

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
FACULTY MEETING**

Tuesday, February 24, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m..

Attendance: Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Michael Browde, Sherri Burr, Barbara Creel, Jim Ellis, Chris Fritz, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gómez, April Land, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, José Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Liz Rapaport, Leo Romero, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Christine Zuni Cruz

Staff/Sr. Admin: Sandra Bauman, Peggy Lovato

- I. Faculty Affairs – Report to Committee on Promotion, Tenure and Reappointment
 - a. Tenure-track and tenured faculty were the only faculty in attendance for this portion of the meeting.
 - b. Separate minutes were taken.
 - c. All faculty, senior administrative staff and student representatives were invited to join the faculty meeting upon the completion of the Faculty Affairs Committee meeting.

- 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. The Office of Career and Student Service announces its response to the survey recently submitted to the National Association for Law Placement (NALP) for the Class of 2008, six months post graduation: 93.3% of the UNM Class of 2008 was employed (100 were employed or in school full-time out of 105), with an average salary of \$53,675; 75.5% reported having their job offer before graduation (which is the highest number Assistant Dean John Feldman can recall for UNM). The Class of 2008 produced 13 judicial clerks (13.3%); five were federal clerkships. 16.3% of the class took public interest jobs, with 7 people doing direct legal services. Assistant Dean Feldman acknowledges all the hard work that Nancy Huffstutler does throughout the year to keep track of our students and NALP stats.
 - ii. A panel of judges from the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals will be hearing oral arguments at the UNM School of Law on Monday, April 20th. Additional details will follow as soon as they become available.
 - iii. The next Faculty Meeting is currently scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009.
 - b. There were no additional announcements made during the meeting.

- III. Faculty Hiring
 - a. Associate Dean Barbara Bergman distributed spreadsheets detailing the current (and historical) state of the curriculum.
 - b. Dean Romero reiterated that the financial situation had not changed since last week's meeting, and there remains quite a bit of uncertainty in resources – for hiring and other UNMSOL needs.

- i. He sees no way to hire two new faculty members and feels it would be imprudent to hire one on a permanent basis.
- ii. He offered two proposals for the faculty to consider, given that decisions need to be made with incomplete information:
 1. Make an offer to one individual for a one-year visitorship with a potential stipulation that the position would convert to tenure-track when and if resources become available.
 2. Make no hire and leave the resources available for the new dean to decide on their allocation.
- c. Discussion ensued, touching on the following areas:
 - i. Concern over postponing hiring decision due to possible candidate pool attrition.
 - ii. Exploration as to whether there are alternative potential sources of funding or resources to tap.
 - iii. Conversation about how to proceed with making a hiring decision, including:
 1. Ranking the candidates.
 2. Deciding on the nature of the hire.
 3. Concern about the potential of worsening budgetary outlooks in future years.
 4. Consideration of staffing and administrative needs that are currently being unfilled.
 5. Clarification of how much autonomy UNMSOL has, and how potential actions and decisions by main campus may affect the law school.
- d. During the course of the discussion a motion was made and seconded to move forward with hiring one individual for a visitorship with the conversion to tenure-track if resources become available. After additional discussion, a friendly amendment was proposed, and accepted, to simply vote on whether to make one hire and decide on the nature of that offer in another vote.
 - i. Upon a vote, by show of hands, there were eleven (11) in favor of a hire, and eleven (11) opposed.
 - ii. Dean Romero, as chair, voted to break the tie in favor of making a hire in order to allow the faculty's exploration process to continue.
- e. Further discussion ensued, resulting in a motion, which was seconded, to hire one of the candidates as a visitor with the possibility of the position becoming tenure-track if resources allow. Upon a vote, the motion carried.
- f. After additional conversation, it was decided by consensus to postpone further discussion on the topic of faculty hiring until the next Faculty meeting on March 3rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to the Dean