mathewson

- A. Professor Mathewson reported details of the committee's activities throughout the school year, including:
  - 1. coordinating and giving structure to the Academic Support program;
  - 2. training teaching assistants;
  - 3. presenting a faculty workshop focused on learning styles;
  - 4. Bonnie Stepleton beginning to develop a library of support materials;
  - 5. conducting workshops for students during both semesters;
  - 6. assigning faculty advisors to students on academic probation;

7. looking at developing programs for 2Ls and 3Ls on or close to academic probation; and
  8. working to come up with a program of academic advisement for all students.
- B. The Academic Support Committee members were Barbara Blumenfeld, April Land, Alfred Mathewson, Susan Mitchell, Margaret Montoya (Fall Semester), Michelle Rigual, Bonnie Stepleton, Mitzi Vigil, and Christine Zuni Cruz.
- C. The summary of current Academic Support will appear in the Student portion of the Self Study document.

#### IV. Natural Resources Committee – report given by Professor Denise Fort

- A. Professor Fort reminded the faculty of last year's proposal of the two pathways (NRJ membership and classes, or additional classes and a writing requirement) towards earning the Natural Resources Certificate, which is still an experiment underway to determine effectiveness.
- B. She distributed a handout which detailed the following proposed changes:
1. "core" required courses (to ensure that students who receive the certificate have foundational course work);
  2. rename certificate to "Natural Resources and Environmental Law Certificate";
  3. reduce the number of hours to be equal to those required for the Indian Law Certificate; and
  4. reduce the number of hours given for NRJ members to allow them to take two additional required courses.
- C. Professor Fort moved, on behalf of the Committee that the faculty approve the changes to the certificate program.
- D. Discussion followed, and, upon wrap up, a vote to approve the proposed changes passed unanimously.

#### V. Curriculum Committee – presented by Professor Jose Martinez

- A. Professor Martinez presented the Committee's proposed to changes the language in the Advanced Writing Requirement in an effort to clarify the requirement:
1. Faculty member would assign a grade to a seminar paper, then, independent of the grade, determine whether the paper meets the writing requirement, providing explanation to the student if unacceptable. The student and faculty member would then negotiate resubmission, if desired, or the student could decide to satisfy the requirement through a different seminar or independent research.
  2. Seminars would carry a 2 or 3 credit hour option, depending on whether it would be used to satisfy the writing requirement.
  3. Deadlines for completion of the requirement were spelled out in greater detail, including a time-frame for the resubmission option offered in change #1.
- B. Discussion ensued, during which arose a friendly amendment to allow a faculty member to designate a seminar course as a 3 credit hour course. Upon a vote on the proposed changes, including the friendly amendment, the motion passed with one against and one abstention.
- C. Professor Martinez then moved on behalf of the Curriculum Committee, due to student initiated requests, that the Dean appoint a Public Interest Law Committee. Discussion ensued, in which the Dean proposed such a committee be a subcommittee of the Curriculum Committee rather than another stand-alone committee. Upon a vote the motion to create a Public Interest Law Committee within the curriculum

committee was approved with four abstentions.

## VI. Strategic Planning/Administration – report by Dean Scarnecchia

### A. Strategic Planning

1. Dean Scarnecchia recognized the tremendous amount of work the Self-Study Committee has done to this point.
2. She introduced Strategic Planning as the next step after the Self-Study and the Accreditation is done. She encouraged everyone to read her letter on strategic planning and the summaries of the Carnegie and Best Practices reports. Her goal is to direct the planning process using these two reports as a framework for focusing on:
  - a) What do we want our students to know?
  - b) Are we doing it?
  - c) If not, what changes do we want to make?
3. Faculty will be meeting twice a month beginning in September to focus on Strategic Planning. The process may also involve a couple of retreats.

### B. Administration

1. Dean Scarnecchia spoke to the “Administration” section of the Self-Study at Associate Dean Norwood’s request, as questions and comments have arisen regarding the appearance of the growth of the Administration.
2. She directed the faculty’s attention to the chart and hand-out she provided. She described the changes in personnel and titles between the year she began as dean and the present time.
3. She also provided detailed explanation of the budget section of the hand-out, then fielded questions and discussion.

## VII. Self Study – presented by Associate Dean Mike Norwood

### A. Associate Dean Norwood led the faculty in discussions of the following Self Study sections:

1. Introduction
2. Student
3. Faculty

### B. There was no voting on any of these sections during this meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman

Administrative Assistant to Dean Suellen Scarnecchia