

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW  
FACULTY MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 29, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m.

Attendance: Marcia Baker, Norman Bay, Barbara Bergman, Kip Bobroff, Michael Browde, Sherri Burr, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, April Land, John LaVelle, Nathalie Martin, José Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Margaret Montoya, Jennifer Moore, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Leo Romero, Suellyn Scarnecchia, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Peter Winograd

Students: Brian Close, Erin McSherry, Paco Perez, Sean Cunniff

Sr. Admin/Staff: Sandra Bauman, Susan Mitchell, Bonnie Stepleton

I. Approval of Minutes

It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of the following Faculty Meetings: October 16, 2007, November 6, 2007, November 20, 2007 and December 12, 2007. Upon a vote the minutes were approved with no corrections or additions.

II. James Quinn Memorials

- a. Scholarship
  - i. Students Erin McSherry, Paco Perez and Sean Cunniff distributed a hand out (attachment 1) and gave a brief description of the vision for a 1L scholarship.
  - ii. The James Quinn Memorial Steering Committee is in the process of creating an endowment fund, which the students described.
- b. Tree Naming - The steering committee is working with appropriate individuals on main campus to have a tree named in memory of James Quinn.
- c. Funds for both projects are coordinated through Development Officer Bill Uher.
- d. Faculty was encouraged to offer or suggest any other support.

III. Announcements

- a. Dean Scarnecchia reminded everyone that the receipt of first semester grades can be very stressful for 1Ls and asked that the faculty reach out to students who are appear to be upset.
- b. Dean Scarnecchia had been notified that the ABA Accreditation report was submitted by the committee last week.
- c. Dean Scarnecchia reminded everyone about the Simms Lecture scheduled for March 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. This year's speaker, Professor Pam Karlan, will be speaking on "What Can Brown Do For You?" regarding Brown v. Board of Education.
- d. Professor Phil Shrag will be visiting the Law School on February 11, speaking on asylum cases.

- e. The ongoing problems with professors turning in late grades will be referred to both Faculty and Student Affairs committees for possible solutions. Students are put in horrible positions when grades are not turned in on time and something more proactive must be done to alleviate the situation.
- f. Dean Scarnecchia reported on the activity in the Legislature regarding the funding of the Justice Minzner Chair. Representative Picraux introduced a bill to fully fund the chair at \$1.5 million. She read the finalized language describing the chair: “The ‘Pamela B. Minzner Chair in Law and Professionalism.’ The chair will be awarded to a law professor who exemplifies professionalism in and out of the classroom.” A statewide fundraising committee is prepared to do the private fundraising, and there is much legislative support as well as deep support in the general community.
- g. The Faculty Meeting originally scheduled for February 5 will be canceled. The Faculty Lunch Colloquium originally scheduled for February 6 will now be an opportunity for the Faculty to continue to discuss strategic planning.
- h. The Natural Resources candidate and his wife will be visiting/interviewing on campus on Friday, February 1. Please contact Theresa Montoya if you are interested in meeting with either of them.
- i. Professor Sherri Burr announced that on Tuesday, February 5, Dr. Rama Rao from the World Intellectual Property Organization will be speaking on “Traditional Knowledge” during a lunch which is open to attendance by staff and students. Also, Professor Rick Snell, from Tasmania, will be visiting and speaking on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> of February.
- j. Dean Scarnecchia encouraged everyone to attend the Faculty Lunch scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, for another round of “Half-Baked Ideas.”

#### IV. Admissions Committee

- a. Professor Barbara Bergman named the rest of the committee members: Professors Kip Bobroff and Laura Gómez, Assistant Dean Susan Mitchell, 3L Chris Melendrez, and herself as chair.
- b. Professor Bergman briefly described the number and quality of applicants to date. She also described the reasons why SOL struggles with recruitment efforts to get the great applicants to come here. On behalf of the committee she asked if faculty were willing to:
  - i. be part of personalizing invitations by being matched with an applicant who expresses interest in a particular faculty member’s area(s)?
  - ii. serve on a recruitment subcommittee to come up with ideas to spur recruitment efforts. (Professors April Land, Nathalie Martin, Rob Schwartz, and Eileen Gauna volunteered.)
- c. Assistant Dean Susan Mitchell described the status of admitted applicants to date. All have been called. Faculty will be called on (unless one specifically opts out) to be making additional connections with applicants.
- d. Some discussion ensued with additional suggestions offered.

