

Minutes for Faculty Meeting
March 19, 2019

Dean Sergio Pareja called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m., once a quorum was reached. The following people were present for at least some portion of the meeting:

Faculty: **George Bach**, Sherri Burr, **Camille Carey**, **Barbara Creel**, **Scott England**, Justin Goodman, **Marquita Harnett**, **Steven Homer**, Scott Hughes, **Lucrecia Jaramillo**, **April Land**, **John LaVelle**, **Jennifer Laws**, **Ernesto Longa**, **Nathalie Martin**, **Jennifer Moore**, **Aliza Organick**, Daniel Ortega, **Gabe Pacyniak**, **Mary Pareja**, **Sergio Pareja**, **Sonia Rankin**, **Michelle Rigual**, Leo Romero, Rob Schwartz, **Alexandra Siek**, **Laura Spitz**, **David Stout**, **Carol Suzuki**, **Sherri Thomas**, Peter Winograd (*17 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold*)

Staff: Krista Allen, Beverly Akin, Chad Covey, Hannah Farrington, David Pallozzi

Student: Jessica Arreola

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Professor Nathalie Martin noted that she recently sent out an email message regarding a blog that Professor Jenny Moore wrote and asked the faculty to send her any announcements relevant to faculty, including papers, presentations, etc.
- Dean Pareja noted that the 2020 U.S. News ranking came out recently and that our overall rank dropped three slots from 88 to 91. He also noted that our clinic ranking went down by one to 15. Dean Pareja gave an overview of how the “Specialty Rankings” are handled, which he explained is different than prior years. With specialty rankings, one person at each law school is designated as the person who gets to fill out the form for that specialty. In the past, the person would pick up to 15 schools that he or she thought were strong in that specialty. This year, that person ranks all law schools on a scale of 1 to 5 for that specialty. Utilizing this new approach, our Environmental Law program was ranked for the first time ever. It came in at 50th in the nation. Dean Pareja noted that, earlier in the day, he, Vice Dean Camille Carey, and Professor Michelle Rigual met with a representative from *U.S. News Academic Insights* and were given a demonstration of a computer program that allows you to see how your institution stacks up against other intuitions in all metrics that go into U.S. News rankings for each year. Dean Pareja is looking into purchasing the program and appointed a task force to review the data and suggest ways to improve our rank. Please email Dean Pareja directly if you are interested in serving on the task force.
- Dean Pareja announced that we will be hiring two visiting professors to teach legal writing next year. He has decided to experiment with using visiting positions, not limited to legal writing, as VAPs (Visiting Assistant Professorships). The idea is that these are entry level positions in which people with no teaching experience can try their hand at teaching. Ultimately, they could go for a permanent position at UNM or elsewhere. Dean Pareja explained that he and Vice Dean Carey reached out to affinity groups at top-ranked law schools, such as Harvard, Yale, and Stanford, to encourage 3Ls and recent graduates to apply. He also reached out to some of our top graduates from recent years. He is happy to

announce that our alum, Lysette Romero Cordova, will be visiting here in the fall along with Joseph Gallardo, a soon-to-be graduate of Harvard Law School.

ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from March 5, 2019 faculty meeting – Dean Sergio

Pareja: A motion was made and seconded to approve the draft minutes from March 5, 2019 meeting. The motion was voted on and passed with no nay votes and three abstentions.

Report on Law & Medicine Day -- UNM Regent and Professor Emeritus Rob Schwartz:

Regent Schwartz informed the faculty of a grant to fund Law & Medicine Day and ask for the faculty's involvement next year. Regent Schwartz gave an overview of Law & Medicine Day. It is designed to empower and recognize health disparities and ways of addressing legal and medical hurdles through interdisciplinary collaboration. Regent Schwartz stated that more information will be coming, and he will share it with the faculty.

Brief Report Institutional Climate & Equity – Associate Dean Sherri Thomas: Associate Dean Thomas gave an update and highlights of some conversations she has had with faculty, staff, and students. In the future Ms. Thomas stated that these reports would be more often than just once a semester. Associate Dean Thomas reported that there was a feeling of isolation among the 2Ls and 1Ls, stating that these two classes are more “sensitive” and had a feeling of isolation with a lack of communication and community. Staff feel that communication is not flowing in both directions and would like more training for those who are involved with students. There is also a feeling of a lack of communication and a feeling of being under appreciated, with the consensus that there is more work with fewer people to do it. The staff's one recommendation was to have staff development activities in the summer so they can work on their own professional development. At the faculty level, people generally have said that the sense of community has gotten better; however, there is room for improvement, and some faculty believe that we do not interact with our colleagues enough. Their recommendation moving forward is to have and create more opportunity for faculty members to come together.

