

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
FACULTY MEETING**

Tuesday, February 17, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 3:13 p.m..

Attendance: Marsha Baum, Norman Bay, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Sherri Burr, Barbara Creel, Jim Ellis, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gómez, April Land, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, José Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Mike Norwood, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Liz Rapaport, Leo Romero, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Staff/Sr. Admin: Sandra Bauman, Hannah Farrington, Peggy Lovato, Susan Mitchell, Bonnie Stepleton

I. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- a. The minutes of the November 18, 2008, faculty meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes as distributed. Discussion was invited, but none ensued. Upon a vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.
- b. The minutes of the December 2, 2008, faculty meeting were presented for approval. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes as distributed. Discussion was invited, but none ensued. Upon a vote, the minutes were unanimously approved.

II. Announcements

- a. The following announcements were distributed via e-mail prior to the meeting, as well as in print form during the meeting:
 - i. Remodeling and IT Equipment for Courtrooms and Classrooms: With support from the Provost's Office in light of the ABA accreditation report, we succeeded in getting the University to remodel the Hart Wing courtrooms to better accommodate trial practice skills classes. The ceiling will be raised, the bench placed on a raised platform, and the orientation rotated by 90 degrees to create more space in the well. Much of the existing furniture can be reused. Wiring will be installed to accommodate state-of-the-art courtroom technology similar to what is installed in the Federal Courthouse. Carol Parker is assisting Peggy Lovato with project management. Remodeling of Rm. 2525 began the first week in January. When it is completed, Rm. 3410 will be started. Both rooms should be completed before the end of the fiscal year. Revenue to install technology in Rm. 2525 and in several other classrooms this spring has also been released by the Budget Office to the law school. The Federal Court administrator and Barbara Bergman have assisted in the development of the courtroom IT configuration. The faculty Library and IT Committee have assisted in the classroom equipment decisions. Cyndi Johnson will oversee the IT installation.
 - ii. The Accreditation Committee of the American Bar Association has informed me that it considered the status of the UNM School of Law at its January 22-24

meeting and concluded that the "University of New Mexico School of Law remains on the list of law schools approved by the American Bar Association." The Committee had before it the information we provided in our letter of November 14, 2008, responding to the concerns about our compliance with several accreditation standards.

- iii. Minzner Chair gifts/pledges to date: \$595,990.
- iv. The university-wide accreditation site visit by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of North Central Association of Colleges and Schools will be April 6 – 8, 2009. According to the HLC visit schedule, members of the Site Team will be visiting the Law School and talking to members of faculty staff and students on April 6th. Additional details will follow as soon as they are available.
- v. Budget Update: The Provost's office has asked each college and school to prepare budgets for 2009-10 reflecting reductions in I & G funding of 2%, 5% and 8%. The Provost is concerned that the money available for higher education will be significantly reduced and wants colleges to begin preparing for a reduced budget.
- vi. Judicial Selection News:
 - 1. 1st Judicial District: Dean Romero will chair the reconvening of the Nominating Commission meeting in Santa Fe on February 27th to consider Governor Richardson's request for additional names to fill the vacancy created by the appointment of Judge Garcia to the Court of Appeals
- vii. The next Faculty Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 24th, 2009. The main purpose of this meeting is to discuss tenure and promotion reviews for Professors Bay and Suzuki (for tenure and tenure-track faculty only).
- b. The following additional announcements were made verbally:
 - i. Professor Gloria Valencia-Weber announced that the preferred deadline for admissions had passed, and, while we are still receiving some applications, early indications are that applications from residents are fewer than expected. She solicited faculty members to volunteer to call already admitted residents and encourage them to attend UNMSOL. Any faculty willing to do so should let Assistant Dean Susan Mitchell know. Dean Romero asked Professor Valencia-Weber to follow up her announcement with a reminder e-mail.
 - ii. Assistant Dean Bonnie Stepleton reminded faculty that mock interviews were being held the following Saturday, and asked if anyone willing to volunteer the use of their office to e-mail Nancy Huffstutler.

III. Faculty Senate Representative Election

- a. Dean Romero entertained nominees or volunteers to serve the remainder of this term, ending June 30, 2009, that Professor Scott Hughes cannot fulfill due to illness.
- b. Library Director Carol Parker moved to elect Professor Rob Schwartz, who has agreed to serve in this capacity, by acclamation. The faculty, by acclamation, elected Professor Schwartz to serve as the UNMSOL Faculty Senate for the remainder of the current term.

IV. Faculty Hiring

- a. Budget Background – Dean Leo Romero

- i. Dean Romero, utilizing a slide presentation, provided projected budget scenarios, which the Provost asked each dean to calculate, reflecting potential 2%, 5% and 8% reductions for the coming year.
 - ii. Based on these projections, Dean Romero has concluded that SOL cannot hire two new faculty members, and will be pressed to hire one if there is only a 2% reduction. Any greater reduction SOL will be unable to hire one, and there will be significant financial squeeze in other areas.
 - iii. A period of questions, clarification and discussion ensued.
 - iv. Dean Romero stated his inclination to hold back on making any offer until there is a firmer understanding of what the budget will really be for next year.
- b. Report from Faculty Appointments Committee – Professor Alfred Mathewson, Chair
- i. Professor Mathewson reviewed the process the committee followed to date.
 - 1. The committee was authorized to search for two positions, one in Indian law and one clinician, leaving open the exact hiring combination.
 - 2. Six candidates were brought in for on-campus interviews. Last week two withdrew.
 - 3. Various committee members joined in the presentation of an overview of each of the four remaining candidates, in alphabetical order: Camille Carey, Aliza Organick, Leticia Saucedo, Rebecca Tsosie.
 - ii. Following this presentation, Dean Romero opened the floor for discussion of the hiring situation, based both on budgetary realities and the strength of the candidate pool. The conversation which ensued touched on the following areas:
 - 1. Which position to fill, or whether to hire at all.
 - 2. What type of offer to extend.
 - 3. The possibility of tying the faculty hire to the dean hire in some manner.
 - 4. Desire to discuss the merits of each of the candidates individually.
 - 5. Developing a strategy to proceed.
 - 6. Postponing further discussion and decision until budgetary impacts are more fully known, towards the end of March.
 - 7. The necessity of having general discussions of both the budget and curricular needs.
 - 8. The need to start planning for budget cuts across the board.
 - 9. Concern that postponing decision without contact to the remaining candidates will result in greater attrition of the pool.
 - iii. Due to time constraints and the scope of discussion necessary to proceed, Dean Romero decided to postpone further conversation on this topic until the next Faculty Meeting, on February 24th.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to the Dean