

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW  
FACULTY MEETING**

**Wednesday, December 12, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 3:11 p.m.

Attendance: Megan Argo, Marsha Baum, Norman Bay, Barbara Blumenfeld, Kip Bobroff, Michael Browde, Sherri Burr, Barbara Creel, Denise Fort, Chris Fritz, Sandy Gaines, Eileen Gauna, Laura Gómez, Scott Hughes, April Land, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, José Martinez, Margaret Montoya, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Sergio Pareja, Leo Romero, Suellyn Scarnecchia, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Joshua Allison, Brian Close

Staff: Sandra Bauman

- I. Dean Scarnecchia welcomed everyone, offered congratulations for making it through another semester, and reminded the faculty to turn their grades in by the registrar's stated deadline.
- II. Faculty Appointments Committee
  - a. Report from Chair
    - i. Professor Leo Romero briefly described the recruitment process, beginning with the advertisement and ending with the five finalists: Reed Benson, Bret Birdsong, Brigham Daniels, Andrew Mergen, and Sandra Zellmer.
    - ii. Professor Romero explained that the committee (also including Professors Denise Fort, Eileen Gauna, Alfred Mathewson, Gloria Valencia-Weber, and School Administrator Peggy Lovato) decided early in the process to focus on water-law as the area of highest need.
    - iii. The committee members present each reported on reference checks and evaluation candidates' scholarship - alphabetically by applicant name.
    - iv. Professor Romero acknowledged and expressed the committee's great appreciation for Theresa Montoya and all her work organizing and supporting the committee.
  - b. Dean's Report
    - i. Dean Scarnecchia expressed her appreciation for the amount of background work and the committee's tremendous job of recruiting strong candidates. She particularly hopes the committee's detailed reports on references and scholarship evaluation will set a precedent for future hiring processes.
    - ii. She stated that her interest when talking to applicants is to determine the level of their interest in the future of the program (interest, leadership and administrative skills are all positive markers).
    - iii. She also acknowledged and thanked the students who put a lot of effort into making it a priority to show up and interact with each applicant (despite the timing

- at the end of the semester and during finals) in order to come up with very thoughtful recommendations.
- c. Committee Members' Individual Reports
    - i. Professor Romero reported that the committee decided not to present a ranking of candidates, or recommend any specific individuals to the faculty.
    - ii. Each committee member present, and Utton Center Director Sandy Gaines, then proceeded to offer remarks on each of the finalists.
  - d. Open discussion from faculty was invited on all applicants.
  - e. Voting
    - i. Two straw ballots were taken by paper ballots. The first indicated two strong front-runners. Faculty were asked, in a second straw ballot, to indicate which one each preferred.
    - ii. A motion was made and seconded regarding which applicant to make an offer to first, and, if turned down, who would receive the offer second. When a vote was taken the motion passed with 18 in favor, 1 opposed, and 4 abstentions.
  - f. Some additional discussion ensued regarding possible ways of presenting the offer, as well as what, if anything, to say to the remaining applicants. Dean Scarnecchia reminded everyone of the high level of confidentiality surrounding this decision.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman  
Administrative Assistant to the Dean