

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
FACULTY MEETING**

Tuesday, August 26, 2008

The meeting was called to order at 3:09 p.m.

Attendance: Megan Argo, Norman Bay, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Barbara Blumenfeld, Sherri Burr, Louis Caldera, Barbara Creel, Chris Fritz, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gómez, Steven Homer, April Land, Jon LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Nathalie Martin, José Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Margaret Montoya, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Daniel Ortega, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Liz Rapaport, Carol Suzuki, Gloria Valencia-Weber, Christine Zuni Cruz

Guests: Dean Brenda Claiborne

Sr. Admin/Staff: Sandra Bauman, Susan Mitchell, Bonnie Stepleton

Interim Dean Romero welcomed everyone to the 61st year of the operation of UNMSOL. He welcomed Reed Benson as the newest faculty member and Veronica Dorato, a visitor in the Clinics. He also welcomed back two faculty members who were on leave last school year: Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, (spring) – sabbatical; and Liz Rapaport (full year) – Rutgers. Dean Romero listed the faculty members who are on leave this year: Rob Schwartz (fall) – Hastings; Ted Occhialino (full year) – Howard; Gloria Valencia-Weber and Mike Norwood (fall) – sabbatical; Margaret Montoya (spring) – Burns Professor at CUNY; and Rob Schwartz and Nathalie Martin (spring) – sabbatical.

- I. Dean Search Report – Dean Brenda Claiborne, Arts and Sciences
 - a. Dean Claiborne, Chair of the Dean Search Committee, introduced herself and provided the faculty with some background information.
 - b. She reminded everyone that the Provost is the hiring officer for the Dean position. Dean Claiborne reports to Provost Ortega. Dean Claiborne explained that her role as chair is to make sure all processes are followed correctly and that everything remains within the time-table.
 - c. The role of the SOL faculty is to provide the search committee with a wonderful pool of candidates, encouraging their colleagues from across the country to apply. The faculty is the “face” of UNMSOL.
 - d. She explained the confidentiality of the process and asked the faculty to support their peer members of the committee by not asking for information members can’t offer. The updates received will only pertain to process, no details.
 - e. The Provost’s time-line includes bringing candidates to campus for interviews by the end of December (or early January) if not before.
 - f. Dean Romero invited questions. There were none. He thanked Dean Claiborne for her time and report.

II. Approval of May meeting minutes

There was a motion and second to approve the May meeting minutes as distributed. There was no discussion, and upon a vote, the minutes were unanimously approved without corrections.

III. Announcements - The following announcements were distributed for faculty members to review and ask any questions they may have:

- a. Computer Replacements: The Law School regularly replaces computers for faculty on a rotating schedule that means that a certain number of computers are replaced each year. This year, the 16 faculty members who are due for replacements were given the option of choosing a laptop or desktop computer. Nine chose laptops. The same option will be available to faculty members when they are scheduled to receive replacements.
- b. The Law School's request to the University for money for the Law Library made the priority list for funding (\$200,000) from the NM Legislature at the 2009 Legislative session. Our request was one of 11 university-wide requests approved. Leo and Carol will testify in support at Higher Ed Dept. hearing in Sept. at the 2009.
- c. The President will propose that the entire University will be a smoke-free and/or tobacco-free campus by July 1, 2009. They intend for this policy to apply to all parts of the campus, Main and North campuses, and indoors and outdoors.
- d. UNM is up for Reaccreditation this academic year. The University administration believes that outcome assessment is the one area where UNM is vulnerable, especially since outcome assessment is the major focus of the accrediting agency. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez serves as co-chair of one of the committees (Special Emphasis Committee, "educating tomorrow's demographic today") preparing the University Self Study. The site visit will be April 6-8, 2009. The accreditation web site is <http://www.unm.edu/~accred/>.
- e. The Development Director search committee selected four finalists, and three have withdrawn. The committee is scheduling a day of interviews with the remaining candidate in early September. Faculty members will be invited to meet with the candidate.
- f. We have hired Lynne Arany as Managing Editor of the Natural Resources Journal and N.M. Law Review. She replaces Susan Tackman, and starts September 2.

IV. Report on Admissions – Barbara Bergman and Susan Mitchell

- a. Associate Dean Bergman and Assistant Dean Mitchell presented handouts with details about the current first year class.
- b. Associate Dean Bergman thanked last year's admissions committee (Professors Kip Bobroff and Laura Gómez, Assistant Dean Susan Mitchell, and 3L Chris Melendres).
- c. The two proceeded to alternate in providing additional description of the statistical and other information included in the handouts, as well as acknowledging difficulties UNMSOL continues to have in enrolling some excellent prospective students.
- d. Dean Romero briefly described the current main campus focus on increasing funding by increasing student population and credit hours, as well as his response in defense of UNMSOL continuing to maintain current class sizes.
- e. Questions and discussion followed.

- f. Dean Romero would like the committee and faculty to look at the processes throughout the year to see where improvements can be made. He thanked Associate Dean Bergman and Assistant Dean Mitchell, as well as the committee, for their work and report.

V. Faculty Hiring.

- a. Dean Romero introduced the topic of faculty hiring and reminded the faculty of the three-hire decision that was made during the May meeting. He announced that the Provost has only approved the hiring for two positions.
- b. Provost Ortega has indicated that President Schmidly is inclined to pull all faculty lines back and redistribute them to schools where enrollment increase is occurring. Provost Ortega wants to hold off doing that for three years to evaluate what's going on before collecting faculty lines.
- c. A search committee and chair have been appointed, but the hiring topic needs to be revisited by the faculty in order to determine what charge to give the committee. Dean Romero would like faculty input into this decision.
- d. Discussion ensued.
 - i. Questions regarding the process were raised and discussed.
 - ii. Clarifications were requested and some suggestions were offered.
 - iii. Various faculty members spoke to the needs they see in the immediate and near future.
 - iv. Professor Alfred Mathewson, chair of the Faculty Appointments committee, suggested including the development of a hiring plan projecting needs over the next three years as part of the charge to the committee. Dean Romero agreed.
- e. Motion
 - i. After various options were suggested and discussed, Professor Sherri Burr moved that the faculty vote by indicating one of the following three options:
 1. Hire two clinicians;
 2. Hire one clinician and one Indian law professor;
 3. Advertise broadly for two non-specified hires
 - ii. Associate Dean Barbara Bergman seconded the motion.
 - iii. Additional discussion ensued addressing the motion, during which Professor April Land suggested a fourth option as a friendly amendment: advertise for both Indian law and clinic and proceed with two hires after looking at the pool of applicants. This amendment to the motion was approved by both Professor Burr and Associate Dean Bergman.
- f. Votes
 - i. After additional discussion, the question whether to proceed with a vote today was called. With fourteen in favor and nine opposed, the faculty approved the motion to vote on a hiring decision.
 - ii. Another vote was taken where each faculty member, by show of hands, voted on his/her preference among the four options discussed. This vote narrowed the options favored down to:
 1. Hire one clinician and one Indian law professor;
 2. Advertise for both a clinician and an Indian law professor and proceed with two hires after looking at the pool of applicants.

- iii. Upon another vote, by show of hands, option two carried a majority of votes (13 – 12).

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to the Dean