

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW  
FACULTY MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 23, 2008**

The meeting was called to order at 3:14 p.m.

Attendance: Norman Bay, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Paul Biderman, Barbara Blumenfeld, Sherri Burr, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Laura Gómez, April Land, John LaVelle, Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, José Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Jenny Moore, Sergio Pareja, Carol Parker, Liz Rapaport, Leo Romero, Carol Suzuki.

Students: Debbie Stambaugh

Staff/Sr. Admin: Sandra Bauman, Bonnie Stepleton

I. Approval of Minutes from August 26, 2008 Meeting

- a. A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the August faculty meeting as distributed. Discussion was invited, but none ensued.
- b. A vote was called, and the minutes were unanimously approved with no corrections or additions.

II. Announcements

- a. The following announcements were distributed in print for faculty to read and comment upon:
  - i. You are cordially invited to a Breakfast in honor of our graduates before their Swearing-in Ceremony. The class of 2008 deserves our congratulations with a 94% first time bar passage rate. RSVP to Carmen Rawls by Wednesday, September 24.
  - ii. Special Faculty Meeting next Tuesday, September 30, 2008, to meet with Provost Ortega.
  - iii. April Land wants to remind everyone that they are invited to her home for an open house on September 28, 2008 from 4-7. For additional details please contact April.
  - iv. The law library has a space problem on the lower level. The problem even warranted mention in the AALS report that followed the accreditation visit. Compounding the problem is a decree from the State Fire Marshall that we remove all books from the top shelves on the lower level of the library as they are too close to the ceiling (a loss of about 15% of the space on that floor). The law library is working with the Provost's Office to get support for installation of additional compact shelving on the lower level. Perhaps we will succeed in getting a commitment for that within a year or two. In the meantime, we either have to discard items or we will have to store some material off site, where it will stay until compact shelving is installed. We do not wish to discard items at this time. After much discussion the librarians have determined that we should remove older journals from the upper floor and store them. We have access to PDF scanned images of their pages in HeinOnline. In the upper floor space vacated by the journals, we will place the current treatises which are presently kept on the lower level. We will end up with all current and actively updated print material, including primary law and treatises, on the upper floor. This arrangement will be very convenient for teaching legal research as well as for practitioners and judges. After more compact shelving can be installed on the lower level, we can bring back the older journals. Movers will begin removing journals in early November.

- v. Report from the Guanajuato Consortium Meeting: Sergio Pareja has been appointed as the director of the 2009 Guanajuato Summer Institute. Courses offered: Global Banking, Latin American Law, Overview of Mexican Law, NAFTA and Impact of Social, Political and Economic Issues on Mexican Law. Professor Laura Gomez will teach Latin American Law.
- b. Dean Romero highlighted items (i) and (ii).
- c. Professor John LaVelle made the additional announcement that Mitzi Vigil is returning to the Law School, having been hired as the Indian Law Program Administrator, beginning on October 1, 2008.

### III. Report on Development Director Search

- a. Dean Romero reported that he had offered the position to Krista Kelly on 9/23, who committed to responding by the following day (9/24).
- b. While she was the only candidate left in the pool, his decision was made on her being the right individual – based on discussions with the search committee and the foundation.
- c. Should she turn the position down, the search process will begin again. (She accepted and later turned down the position.)

### IV. Report on Orientation – Bonnie Stepleton

- a. Assistant Dean Stepleton utilized a distributed hand-out and a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the following points:
  - i. Student Feedback:
    - 1. General feedback was very favorable.
    - 2. Students were favorable to the idea of having a first session of each course, even if that means orientation would, of necessity, be a half-day longer.
    - 3. Students were not favorable towards the idea of an evening meeting (the night before the first day).
    - 4. Students were not favorable to the idea of a 4-day long session.
  - ii. Faculty Feedback:
    - 1. Faculty felt it very important that first year teachers meet with their students during orientation.
    - 2. There was no real consensus as to the best way to facilitate such a meeting.
- b. Assistant Dean Stepleton then asked everyone to form groups of three and discuss what they felt to be the three main goals for orientation.
  - i. Each group was asked to report their findings to the whole. She recorded all answers on a flip chart, and said she would be synthesizing all the ideas offered.
  - ii. Assistant Dean Stepleton would like to schedule a meeting later in the semester between 1L fall faculty and students in order to draft a plan, build consensus and finalize the 2009 orientation program by the beginning of spring semester.

### V. Faculty Search Report – Alfred Mathewson

- a. Professor Mathewson reported that a recruiting ad for the two faculty vacancies was submitted to main campus for approval.
- b. The committee is moving ahead with the search pending approval of the ad by searching the AALS database to come up with potential candidates. These individuals will receive letters encouraging application.
- c. The committee still plans to bring finalists to interview on campus shortly after the AALS recruitment conference in November.
- d. Discussion ensued

VI. Dean Search Report – Laura Gómez

- a. Associate Dean Gómez reported that the “search is moving along” in the following ways:
  - i. As indicated in the ad, the committee has begun reviewing applications received, and will continue to do so until a sufficient number of candidates are identified to bring to campus. These campus visits will hopefully occur early during spring semester.
  - ii. The committee is definitely in recruiting mode, so faculty were encouraged to continue to send nominations.
- b. Dean Gómez spoke briefly to the confidentiality of the process, specifically as confidentiality relates to the protection of the applicants.
- c. She forwarded Dean Claiborne’s thanks to the faculty for their efforts in the nomination process.
- d. Dean Romero reiterated that continued faculty involvement in the nomination process is essential to obtaining excellent candidates.
- e. Some questions and discussion followed.

A motion to adjourn the faculty meeting was made, seconded and approved unanimously upon a vote. The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m., and student attendees were asked to leave at this point.

VII. Order of the Coif

- a. Meeting called to order at 4:02 p.m.
- b. A motion was made, and seconded, to elect to the Order of the Coif eligible students based on grade point averages listed in the distributed hand-out.
- c. Discussion was invited, but none ensued. The vote was called, and the motion passed unanimously.
- d. Meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Bauman  
Administrative Assistant to the Dean