

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW
FACULTY MEETING**

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

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The meeting was called to order at 3:12 p.m.

Attendance: Megan Argo, Marsha Baum, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Barbara Blumenfeld, Camille Carey, Barbara Creel, Chris Fritz, Eileen Gauna, Erik Gerding, Steven Homer, April Land, John LaVelle, Nathalie Martin, José Martinez, David Myers, Mike Norwood, Sergio Pareja, Carol Suzuki, Kevin Washburn, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Students: Brian Close, Kate Gleeson

Staff/Sr. Admin: Sandra Bauman, John Feldman, William Jackson, Bonnie Stepleton

Guests: Jim Butler, Richard Spinello

I. Announcements

- a. Dean Washburn presented a summary of the February 2010 Bar exam pass rates.
- b. Dean Washburn presented an overview of the most recent US News Law School rankings.
- c. Dean Washburn introduced Jim Butler, who will be a visiting professor during fall semester 2010.
- d. Dean Washburn and David Myers gave an update on the 60 for 60 Project.
- e. Dean Washburn informed the faculty that summer research grants would soon be awarded, and provided some details.
- f. Dean Washburn asked faculty to notify him of their preferences in regard to committee service next year.

II. Student Affairs Committee Report – Chair Sergio Pareja

- a. Professor Pareja gave an overview and a history of the current transfer policy, specifically in reference to conferring Latin honors on graduates, and the background involved with student requests for a change to that policy.
- b. The committee recommends changing the policy, effective spring semester 2010, to allow transfer students to be eligible for Latin honors under certain stipulations, which Professor Pareja delineated.
- c. After presenting the pros and cons of the change, he invited faculty discussion, which ensued.
- d. The question to change the policy as the committee recommends, with one modification, was called, and passed with a majority in favor, and three abstentions.
- e. The new policy appears as Appendix I to these minutes.

III. Approval of March 23rd Faculty Meeting Minutes

After a motion and second was made to approve the minutes as presented, the majority of faculty voted in favor, with one abstention.

- IV. State Bar “Bridge the Gap” Mentorship Program – Dean Kevin Washburn and Richard Spinello (State Bar General Counsel)
 - a. Mr. Spinello introduced himself and provided his contact information.
 - b. He gave a brief overview of the program, and provided handouts including a model plan and the rule to be submitted to the Supreme Court for approval.
 - c. He requested and received questions and comments from the faculty.
 - d. Dean Washburn committed to responding to Mr. Spinello with the general consensus of the faculty on the program after the next faculty meeting in May. He thanked Mr. Spinello for his time and input.

- V. Curriculum Committee Report – Co-chair Steven Homer
 - a. Professor Homer presented the Committee’s proposal concerning an imposition of a minimum grade in required courses, including background and reasoning.
 - b. He referred to a printed hand-out, highlighting the recommended changes to the current policy, and potential implications.
 - c. Questions and comments ensued.
 - d. Upon the conclusion of the conversation, the Committee decided to rethink and reword the proposal, taking into consideration various points and concerns expressed by the faculty, and return the proposal for a faculty vote at the May meeting.

- VI. Honors and Awards Committee Report – Chair April Land
 - a. Students were excused at this point in the meeting.
 - b. Professor Land passed out a printed list detailing the Committee’s recommendations.
 - c. She explained the Committee’s reasoning, and noted that this year’s ceremony is being held at the Law School.
 - d. Professor Land also thanked the faculty for their generosity to date in funding the awards, including a new Indian Law Award, and noted she would be contacting those who had not yet contributed.
 - e. She asked that nominations for the Dean’s Awards be sent to both she and Dean Washburn.
 - f. The Committee’s recommendation is that the faculty review and approve the list as presented. Upon a vote, the slate was unanimously approved as written.
 - g. In conclusion, Professor Land asked that faculty members contact her with which awards each would like specifically to present.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Bauman
Administrative Assistant to the Dean

Appendix I

Conferring of Latin Honors for Transfer Students

All students who transfer to UNM School of Law after completing their first year at another law school shall be eligible to receive Latin honors (i.e., cum laude, magna cum laude, and summa cum laude) upon graduating from UNM School of Law, subject to the following conditions.

First, the student must have completed a minimum total of 60 units for letter grades at both law schools. For example, a student who completed 20 graded units at the 1L institution and 40 graded units at UNM School of Law would be eligible.

Second, all graded units shall be converted to a 4-point scale to determine if the student meets UNM's minimum GPA to receive such honors.

Third, no graded units from any institution other than UNM after the first year of law school shall count in determining if a student is eligible for Latin honors. For example, grades from summer study abroad programs run by schools other than UNM School of Law shall not count as graded courses. In addition, grades from semester or year-long programs at other law schools during a student's second or third year of law school shall not count as graded courses. This policy shall apply to all UNM School of Law graduates, including non-transfer students.

Fourth, to determine if a student is eligible for Latin honors at graduation, the student must achieve the minimum required average GPA for the particular level of Latin honors both (1) at UNM School of Law during the second and third year of law school (average GPA for those two years combined) and (2) when grades from the first year institution are combined with all grades earned at UNM School of Law. With respect to (2), this effectively means that grades at the 1L institution will be treated, for this limited purpose, as if they were earned at UNM School of Law.

This policy shall be effective beginning with students graduating in the Spring semester of 2010. Transfer students shall continue to be ineligible to receive an Order of the Coif designation upon graduation from UNM School of Law.