

University of New Mexico School of Law  
Faculty Meeting Minutes  
November 14, 2006

Present: Chamiza Atencio-Pacheco, Marsha Baum, Norman Bay, Barbara Bergman, Barbara Blumenfeld, Michael Browde, Denise Fort, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Evan Hobbs, Steven Homer, April Land, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Nathalie Martin, Jose Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Margaret Montoya, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Liz Rapaport, Leo Romero, Suellyn Scarnecchia, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Esteli Juarez, Brendan O'Reilly, Ed Perea

Staff: Sandra Bauman, Susan Mitchell, Bonnie Stepleton, Bill Uher

Guests: Joan Green, Director Accessibility Services

The meeting was called to order at 3:39 pm on Tuesday, November 14, 2006.

I. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the Faculty Meeting on 9/12/06 were unanimously approved with no corrections.

II. Dean's Report – Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia

- A. The 3L class voted to change the time of graduation in May from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., mainly to avoid conflicts with the graduation ceremonies of spouses and significant others. Some of the faculty expressed concern over the possibility of the graduates being inebriated by 6:00 if they have been celebrating all day. The dean invited faculty to join her in strongly encouraging the students to show up to their own ceremony sober.
- B. The budget is doing well. Peggy Lovato and Eduardo Lucero have done a tremendous amount of work on setting specific budgets for specific areas of the law school, and tracking these. The senior administrators have their budgets.
- C. Bill Uher is already ahead of last year's pace in raising money for the Dean's Fund.
- D. There will be an alumni reception at the AALS Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, on Wednesday, Jan. 3. Faculty were asked to let Bill Uher know if they were planning to go so he could inform the alums.
- E. Peter Winograd described a reception the State Bar would be holding on Wed., Nov. 15, for those who had been involved in the Summer Job program. He stressed the importance of having a good UNMSOL presence at the event.
- F. All faculty and senior administrators will be receiving an invitation to an open house event on December 9 at the Dean's home. This will provide an opportunity to interact

with members of the Alumni Association Board.

### III. Announcements

- A. Peter Winograd described the loan forgiveness bill currently before US Congress. The bill passed the senate last year and he is hopeful, with the change in political balance, that it will pass in the house this year.
- B. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez gave a brief update on the Guanajuato Summer Institute. There were 13 Mexican students, which is the largest number yet. Due to the number of students enrolled from non-consortium schools, each school in the consortium will receive \$10,000. UNMSOL plans to use some of this money for scholarships as a way of encouraging more of our students to attend. She asked the faculty to help recruit students, as well, in order to increase UNMSOL presence in the program.
- C. Gloria Valencia-Weber described the new Indian Law Bar scholarships and asked the faculty to congratulate Casey Douma and Suzanne Martinez, the two UNMSOL students who were awarded the scholarships.
- D. Nathalie Martin let the faculty know that Fred Hart did not receive the 2006-07 AALS Award for Lifetime Service to Legal Education and the Law, but is aware of his nomination. Associate Dean Sedillo Lopez suggested nominating him again next year.

### IV. Disability Services Presentation – Guest Joan Green, Director, Accessibility Services

- A. Bonnie Stepleton introduced Ms. Green by giving a brief bio. Ms. Green's presentation is part of an ongoing, regular effort to keep faculty up to date on students' needs.
- B. Ms. Green thanked the faculty for the opportunity to talk to them about her office and its services. She gave background and information about her department including its location and staff members. She briefly described who does what within the department.
- C. Accessibility Services (AS) works closely with professors and UNMSOL's Office of Career and Student Services (OCSS) to provide alternative texts, documents, classroom materials and tests to students who need them within the same time frame as needed by the general population of students. The ultimate goal of their department is to be 'invisible' in its provision of accommodations.
- D. Ms. Green encouraged faculty to use "universal design" in planning their classes, i.e., thinking about the diversity of all students' learning styles. She also expressed the importance of their department receiving as much information as possible as soon as possible. She expressed appreciation of the level of cooperation experienced with UNMSOL and looks forward to this continuing.
- E. Various faculty asked questions and offered suggestions including having free textbooks they receive forwarded to AS rather than the Law Library, asking publishers to provide the free textbooks in loose leaf form for ease of processing, and clarifying the document format best utilized by AS in serving the students' needs.
- F. Dean Scarnecchia also reminded the faculty of Bonnie Stepleton's recent receipt of a campus-wide award for her work with Accessibility Services for the benefit of

UNMSOL's students.

