

**Minutes for Faculty Meeting  
April 9, 2019**

*Dean Sergio Pareja called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m., once a quorum was reached. The following people were present for at least some portion of the meeting:*

**Faculty:** Maryam Ahranjani, George Bach, Camille Carey, Barbara Creel, Scott England, Justin Goodman, Marquita Harnett, Steven Homer, Scott Hughes, April Land, John LaVelle, Ernesto Longa, Nathalie Martin, Serge Martinez, Aliza Organick, Gabe Pacyniak, Mary Leto Pareja, Sergio Pareja, Sonia Gipson Rankin, Michelle Rigual, Leo Romero, Alexandra Siek, David Stout, Carol Suzuki, Jeanette Wolfley (*17 needed for quorum; names that count toward quorum in bold*)

**Staff:** Beverly Akin, Chad Covey, Hannah Farrington

**Students:** Erika Avila Stephanz, Jared Armijo, Jessica Arreola

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Dean Pareja welcomed Bonnie Stepleton, Manager of the Student & Career Services, back to the law school.

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from March 19, 2019 faculty meeting – Dean Sergio**

**Pareja:** The minutes of the March 19, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Professor Jennifer Laws noted that a reference in the minutes to her name was incorrect and that it more accurately should be a reference to Professor Jenny Moore. A motion to approve with the correction was made, seconded, and passed with one abstention.

**ACTION ITEM: Approval of Minutes from April 2, 2019 faculty meeting – Dean Sergio**

**Pareja:** The minutes of the April 2, 2019 meeting were presented for approval. Emeritus Professor Scott Hughes suggested some revisions to the minutes. A motion was made to table any discussion or vote on the April 2 minutes until the next faculty meeting. The motion was seconded, and it passed with one abstention.

**Grading at the Law School – Dean Sergio Pareja:** Dean Pareja indicated that, after examining grades in various courses, there seems to be wide disparities in the grades given in various classes. Professor Serge Martinez noted that there may be good reasons for the disparities and raised the question of whether the faculty were actually concerned about grade disparities among classes and wanted this looked into. Dean Pareja informally asked that faculty for a show of hands if they felt this was something worth looking into. There was some discussion, and an overwhelming showing of hands. Dean Pareja stated that he will charge the Curriculum Committee with looking into grading disparities next year and, if they believe that there is an issue, making recommendations regarding what to do about it to the faculty.

**1L Oral Arguments – Professor Steven Homer:** Professor Homer announced that 1Ls will be doing oral arguments and asked people to accommodate these students for missing class. Please contact Professor Homer directly to verify if a student is actually doing oral arguments.

**ACTION ITEM: Vote on Faculty Hiring Plan for Next Year – Dean Sergio Pareja:** Dean Pareja went over his proposed hiring plan for next year. In short, there are three slots to fill, two of which are carryovers from last year: 1. SILC, 2. Economic Justice Clinic, and 3. ELA. Dean Pareja indicated that the third position, which is Professor Lucrecia Jaramillo’s position, needs more discussion. Dean Pareja announced that a visitor would be covering Professor Jaramillo’s position next year, but that we will be hiring a permanent replacement. Dean Pareja stated that Professor Jaramillo’s departure potentially creates an opportunity for moving toward a more unified faculty by listing the position as a tenure-track position. Dean Pareja proposed that he ask Interim Provost Wood to list the position as “one or more tenure-track positions” in the area of legal writing. If Provost Wood approves it, which is a bit up in the air now with an incoming new Provost starting on July 1, then it could create a path for converting some of our ELA lecturer positions to tenure-track positions. The idea is that current ELA lecturers could apply for the position. If they don’t get it, they keep their current positions. Offers to them, if any, could be made subject to their agreement to terminate their current lecturer positions. Dean Pareja asked the faculty for authorization to formally ask the Provost, as part of the law school’s hiring proposal, to do this. Dean Pareja then opened the floor for discussion. A motion was made and seconded to do this. It passed with 27 votes in favor, none against, and 3 abstentions.

A motion then was made and seconded to have our second hiring request be for somebody to teach in SILC. It passed with no no votes and one abstention.

A motion was made and seconded to have our third hiring request be for somebody to teach in the Economic Justice Clinic. There was some discussion about whether we should go for a “best athlete” approach and seek to hire somebody to teach in any of the clinic sections. There was significant opposition to that approach. The vote went forward on the original motion to seek to hire somebody to teach in the Economic Justice Clinic. It passed with no no votes and one abstention.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

**ACTION ITEM: Vote on student honors and awards – Professor Lucrecia Jaramillo, Chair of Honors & Awards Committee:** Professor Jaramillo presented to the faculty the committee’s recommended roster of graduating students to win awards. Discussion ensued. Clarifications were asked for and offered, and there were minor changes to the list of students. The committee moved for the faculty to adopt the roster, as amended. The motion was voted on and passed unanimously.

*A motion to adjourn was made and seconded, voted on, passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.*