ACTION ITEM: Vote on Proposed Changes to the Bulletin and Handbook of Policies (Student Handbook) – Professor George Bach, Chair of Academic Success Committee:

Professor Bach gave an overview of the proposed changes, which are attached as **Exhibit A**, and he opened the floor for discussion. After much discussion, a motion was made and seconded to accept the proposed changes. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM: Vote on Proposed Changes to Law School Voting Policy – Professor

Michelle Rigual: Professor Rigual provided background to the faculty regarding the UNM School of Law Voting Policy and the need to amend the policy to provide clarity for the University Secretary when he or she conducts dean retention and dean search votes by electronic ballot. Professor Rigual proposed that the faculty consider adopting the following voting policy with respect to dean search and retention votes:

“VI. Hiring and Retention of Deans

Faculty members with Voting Rights may vote on all matters regarding hiring and retention of the Dean.

Emeritus faculty who have taught a course, participated in a committee, or been otherwise actively engaged in faculty life at the law school within the past two years may vote on all matters regarding hiring and retention of the Dean.

Visiting faculty members, student representatives, professors of practice, members of the staff, research faculty, and institute directors may not vote on matters regarding hiring and retention of the Dean.”

After a lengthy discussion about the changes specifically related to the policy, a motion was made by Professor John LaVelle to adopt the following alternate policy:

“VI. Hiring and Retention of Deans

Faculty members with Voting Rights may vote on all matters regarding hiring and retention of the Dean. Emeritus faculty, visiting faculty, student representatives, professors of practice, members of the staff, research faculty, and institute directors may not vote on matters regarding hiring and retention of the Dean.”

Some faculty members expressed a strong sentiment that they want emeriti to know that their input is valued and that they are highly respected members of our community. A motion was made and seconded to table the vote until the next faculty meeting. A vote was taken: 20 for, 1 against, and no abstentions. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Exhibit A

BULLETIN AND HANDBOOK OF POLICIES 2018 - 2019

277-8900.

The School of Law cannot make a name change on a student's law school record until the change has been made with the main campus Office of the Registrar. Students shall notify the Law School Registrar's Office immediately of name changes.

Law School Academic Records

The School of Law Registrar issues both official and unofficial copies of School of Law academic records. These records show all Law School coursework, honors, and grade point averages.

The student's signature is required to authorize the release of his/her record. Academic record release forms are available in the Law School reception area and online on the Law School website. There is no charge for copies of a law school academic record.

Note: Students needing University transcripts, which show ALL work completed at UNM, should check the main campus Office of the Registrar's website: <http://registrar.unm.edu/transcripts/transcript-request-information.html> or unmreg@unm.edu or 505-277-8900.

Faxing and Emailing Academic Records

Although the School of Law will fax or e-mail academic records as a special request, the very nature of electronic transmission renders the document "unofficial". The student or alumnus may be asked to cover any costs incurred in the process.

Holds on Records

No academic records or grades will be released to the student or to any other person or institution until all outstanding obligations to the School of Law or the University of New Mexico have been paid; or until satisfactory arrangements have been made. These obligations include, but are not limited to, loans, library fines, duplicating fees, tuition and fees and other charges. Academic records may also be held for non-financial reasons such as, but not limited to, incomplete admission status.

Residency for Tuition Purposes

All students are classified according to their residency status for tuition purposes. Any student wishing to change from non-resident to resident classification must submit a residency petition to the University Registrar's Office, Student Services Center Room 140 before the end of the SECOND week of classes for a given semester.

Information on the requirements for establishing New Mexico residency is available online at the Law School web site at: <http://lawschool.unm.edu/admissions/financial-aid/residency.html> or at the main campus Office of the Registrar website at: <http://registrar.unm.edu/residency/index.html>, (505) 277-2125 or (505) 277-8900.