#### V. Curriculum Committee

- a. Professor Jenny Moore distributed the committee Practicum report (attachment 2) for everyone’s review.

- b. She described Practicum as a “work in progress.” Each fall feedback is received and the course is reviewed.
- c. Current concerns:
  - i. Practicum has great vision of bringing professionalism and lawyering skills into the 1<sup>st</sup> year curriculum, but implementation is lacking.
  - ii. Practicum is a really important part of institutional commitment to best practices, and the committee is looking into increasing practically oriented skills into the course.
- d. The committee recommends that Practicum remain - with continual improvements. In addition the committee wants to investigate ways to incorporate additional best practices, and widen their introduction to other courses as well. Professor Moore invited any other faculty interested in participating in the review process to do so.
- e. Faculty other than 1<sup>st</sup> year will be recruited to teach the course. The current plan is to have one professor ‘run’ the course as a half-load to allow for more coordination and consistency in leadership.
- f. Professor Moore thanked everyone for their feedback, and invited discussion - which followed.
- g. Dean Scarnecchia announced that the University will be requiring SOL to join in outcome based methods. Eventually accreditation will require the incorporation of such methods.

#### VI. Faculty Appointments

- a. Associate Dean Mike Norwood and Professor Leo Romero facilitated this portion of the meeting.
- b. Discussion was continued from last Faculty meeting regarding the ordering of the two remaining Natural Resources candidates if current offer is refused.
- c. Votes were taken to determine the order in which to make offers to the remaining candidates in the event that proves necessary.

#### VII. 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 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman  
Administrative Assistant to the Dean

## **Attachment 1**

### **James Quinn Memorial**

The purpose of the endowed "James Quinn Memorial Scholarship" is to remember James Quinn through a first-year scholarship for a LTNM Law School student. The scholarship will be awarded to an incoming student who demonstrates commitment to pursuing conservation and sustainability through environmental law and evidences the characteristics and values that made Jaynes unique such as: overall potential to make an outstanding contribution to the entering law school class, and manifestation of environmental ethics through lifestyle choices (James drove a biodiesel car, cycled, raised chickens, reused and recycled whenever possible). If possible, preference will be given to a student with an interest in water law. Should the study of "environmental law" and "water law" evolve such that the studies are known by other names, the UNM School of Law Dean shall direct the distribution of this scholarship to students pursuing the most closely-related area of study and with the above mentioned characteristics.

The recipient of the James Quinn Memorial Scholarship shall be selected by the UNM Law School Assistant Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid in conjunction with the admissions committee. In the case that there are multiple equally-qualified students, a decision between finalists should be made based on need.

In the event the amount of the award surpasses 50 percent of tuition and fees, the scholarship will be split into two scholarships of equal amounts; the same shall occur should multiple awards exceed 50 percent.

The recipient shall write a thank you letter to James's wife and family, or their designee, and will make themselves available for a meeting at the family's request

## **Attachment 2**

### **Report of Curriculum Committee to the Faculty on the Practicum Course January 29, 2008**

The Curriculum Committee appreciates the feedback we have received, particularly from the Practicum faculty and the Deans, concerning both the Practicum experience and the current mission for law school curricular reform referred to as "Best Practices." We recognize that the Law School and the faculty have made an institutional commitment to Best Practices, namely integrating analytical reasoning, professionalism and practical skills into our overall curriculum, and that Practicum was conceived in the spirit of bringing all these elements into the first year curriculum. Members of the Practicum faculty, while valuing the vision of the course, have honestly expressed varying degrees of frustration with our limited success in implementing that vision, and the Committee agrees that Practicum needs to be revised if it is to effectively realize its goals. Because the Practicum course remains our primary vehicle for addressing Best Practices in the first year, and it is part of our published 2008-90 curriculum for recruitment and other purposes, we plan to offer Practicum next fall, with the following changes. It will remain a one-credit, ungraded course taught by full-time faculty during the Fall 2008 semester. However, the instructors will be recruited from throughout the faculty, and first semester I L faculty will be welcome but not expected to participate. A course leader will be recruited who will coordinate and teach the course as a half-load. The Curriculum Committee will invite other interested faculty to join us in reviewing the first year curriculum in light of Best Practices, with the goal of revising the Practicum and/or incorporating practice/professionalism elements more fully into one or more of the doctrinal first year courses.