

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
FACULTY MEETING**

Tuesday, March 24, 2009

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

Attendance: Marsha Baum, Norman Bay, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Barbara Blumenfeld, 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, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Debbie Stambaugh

Staff/Sr. Admin: Sandra Bauman, Peggy Lovato, Susan Mitchell, Bonnie Stepleton, Pat Trainor

- I. Approval of Minutes from previous meetings: February, 17, 2009, February 24, 2009 and March 3, 2009.
 - a. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes of all three meetings. Discussion was invited, but none ensued.
 - b. Upon a vote, all minutes were unanimously approved without correction or amendments.

- 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. **Courtroom Remodeling**
 1. Courtroom 2525 has passed all building inspections and is now officially ready for occupancy. Some of its IT equipment and two new counsel tables must still be installed, however. Renovation of courtroom 3410 will begin this week. Classes and events that were scheduled for 3410 will be moved to 2525 for the remainder of the semester, and any remaining IT installations in rm. 2525 will have to work around scheduled events.
 2. Rm. 2525 will be fully equipped with a built-in courtroom presentation system and will also have a “portable evidence presentation system” consisting of a large monitor on a cart, DVD, and space to attach a laptop and document camera to emulate systems often used in local state courts by local practitioners. The cart will be stored in a locked closet that was constructed in the courtroom. Its monitor can also be hooked to the built in system for an additional display screen.
 3. The built in system in 2525 will be similar to what is found in the local federal court, consisting of wired counsel tables for laptops and document cameras; a wired bench with a PC and flat panel monitor; built in speakers; and two large monitors attached to the courtroom walls for presentation display; all controlled by Crestron switches located at the bench, with components on a rack in the new closet. The rest of the room will rely on the wireless network for online access. The room will have the capacity for real time court reporting, and a digital video camera for recordings. Rm. 3410 will have presentation equipment similar to that found in our seminar

classrooms (projector/screen), and will also have its own portable evidence presentation system kept in a storage closet.

ii. **Justice Antonin Scalia**

1. On April 14th, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia will visit the Law School and present an afternoon lecture at the Albuquerque Convention Center, Kiva Auditorium. Justice Scalia's SOL activities will include interaction with students, classroom attendance, and a lunch with the faculty. The law school is working in cooperation with the Federalist Society in sponsoring Justice Scalia's visit. Registration for the afternoon lecture is free, but required through the following link: <http://www.fed-soc.org/NMScalia>. Please contact Melissa Lobato for additional information.

iii. **U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals**

1. A panel of judges from the U.S. 10th Circuit Court of Appeals will be hearing oral arguments at the Law School beginning at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20th. The briefs of the cases to be heard are available in the "News and Events" section of our website: <http://lawschool.unm.edu/news/archives/2009/april/briefs/appeals.php>. Prior to the oral arguments, the 10th Circuit judges and their law clerks will hold a question and answer session for students, and have lunch with faculty members and the NM Appellate Judges.

iv. **Clinic Lottery**

1. The lottery for the clinic will be conducted next week. The student information session will be held on Monday.

v. **Next Faculty Meeting**

1. The next faculty meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7th.

b. The following additional announcements were made verbally during the meeting:

- i. Professor Bergman encouraged the faculty to take a moment to view the newly remodeled courtroom, 2525. She thanked Library Director Carol Parker and Cyndi Dean, IT Manager, for their contributions to the transformation. Courtroom 3410 is now being remodeled, and will look similar upon completion.
- ii. Dean Romero announced that the response to the Justice Scalia public lecture has been so overwhelming that the venue was changed to one that could accommodate a much larger crowd. There are currently almost 900 registrants.
- iii. Professor Blumenfeld asked faculty members to volunteer as judges for the upcoming 1L oral arguments. Due to great student interest, many judges are needed.
- iv. Professor LaVelle announced the Federal Indian Bar, being held April 2nd and 3rd at the Buffalo Thunder Casino and Resort in Pojoaque. He asked that faculty please excuse students if they request time off from class to attend. He also invited faculty to the breakfast at 8:00 a.m. on April 2nd, and mentioned that Kevin Washburn will be attending the conference

III. Faculty Hiring

- a. Dean Romero presented a brief history on the events regarding faculty hiring to date, and proceeded to offer more concrete budgetary information than was available during previous discussions.
 - i. The Provost has confirmed that a 2% budget reduction for academic units may be safely assumed.
 - ii. The legislature's final budget, awaiting the Governor's approval, did not include any reductions for SILC, and a much lower than originally projected cut for Law Library acquisitions.

- iii. The hiring recommendations Dean Romero suggested were based on both this information and additional internal negotiations made with SOL curriculum areas and the provost's office.
- iv. Next year's proposed budget was projected, explained, and discussion ensued.
- b. A motion was made, and seconded, to make one tenure/lateral hire in the Indian Law area, and one visiting hire in the Clinical area, with the stipulation that the visitorship be a "look-see" opportunity.
 - i. Discussion ensued.
 - ii. The following is a paraphrased version of the definition of "look-see" that was proposed as a means of voting clarification: The candidate will be offered a one year position. If teaching performance is up to standard, the faculty is satisfied with the visitor's performance, and funding resources exist, the faculty will vote to offer a permanent tenure-track position, foregoing the necessity of another search to fill that position.
 - iii. Upon a vote, via secret ballot, to make one tenure hire and one visiting/look-see hire (with no candidate specified), the motion carried with 16 voting yes, nine voting no and two abstentions.
- c. A motion was made and to make a visiting/look-see offer to one of the candidates first, and if the offer is not accepted, to make the offer to the other candidate.
 - i. Discussion ensued.
 - ii. Upon a vote, via secret ballot, the order specified in the motion carried, with 18 voting yes, eight voting no and one abstention.
- d. Professor Mathewson, chair of the Faculty Appointments Committee, thanked the committee members for their hard work throughout the process.

IV. Grading Policy Proposal – Associate Dean Barbara Bergman

- a. The proposed policy, previously e-mailed to faculty, was also distributed in hard-copy at this point in the meeting.
- b. Professor Bergman briefly described both the administrative problems and the impact on students caused by late grade submission on the part of faculty.
- c. She detailed the policy proposals.
- d. Discussion ensued, and adjustments were proposed.
- e. 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 April 7th.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to the Dean