Registration

Academic Advisement and Support

Students at UNM School of Law are encouraged to work with faculty members as mentors and advisors. ~~Each first-year student shall be assigned a faculty advisor. First year students may look to their Practicum section instructors for guidance in matters relating to law school.~~ In addition, students are encouraged to confer with the attorney-counselors in the Career and Student Services office with respect to any

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Other sanctions may be imposed by the Dean as defined in the Professional Good Standing clause (page 3132) or by the SBA Honor Board, if the matter is referred to that governing body.

Use of Journal Case Notes

No student may fulfill a seminar, individual research, or class paper requirement by submitting materials substantially similar to materials prepared for the *Natural Resources Journal*, *New Mexico Law Review*, or the *Tribal Law Journal*.

Policy on Academic Retention, Suspension, and Readmission

Maintenance of Grade Point Average

1. To be in good academic standing with the law school, a student must maintain a cumulative grade point average of 2.00 or higher.
2. Any student whose cumulative law school grade point average is above 2.25 but below 2.50 must attend an academic advisement session with the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs or the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs designee(s) during the subsequent term's enrollment period to discuss future course selection.
3. Any student whose cumulative law school grade point average is between 2.00 and 2.25 shall be placed on Academic Warning.
4. Any student whose cumulative grade point average falls below 2.00 shall either be placed on probation or suspended.

Academic Warning

1. Any student whose cumulative law school grade point average is between 2.00 and 2.25 shall be placed on Academic Warning.

The Dean or the Dean's designee shall notify in writing any student of this status. The Dean's Warning Letter shall include a list of faculty members who are available to advise the student and encourage the student to seek out an advisor.

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2. A student placed on Academic Warning will be encouraged to seek out support from the Office of Career Strategies and Student Affairs and the Director of Academic Success in order to improve the student's academic standing. Additionally, a student placed on Academic Warning must attend an academic advisement session with the Director of Academic Success during the subsequent term's enrollment period to discuss future course selection.
3. If a student placed on Academic Warning is subsequently suspended, the Committee on Student Suspension, Retention, and Readmission shall consider the student's utilization of the services and support offered by the Office of Career Strategies and Student Affairs and the Director of Academic Success when reviewing a petition for relief from suspension.

Probation

1. Any student whose cumulative grade point average is between 1.67 and 1.99 after attempting 1-15 credit hours, the number of credits in the first semester of law school, shall be placed on probation without further action:

| <u>Credit Hours Attempted</u> | <u>Cumulative Grade Point Average</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 0 - 15 | 1.67 - 1.99 |

The Dean or the Dean's designee shall notify the student in writing that he or she has been placed on academic probation. The Dean's Warning Letter shall include a list of faculty members who are available to advise the student and encourage the student to seek out an advisor.

2. A student on probation:
 - a. Shall meet with the Director of Academic Success to develop a plan for academic success. The Director of Academic Success shall determine whether the plan is satisfactory, and the student must follow the plan. In addition, the Director of Academic Success must approve in writing the course schedule of each student on probation, and no changes may be made to that schedule without the written approval of the Director of Academic Success.
 - b. Shall not work during the semester or serve in any leadership role in a student organization, including as an officer or representative.

Suspension

1. A student shall be placed on suspension without further action if:
 - a. his or her grade point average for the first semester is below 1.67,
 - b. his or her grade point average falls below 2.00 in any semester after the first semester,
 - c. he or she withdraws from law school,
 - d. he or she is withdrawn by administrative action, or
 - e. he or she fails to return for a new semester while on probation.
2. The Dean or the Dean's designee shall notify in writing any student who has been suspended. Such notice shall specify the student's right to petition for relief from suspension and shall contain a copy of this policy.
3. A student on suspension may not enroll in classes for a subsequent semester, except that a suspended, full-time student who has enrolled in summer classes shall be permitted to remain enrolled in summer classes other than the Clinical Law Programs.
4. A student's academic status for the fall semester will be determined once spring semester grades are recorded, subject to reconsideration upon receipt of summer grades.
5. Any suspended student whose grade point average for the first semester is below 1.67, and who is considering petitioning for relief from suspension, must first consult with the Director of Academic Success. Any student who is later suspended is strongly encouraged to consult with the Director of Academic Success to develop a plan for academic success.

Submission of a Petition for Relief from Suspension

1. Any student placed on suspension must petition the Committee on Student Suspension, Retention, and Readmission (hereinafter "Committee") for relief from suspension in order to be granted probation.