

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
FACULTY MEETING**

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

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

Attendance: Marsha Baum, Norman Bay, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Sherri Burr, 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, Daniel Ortega, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Liz Rapaport, Leo Romero, Rob Schwartz, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Peter Winograd

Students: Ozy Adams, Lacy Daniel, Sam Wolf, Charles Kalm, Othiamba Umi

Staff/Sr. Admin: Sandra Bauman, Nancy Harbert, Susan Mitchell, Bonnie Stepleton, Pat Trainor

- I. Approval of Minutes - March 24, 2009, Faculty Meeting
 - a. A motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes as distributed of the March 24, 2009, Faculty Meeting. Discussion was invited, but none ensued.
 - b. Upon a vote the minutes were approved unanimously.

- 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 Provost's office announced to the deans that it is unlikely that there will be any money for salary increases next year.
 - ii. The Provost's office wants to implement a procedure for approval and reporting of course releases. The office has proposed a Course Release Form that will ask for the name of the faculty member, the number of courses released, the reason for the course release, and the approval of the course release by the dean. In addition, deans will report to the Provost on an annual basis the aggregate number of course releases, the number of faculty granted course releases, and the reasons. The Provost said that she has two motivations for this proposal. First, she would be able to say to the Regents or others that the University has a procedure for approving course releases. Second, she would be able to answer questions about the number of course releases if asked. She said that some Regents are asking about faculty teaching loads.
 - iii. Update on the HLC Accreditation Visit next week. The site evaluation team has scheduled a meeting at the Law School with the dean and associate deans on April 21st.
 - iv. The next faculty meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 21st.
 - b. The following additional announcements were made verbally during the meeting:

- i. Professor Carol Suzuki, chair of the Student Affairs Committee, announced that the Committee will be hosting an amelioration event on April 27th, and notices with additional details will be sent out to faculty.
- ii. Professor Chris Fritz, chair of the Honors and Awards Committee, encouraged faculty to submit their student nominations for awards by Friday, April 10th. Dean Romero also asked faculty to offer suggestions to him for Dean's Awards.

III. Grading Policy – Associate Dean Barbara Bergman

- a. Associate Dean Bergman briefly described the contents of various documents, including a revised version of the Grading Policy introduced during the March 24th meeting, which had been previously e-mailed to the faculty.
- b. Professor Bergman then introduced the following students, each of whom spoke in support of the proposed policy: Sam Wolf, Charles Kalm, and Othiamba Umi.
- c. Professor Bergman moved that the revised policy be approved. The motion was seconded by Professor Sherri Burr.
- d. Discussion ensued.
- e. The following two friendly amendments were proposed and accepted by both Professors Bergman and Burr:
 - i. Increase the number of days allowed for grading after the exam to 30 days.
 - ii. Insert the following text to describe an extension allowed by the Dean: "..., normally construed as circumstances unanticipated and beyond the control of the faculty member."
- f. Upon a vote, the motion to approve the policy, including the two friendly amendments, carried unanimously.
- g. Dean Romero and Professor Bergman thanked the students for their attendance and input.

IV. Curriculum 2009-2010 – Associate Dean Barbara Bergman and Professor Jenny Moore

- a. Professors Bergman and Moore distributed hand-outs describing the curriculum for next year as it currently stands.
- b. Professor Moore introduced the following two curriculum changes:
 - i. The Committee has added a 2 credit elective, "Legislative and Administrative Process," which is open to all student levels (1L – 3L). Adding this course to the curriculum does not require a faculty vote as the course is an elective, not a required course.
 - ii. The committee has approved a new 1 credit required course for 1Ls during spring semester, "Legal Research," which will be taught by library personnel. The committee moves that the faculty approve this course as an addition to the required 1L curriculum.
 1. Discussion ensued, including input from both faculty and student representatives asking for clarification and reasoning. The impact of another required course for 1L students was discussed.
 2. Professor Moore requested a nonbinding vote of the faculty to get a sense of whether there is backing from the faculty to move forward with this course model.

3. The nonbinding vote indicated the faculty was not in favor of adding the 1L course, as currently defined by the Curriculum Committee.
 - iii. Dean Romero and Professor Moore decided that additional interaction outside of a faculty meeting, both among faculty and within the Curriculum Committee, would be useful. The legal research course proposal will be presented for faculty action again at the April 21st meeting.
- V. Working With the Public Affairs Office – Nancy Harbert and Benson Hendrix
- a. Nancy Harbert, UNMSOL Publicist , and Benson Hendrix, UNM Public Relations Specialist, introduced themselves and the topic.
 - b. The goals of their presentation included:
 - i. Defining and suggesting ways for UNMSOL faculty and the UNM Communications and Marketing (C&M) department to develop a more cooperative relationship.
 - ii. Identifying avenues for promoting SOL, individual faculty, and various student activities and achievements.
 - iii. Helping faculty to understand C&M’s role of becoming the “newsroom for the university.”
 - iv. Recruiting faculty as expert resources when C&M receives media requests for information or opinions regarding current events.
 - v. Soliciting ideas and input from faculty of ways they would like to get the word out about the things happening at SOL.
 - c. Dean Romero and the faculty thanked both of them for their presentation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to the Dean