V. Appointments Committee – Professor Barbara Blumenfeld

- A. Professor Blumenfeld thanked the committee members (Barbara Bergman, Peggy Lovato, Alfred Mathewson, Gloria Valencia-Weber, and Christine Zuni Cruz) and Theresa Montoya for all their work thus far.
- B. She briefly reviewed the two open faculty positions and explained why the committee chose to focus on only one at a time, beginning with the Southwest Indian Law Clinic (SILC) position.
- C. She described the posting and review process that narrowed the field down to the three candidates who will be coming for on campus interviews before the end of November: Barbara Creel, Nov. 20; Mary Jo Hunter, Nov. 28; and Brett Shelton, Nov. 30. Professor Blumenfeld gave an overview of a typical candidate schedule and encouraged everyone to come to the lunch presentations if at all possible. The goal is to have the SILC hire decided at the December 12 faculty meeting.
- D. The Legal Writing (LRRW) position will be tackled next semester. Currently the committee is in the process of collecting resumes, intending to go forward with the review process in January.

VI. Curriculum Committee - Professor Jenny Moore

- A. Professor Moore handed out a short report on Practicum by the Curriculum Committee. She then gave a verbal summary of the information in the report including the reasons behind continuing to offer and refine Practicum, the substantive content, format, staffing and related curricular reform.
- B. Questions and concerns voiced by those present regarding Practicum included student experience with inconsistency in teaching quality, scope of ethics covered in regard to professionalism, career paths and options, and whether the course could continue to be tweaked by the curriculum committee without a faculty vote. It was decided to continue discussion on these matters at a future faculty meeting.
- C. The curriculum committee also wants feedback and questions on the new advanced writing requirement – which will be discussed at a future meeting. The following were offered “off the cuff:”
  - 1. encouraging students to get started earlier;
  - 2. one semester does not seem enough time for publishable papers;
  - 3. grading a student if the writing requirement is not finished during the semester when seminar is being taken;
  - 4. the appropriate letter grade to fulfill requirement;
  - 5. whether a tenure/tenure track faculty member can sign off on a paper done in an adjunct's course to allow the paper to meet the requirement;
  - 6. better defining of faculty responsibilities;
  - 7. the management of students in a seminar where some are working on writing requirement and some are not.

VII. Faculty Affairs – Associate Dean Antoinette Sedillo Lopez

- A. Associate Dean Sedillo Lopez has assumed the chair of the committee as Associate Dean Mike Norwood has taken over the chair of the Self-Study Committee. The committee also includes Michael Browde and Barbara Bergman.
- B. Assistant Dean Carol Parker is the only faculty member up for review this year and feedback from the rest of the faculty was invited.
- C. The committee will also continue to look into the feasibility of long-term contract for Legal Writing faculty members. The committee has met with Professor Blumenfeld and is in the process of setting up an appointment with Deputy Provost Richard Holder to continue to hash out details. Faculty feedback on this issue was also invited.
- D. The committee is also in the process of visiting classes to review untenured faculty.

#### VIII. Self-Study – Associate Dean Mike Norwood

- A. Nathalie Martin, Carol Suzuki and Jose Martinez are the other committee members.
- B. Associate Dean Norwood summarized what the committee is doing:
  - 1. reviewing what's been happening to find out what needs updating or changing;
  - 2. overseeing the completion of the ABA questionnaire by various folks, mainly senior administrators; and
  - 3. analyzing the information from both of the above results in the self study: "where we are, where we want to go, how do we get there."
- C. The Deans' Hour discussions have proven very productive so far. Summaries of those discussions will be written up and circulated to the faculty for review and feedback.
  - 1. The consensus from the certificate program discussion seems to be putting a moratorium on new programs pending the development of specific descriptions, standards and purposes. Work with UNMSOL's current programs will be done towards such development.
  - 2. During the academic support discussion, Professor Mathewson and OCSS presented their efforts to date. A potential gap between curriculum choice and career planning has been identified. One possible solution may be again assigning every 1L a faculty advisor.
  - 3. The November meeting date will be announced, and planning for spring Deans' Hours will occur after that point.
- D. Associate Dean Norwood then summarized as a review the various committee charges, and reminded all of the February 15<sup>th</sup> deadline by which their responses are needed to be included in self-study considerations.

#### IX. Outreach Committee – Part-time Program Report, presented by Professor Leo Romero

- A. Professor Romero encouraged everyone to review the handout available.
- B. He reiterated the committee's charge to find out whether there exists a demand for a part-time program at UNMSOL, and briefly described the process used to gather data to evaluate potential demand. The outcome of the survey process points to lesser demand for a full blown part-time evening or weekend program than may have originally been perceived.

- C. The committee's recommendation is not to develop a full part-time program, but rather accommodate some of the demand that does exist by instituting a design similar to one at University of Las Vegas, Nevada by expanding the flextime program UNMSOL currently has in place for upper level students.
- D. This modified program, as detailed in the handout:
  - 1. would be revenue neutral;
  - 2. would not require curricular changes or additional faculty;
  - 3. would allow admission of students who would not normally apply to a full time program; and
  - 4. would require implementation to revolve around registrar and admission areas.
- E. Due to time limitations and desire of faculty for a more in-depth discussion, voting on this recommendation was postponed to the December meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman  
Administrative Assistant to Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia