

**UNM SCHOOL OF LAW  
FACULTY MEETING**

**Tuesday, March 6, 2012**

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m.

Attendance

Faculty: Grace Allison, George Bach, Marsha Baum, Reed Benson, Barbara Bergman, Sherri Burr, Jim Butler, Camille Carey, Barbara Creel, Eileen Gauna, Pam Lambert, April Land, John LaVelle, Nathalie Martin, Max Minzner, Jenny Moore, Mike Norwood, Ted Occhialino, Carol Parker, Rob Schwartz, Dave Sidhu, Carol Suzuki, Kevin Washburn, Peter Winograd

Students: Julia Maccini, Brian Moore, Craig Williams

Staff: Sandra Bauman, Hannah Farrington, Stephanie Grant, William Jackson

I. Announcements

- a. Dean Kevin Washburn announced the closure of the Law School building due to construction workers hitting a water line, leaving the building without water. The meeting followed the planned agenda, at a very quick pace, in order to allow everyone to leave the building as soon as possible.
- b. Dean Washburn also announced Alex Ritchie's acceptance of the Law School's hiring offer.

II. Approval of February 7, 2012, Faculty Meeting Minutes

- a. After notification that Professor Jim Ellis' attendance at the meeting should be added, a motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes, with that modification, from the last faculty meeting.
- b. There was no further discussion and the motion received majority approval, with one abstention.

III. Honors and Awards Committee Update – Professor Sherri Burr

- a. Professor Burr apprised faculty of the committee's proposed schedule of dates regarding calling for nominations, deadlines and presenting the faculty the final award list for approval and vote. She also reminded everyone of the awards ceremony date.
- b. The same procedure will be followed as last year: nominations will only be requested for funded awards.

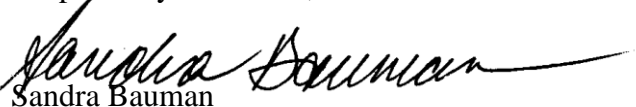
IV. Two-Year Curriculum – Associate Dean Barbara Bergman

- a. Associate Dean Bergman provided an update on the process thus far and thanked all those who have helped put the curriculum together.
- b. She handed out a draft copy of the proposed curriculum, stating her intent to have the first year as closed to finalized before the end of the week as possible, as well as her

- hopes to get the second year out as close on the heels of that as she can, to allow students to plan.
- c. Assoc. Dean Bergman asked the faculty to look over the document and let her know if there are any apparent problems.
- V. Facilities Update and Office Moves – Associate Dean Carol Parker
- a. Associated Dean Parker distributed information on the six offices that will be vacant by fall, and described her plan regarding seniority and office movement.
  - b. She discussed, with the aid of a projected presentation, the plans for the clinic remodel, and described the various happenings and strategies for building usage during the summer.
- VI. DC Semester Proposal – Associate Dean Barbara Bergman
- a. Associate Dean Bergman provided background for the proposal (previously circulated to faculty), as well as brief detail on the program. The hope is to try the program in Fall 2012 for a maximum of six students, based on the described criteria.
  - b. She asked faculty to provide her feedback to discuss with the alums in DC on her upcoming visit, in order to determine whether there is enough support to pursue the endeavor.
  - c. Discussion ensued, with general consensus being approval of the concept by the faculty.
- VII. Proposed Changes to Natural Resources and Environmental Law Certificate Requirements – Professor Reed Benson
- a. The proposal (Appendix I) was previously distributed via e-mail to faculty. Professor Benson presented a nutshell of the changes, which have been approved by both the Natural Resources and Curriculum Committees.
  - b. There was no discussion, and the proposal received unanimous approval by faculty vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Sandra Bauman  
Administrative Assistant to the Dean

## Appendix I

### MEMO

To: Faculty  
From: Reed Benson, on behalf of the Natural Resources Committee  
Re: Natural Resources & Environmental Law certificate requirements  
Date: February 2, 2012

The Natural Resources Committee proposes a small change in the requirements for earning the Natural Resources and Environmental Law Certificate for students beginning in the Class of 2013. The current requirements applicable to 2013 and later classes, as approved by the faculty last year, are:

21 credits that include:

- Mandatory Core Courses:
  - Either Administrative Law or Environmental Law.
  - Either Natural Resources Law or Water Law.
- Mandatory: A paper on a natural resources or environmental law topic, which fulfills the “seminar paper” portion of the law school’s writing requirement. The Natural Resources Committee will identify particular seminars for which any completed paper will be recognized for the certificate; a paper written for another seminar may qualify, but only with the approval of the Committee.
- Mandatory: satisfactory completion of at least two of the following:
  - An externship in the natural resources or environmental field.
  - Natural Resources Journal membership (six credits total).
  - A Committee-approved, non-law graduate level course on a natural resources/environmental topic.
  - Moot court related to natural resources/environmental issues.
  - Independent study in natural resources/environmental issues.
- Additional courses
  - See list of courses approved by the Natural Resources Committee. Introduction to Natural Resources and Environmental Law is an approved course, but not a mandatory core course. If the student can demonstrate to the committee that he/she has taken an equivalent law school class, these requirements may be waived.
  - With prior approval from the Natural Resources Committee, graduate-level courses from other UNM departments may satisfy as many as six (6) hours of the course requirements.

Thus, among other requirements, students must complete at least two of five items from a list of options that includes an externship, NRJ service, etc. We propose to add a sixth item to that “pick two” menu, as follows:

- A Committee-approved drafting course related to natural resources/environmental issues.

We make this proposal for two main reasons. First, we want to encourage students to take a related drafting course because we think they would gain skills and knowledge that are highly relevant to the field. Second, we believe adding a sixth item to the menu—while still allowing students to pick any two—would make it somewhat more feasible for students to fulfill this part of the certificate program, while retaining the educational value of the menu requirements.

The Curriculum Committee approved this proposal at its most recent meeting.