

University of New Mexico School of Law
Faculty Meeting Minutes
December 12, 2006

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

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

Staff: Sandra Bauman, Peggy Lovato, Theresa Montoya, Bill Uher

The meeting was called to order at 2:09 pm on Tuesday, December 12, 2006.

I. Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the November 14, 2006, minutes were unanimously approved for adoption with no corrections or changes.

II. Announcements

A. Dean Scarnecchia:

1. Introduced the First Year Representative, Esteli Juarez, and commended her for her dedication to attend the meeting during finals week.
2. Presented UNM 5-year service awards to John Feldman and Marilyn O'Leary, neither of whom were present, and 10-year awards to Jenny Moore and Christine Zuni Cruz.
3. Briefly updated everyone on Leo Romero's recuperation.

B. Bill Uher, Development Officer:

1. Requested the faculty think about being part of efforts to reach out to alums across the US.
2. Suggested that the faculty could connect with alums living in various cities where faculty members have a previously planned visit. The idea is to have a meal and "catch-up" conversation (no monetary appeal involved), and, upon return, give Bill an update on the alum(s) visited.

III. Faculty Appointments

- A. Dean Scarnecchia provided an overview of the structure the conversation would follow in discussing the SILC hire.
- B. Professor Barbara Blumenfeld identified and thanked the committee for their work (and Theresa Montoya for her tremendous staff support). She referred faculty to packets that had been handed out during the course of the week, and gave a brief overview of the process used in narrowing the field down to the three candidates who

- had been invited for onsite interviews. Since each has different strengths the committee decided not to recommend any one candidate specifically to the faculty.
- C. Professor Christine Zuni Cruz described the current state of SILC and what the needs are in looking for another faculty member in order to maintain current quality as well as move the Clinic forward.
 - D. Professors Blumenfeld, Valencia-Weber and Mathewson were each assigned to contact references for a specific candidate. Each was able to speak with 2 of the 3 references they attempted to reach for their respective candidate. All read highlights of interviews with the references stressing teaching abilities, scholarship potential, strengths and weaknesses for each of the applicants.
 - E. Discussion of the candidates ensued at the Dean's invitation with the goal to decide on one candidate by the end of the discussion in order to reach a hiring decision by the end of the day. The decision would be put off until January if necessary.
 - F. At the close of the discussion a secret ballot was proposed to see if there was strong majority or strong opposition for any one candidate, as well as the question of what type of hiring offer to make (tenure-track or visitorship).
 - 1. The results of the first vote showed one candidate standing out with the majority of votes, either with a tenure-track or visitor offer.
 - 2. A second vote, indicating "yes" or "no" to presenting majority candidate with a tenure-track offer, resulted in a majority favoring such an offer be made.
 - 3. Based on the discussion and the votes, Dean Scarnecchia feels comfortable to make a tenure-track offer to the majority candidate. If the candidate declines, the dean will come back to the faculty for more discussion before speaking with either of the other candidates.

IV. Practicum Discussion

- A. Professor Jenny Moore apologized that the curriculum committee report was presented at the last faculty meeting as Practicum being approved to continue based on the committee's findings rather requesting the faculty vote its continuation.
- B. She gave a brief overview of the report presented last time and presented a motion from the curriculum committee to approve Practicum being built into the 1st year curriculum.
- C. The floor was open for discussion.
 - 1. Questions regarding student responses/feedback arose, including the wisdom of making a curriculum inclusion decision before having such data available. Student representatives present offered comments and much discussion in this area ensued. However it was eventually pointed out that historically student evaluations have not generated valuable insight on Practicum specifically, and curriculum decisions in general are based on content significance rather than student opinion.
 - 2. A question about possibly tabling this decision until January was raised. Given the necessity of planning for Fall 2007, tabling the decision would pose difficulties, including the reassignment of the extra credit should the decision be to drop Practicum from the curriculum.
 - 3. Other topics in the discussion included the amount of work required for the Associate Dean, the necessity of continuing to "tweak" the program for

improvement, renaming the course to better reflect its focus, giving more opportunities for 1L faculty to meet and collaborate, reincorporating areas which have fallen out of the course recently, and clarifying the requirements for more consistency.

- D. Dean Scarnecchia called for the faculty to vote on the motion to continue to offer Practicum as part of the 1st year curriculum permanently. The motion passed.

V. Flex-Time Program Proposal

- A. Professor Nathalie Martin presented Outreach Committee's motion to extend the current Flex-Time program into the 1st year, which will allow 5 years to complete the JD. Chair Leo Romero in-absentia suggestion, after receiving Admission Committee's input based on the report given at last month's faculty meeting, is that the Flex-Time proposal be implemented "as can be" for Fall 2007, with the goal of full implementation for Fall 2008.
- B. Professor Martin reviewed the committee membership and their charge to find whether enough demand or interest exists to establish an evening or weekend program at UNMSOL. She referred faculty to last month's full report while giving some brief details of the committee's proposal.
- C. Professor Laura Gomez, on behalf of the Admissions Committee, explained their recommendation to postpone full implementation to Fall 2008 (mainly due to the Fall 2007 cycle already being in full swing prior to this provision being offered).
- D. Discussion among the faculty included the impact on class scheduling and "extra bodies" in the building, especially in regard to Clinic; any possible concern with the upcoming ABA site visit; the reliability of the survey data and methodology; the flexibility and/or rigidity of the proposed program; tuition and financial aid considerations; further study into creating a "true" part-time program; admissions criteria and process for these students; building an evaluation process into implementation; how suspensions would be handled within 5-year completion limitation; the potential difference between the hoped for population and the real end-users of such a program; and the "as can be" implementation for 2007 to be handled as current "special circumstances" are by referral to Associate Dean Mike Norwood.
- E. A vote was called to approve the extension of the Flex-Time program into the 1st year beginning Fall 2008 with exceptions in 2007 to be referred to Associate Dean Mike Norwood. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to Dean Suellyn Scarnecchia