

Minutes of Faculty Meeting October 11, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Deans Alfred Mathewson and Sergio Pareja at 3:00 p.m.

Faculty: Grace Allison, Maryam Ahranjani, Marsha Baum, Reed Benson, Kip Bobroff, Sherri Burr, Camille Carey, Barbara Creel, Scott England, Marquita Harnett, Scott Hughes, Lucrecia Jaramillo, Joshua Kastenber, April Land, Jennifer Laws, Ernesto Longa, Natalie Martin, Serge Martinez, Alfred Mathewson, Aliza Organick, Daniel Ortega, Helen Padilla, Mary Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Gordon Rahn, Michelle Rigual, Alex Ritchie, Leo M. Romero, Alexandra Siek, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Sherri Thomas, Cliff Villa, Kevin Washburn, John Whitlow, Peter Winograd, Jeanette Wofley, Christine Zuni Cruz

Staff: Beverly Akin, Krista Allen, Beth Gillia, Stephanie Grant, Heather Harrigan, Cyndi Johnson, David Palozzi, Aja Oishi

Students: David Jenkins, Keri Rezac, Ben Osborn

1. **Announcements:** The Distinguished Achievement Awards Dinner will be Friday, October 21, 2016, with the Reception beginning at 6:00 pm and dinner and awards at 7:00 pm. The 2016 honorees are The Honorable Lorenzo Garcia, Joseph Goldberg, and Tim Sheehan. Faculty pay only \$65. Contact Melissa Lobato to sign up.
2. **Approval of Minutes from September 2016 Meeting:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. This was voted on and passed with one abstention.
3. **Update regarding Information Technology (IT) at the Law School – Deans Mathewson and Dean Pareja** - Main campus is pushing for the SOL IT department to report directly to main campus IT. The SOL has expressed opposition to a hasty implementation of this plan because of concerns for professional responsibility issues, such as client confidences and the attorney-client privilege, that are especially important to our clinical law program. As of right now main campus is slowing down with respect to the SOL; however, they are following through with rest of the university, with the exception of the medical school. Cindy commented they have taken over other departments such as Arts and Sciences and Anderson School of Management, just to name a few. An issue was brought up regarding the importance of being able to file court pleadings in a timely manner and the importance of having someone here and available when IT help is needed. We will keep you all updated as we learn more.
4. **Budget Update – Deans Mathewson and Pareja** – The 5% budget cut is happening. Most recently, a request was made for three additional tenure-track faculty hires, and main campus only approved two. In addition, main campus turned down our request to fill Cyndi Johnson's position when she retires. However the Provost has informed us that those salaries that we are no longer having to pay will count toward our overall budget cut. We also note that not all departments will be hit with the same amount of a cut. We are hopeful that, because they took away \$80,000 in scholarship money that had been promised to us and because we took the largest cut at the university last year, perhaps they will give us something less than a 5% cut this time around. Also be aware that the hit is likely to affect summer grants and professional development funds -- as well as the business law hire which was not approved. The Natural Resources and Child & Family Justice Clinic section hires were approved; however, we must find money to pay for them. With the loss of faculty members, it is hard to cover core courses.

5. **Report on Plans for Bar Task Force – Deans Mathewson and Pareja** - Leo Romero will be chairing the bar exam task force. The task force will be meeting regularly and focusing on long-term strategies to improve bar exam performance. The idea is that the task force will be making recommendations to the faculty. Mario Mainero’s presentation regarding what they do at Chapman was meant to give us some ideas as to what we can do to help our students. We also will be meeting with Erica Moeser and Justice Chavez to come to a better understanding of the situation and our options.
6. **Report on M.S.L. Program – Deans Mathewson and Pareja** – The M.S.L. program is anticipated to have a small number of students. The basic idea was that this new program would help the law school financially. The financial computations assumed that the SOL would keep the tuition differential and the base tuition. Without those two components it does not make financial sense to have this program. We heard back from main campus about us keeping the base tuition and were informed that we would only keep the differential. We are checking with main campus on this. When we discussed this with the Provost, he said that he was under the impression the SOL was keeping the base tuition. The Provost informed us that he would get back to us. However, if he comes back to us and states that we do not keep the “base tuition” then it makes no sense to keep this program.
7. **Report on Institutional Climate & Equity – Associate Dean Zuni Cruz** - We just about have the working group set and will start to work after fall break. The Deans and I have been looking at the AALS survey. We are looking at the results. There have been many things that have affected the SOL climate, and the work that the committee will do will be important. There is an equity piece that needs to be addressed. Key is that we need to move to more dialogue among the staff and faculty.

As the meeting moved into executive session, the library and legal writing faculty stood to leave. A point of order was raised by a faculty member stating that it violated the UNM Faculty Constitution for the assembly to request that any members of the voting faculty, including the law library faculty and legal writing faculty, leave the room before the assembly proceeded in executive session to vote on the action items on the meeting's agenda. The point of order was ruled out of order by the Chair, and Dean Pareja stated that legal writing and law library faculty were not being requested to leave and that they had the choice of staying or leaving. The faculty member appealed the Chair's ruling to the assembly but the appeal did not obtain a second.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Only tenure-stream law faculty attended the executive session. A motion was made to “affirm or extend the right of the current lecturers on the law faculty to participate in and vote at the voting summit in December.”

A point of order was raised by a faculty member stating that it violated the UNM Faculty Constitution for the assembly to proceed to vote on the motion after excluding some members of the voting faculty, namely, the law library faculty and the legal writing faculty, from the opportunity to vote on the motion. The point of order was ruled out of order by the Chair. The faculty member appealed the Chair's ruling to the assembly but the appeal did not obtain a second.

The motion to affirm or extend the right of the current lecturers on the law faculty to participate in and vote at the voting summit in December passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.