

**Faculty Meeting Minutes**  
**April 11, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Dean Sergio Pareja at 3:03 pm

Faculty: Ahranjani, Maryam, George Bach, Reed Benson, Kip Bobroff, Sherri Burr, Camille Carey, Scott England, Steven Homer, Scott Hughes, April Land, Ernesto Longa, Serge Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Jennifer Moore, Michael Norwood, Aliza Organick, Daniel Ortega, Mary Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Michelle Rigual, Alex Ritchie, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Sherri Thomas, Cliff Villa, Kevin Washburn, John Whitlow, Peter Winograd, Christine Zuni Cruz

Staff: Beverly Akin, Chad Covey, Hannah Farrington, Heather Harrigan

Students: Deian McBryde, Eric Orona, Alison Goodman, John Pierce

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Cliff Villa** – Security and Building Safety –provided a quick update on Building and Safety Committee activities thus far in AY16-17. Following the collection of input from faculty and the law school community in the prior academic year, the Building and Safety Committee has spent most of the current academic year carrying out a number of building enhancement projects that were selected and funded, in part, through a state appropriation in 2016 designated for the law school. These projects included installation of remote door locks by the front reception area, the construction of the security door leading to the Mountain Wing, and the purchase and installation of 16 security cameras now located throughout the law school building. The new Mountain Wing door is fully installed; however, an electronic door-opener is planned to provide ADA access and also allow remote opening and locking as needed. The security cameras are also likewise fully installed, but there will be a period of time necessary for testing the cameras and refining their operation, consistent with needs to protect confidentiality and address other concerns as may be identified by members of the law school community. Next on the agenda for the Building and Safety Committee will be assuring a smooth process for installing electronic door locks that will be operated by swipe cards to be distributed to the law school community, and the development and implementation of plans to improve “wayfinding” throughout the law school building, which may include renumbering of some rooms and offices and installation of signage to help EMS and other visitors better navigate our spaces.

**Christine Zuni Cruz** - Reminder that the faculty and staff and will be receiving emailed invitations from members of the climate task force to meet for about half an hour. Please take the time meet with them.

**Kyran Worrell** – If you have not placed your text book order, you need to do so as soon as possible. The deadline is fast approaching.

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from March 7, 2017. The motion passed unanimously.

**Eric Orona, New Mexico Law Review Presentation Regarding Website** – Dean Pareja first gave background on this on-line pilot project and reiterated that this was just a pilot project and that nothing had gone live yet. The presentation is to show what they have been doing before going live with the pilot project website.

Eric Orona - Informed the faculty that the pilot project is currently focused on the distribution of information directly in electronic format - podcast, twitter etc., creating a different environment for the dissemination of legal information. Mr. Orona introduced Alison Goodman, new Editor and Chief of the Law Review; John Pierce will be the new online editor.

The goal is to reach out to the community and practitioners and to talk about things that are happening in New Mexico. Faculty also will have an opportunity to present items that have not yet made it to publication. The process will still remain the same with respect to cite checking.

The online structure and technical requirements have been worked out, so now they are working on the creative aspects. This is where we are asking the faculty to help. As they go live, they ask that you let them know if you have items you are working on that might be suitable for the on-line format -- essays that are up to 500 words are ideal.

The website also will have a “Recent Decisions” section, which will look at New Mexico Supreme Court and New Mexico Court of Appeals decisions, summarizing them and putting them on the website with a continuous feed.

They also are trying out a “How You Got There” spot on the website. Professor Washburn has gracefully agreed to be the first guest. They believe that this is important to the community and students, and they will be reaching out to the faculty, the Deans, and people in the community to be part of the podcast.

Lastly, the Law Review now has a Twitter account. After the New Mexico Law Review published a special issue that analyzes contemporary legal issues related to the storyline of "Breaking Bad," it was picked up by various news outlets. The Wall Street Journal and Esquire Magazine were tweeting about it, and they realized that they missed out on quite bit of traffic.

They would like to thank the advancement team, and especially Jayson Capps, who worked with them on the project.

**Deian McBryde - Student Proposal Regarding Course Evaluations** – Mr. McBryde presented a proposal to change the current School of Law course evaluation process. Mr. McBryde asserted that under the current evaluation process, the School of Law was not giving an accurate representation of the course. Under the students’ proposed course evaluation process, students would fill out the “online” evaluation after final examinations, instead of prior to final exams. He advocated that by moving the course evaluation to after final examinations, the School of Law, the faculty, and students would have a “truer” representation of the course. Mr. McBryde proposed the

implementation of an on-line system in the fall, and he proposed an immediate “beta test” this semester in which students would turn in hard copies of evaluations, with some additional questions, right after final exams.

There was much discussion among the faculty regarding the proposed change of the course evaluation system and the possible effects this would have regarding tenure track, exams, and what the School of Law is actually trying to achieve from course evaluations.

#### **Professor Michelle Rigual - Library Lecturer Promotion Policy Discussion –**

Because two members of the law library faculty will be eligible for promotion to Senior Lecturer next year, Michelle Rigual and the library faculty are proposing a Library Lecturer Promotion Policy, which is nearly identical to the legal writing lecturer promotion policy approved earlier this year, with the exception that the criteria is specific to law librarians. Professor Rigual, stated that this was just simply an introduction of the policy and that no action was needed at this time.

**Deans Alfred Mathewson and Sergio Pareja - Law School Grading Policy –** This fall, the first candidates for the degree of Master of Studies in Law (MSL) will begin classes. Therefore, we felt it was necessary to address grading guidelines for MSL courses. Questions have been raised by faculty and potential applicants about the appropriateness of grading MSL students on the same scale as J.D. students, given that MSL students will not have completed the first year of law school but will be enrolled in the same classes as J.D. students. In addition, grades at graduate programs at UNM apart from law tend to use different benchmark for good standing, a 3.0 rather than 2.0, resulting in much higher grades than at the law school. Nothing needs to be decided today, but we should decide what to do with respect to MSL grades at the next faculty meeting. In addition, next year we would like to engage the faculty in a broader discussion about grading at the law school. There is wide disparity in grades among classes, and we need to think about how to deal with this. One effect of the disparity is that many students who would benefit ultimately from courses with more rigorous grading seek out classes that are perceived as high-grade classes, thereby avoiding classes that they should be taking.

**Associate Dean Aliza Organick, Chair of Experiential Learning Committee -Experiential Learning Committee Report -** Thanked the committee for all the hard work they put in looking at the law school curriculum as a whole. Associate Dean Organick walked the faculty through the Experiential Learning Commission Report and Recommendations. This opened a brief discussion among faculty. It was made clear that none of these recommendations were set in stone. They merely are a starting place so we can open up the topic of curricular changes for conversation. We anticipate that this discussion will continue at faculty meetings into next year.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**Honors & Awards Committee –** the Faculty went into Executive Session to discuss the upcoming Student Honors & Awards. The compiled list was presented from the Committee for review and discussion and, when voted on, passed unanimously as presented.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn was made and seconded and, when voted on, passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.