

UNM School of Law
Faculty Meeting
March 29, 1976
Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Blackwell, Desiderio, Ellis, Fink, Goldberg,
Jones, Kovnat, MacPherson, Martinez, Minzner,
Muir, Norwood, Occhialino, Parnall, Ragsdale,
Reynoso, Romero, Simson, Teitelbaum, Utton,
Walden, Walker, Weihofen; Student Representa-
tives Hollander, Laurence

Meeting was called to order by Associate Dean Desiderio.

Pursuant to suggestions contained in attached letter from Dean Hart, a delegation composed of the following faculty members was directed to visit the University President and/or Academic Vice President in order to express the distress of the faculty upon the Dean's leaving and to discuss the reasons therefor: Desiderio, Goldberg, Reynoso, Simson, Utton, Walden, and Weihofen. Accompanying them will be S.B.A. President Marsha Head.

A motion carried to request Associate Dean Desiderio to express to Dean Hart the distress of the faculty and to ask him to reconsider leaving. It is their feeling that always, but especially in hard times, he is needed at the law school.

Goldberg asked for faculty members to be judges at the Intra-Mural Orals scheduled soon.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

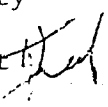


Louise R. Camp
Sec'y

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

DATE: March 29, 1976

TO: Law School Faculty

FROM: Frederick M. Hart 

SUBJECT:

On Thursday I had a discussion with Vice President Chester Travelstead about funding of the law school for next year. This was the second meeting that we had and he was reporting to me the results of the discussion among the President, the Vice President for Financial Affairs and himself concerning requests I had made for funding for next year. The decisions reached were most discouraging.

Without going into details, I have concluded that it will be very difficult for the law school to make any progress during the coming year. As you might guess, I am quite disappointed. In a couple of weeks I will be able to report more accurately the exact implications of our budget for next year but for the present, it is important only that I indicate to you that I have reached a firm decision that I will not continue as dean.

I believe it has been apparent to all of you that I have thoroughly enjoyed the past five years. In many ways I see the next few years as being even more challenging for the law school and because of that and my general propensity for acquiring power, I was strongly leaning toward deciding that I would continue if you wanted me. At the same time, I think you will realize that I have missed many of the joys that go with being "just a plain old faculty member" and I look forward with enthusiasm to working with you as a colleague.

Because of my decision I hope that you will re-focus today's meeting. Obviously, there is no longer any need to evaluate what I have done. Rather, it is important to decide upon an orderly procedure for selecting my successor. It will be necessary to involve the central administration in this procedure but I think that it would be helpful to them if you developed some suggested guidelines. Perhaps it would be helpful if you talked with Vice President Travelstead.

I would hope that I could step down on July 1 as I believe it would be undesirable to have a "lame duck" in the office. This may mean that there is a need for an acting or interim dean and I would hope that you would think about this if you envision the procedure for selecting a new permanent dean to be a long one. It would be far better, of course, if my permanent successor could be found by July 1.

I leave for another occasion my expression of appreciation for all of the support that you have given me during the past five years.