

UNM School of Law  
Faculty Meeting  
November 21, 1977, 4:00 p.m.  
Conference Room

MINUTES

Present: Desiderio, DuMars, J. Ellis, W. Ellis, Goldberg, Hart, Hermann, Kovnat, MacPherson, Martinez, Minzner, Muir, Norwood, Occhialino, Senescu, Schwartz, Simson, Stelzner, Winograd; Student Representatives Fenoglio, Le Claire, Perelson; Visitor Rawls

The meeting was called to order by Dean Hart.

1. Dr. Shirley N. Rawls led the discussion of New Mexico Humanities Council project to encourage Humanities faculty to write newspaper articles. See attached announcement.
2. Dean Winograd made announcements concerning registration. Faculty members will initial or sign individual students' registration form before actual registration.
3. Dean Hart announced available deanships.
4. Dean Hart led discussion of the next AALS meeting.
5. Faculty members were asked to complete a form for furniture to be bought.
6. Dean Hart announced that the Faculty Senate has approved the joint (dual) J.D. and graduate professional degrees.
7. On December 16, there will be a Christmas luncheon for faculty and staff.
8. Dean Hart announced that Ms. Zane Taichert is being hired to work with 15 students, more or less, to improve their writing skills.
9. The petition for readmission from Henry Chavez was voted upon; petition denied.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise R. Camp  
Sec'y



# ANNOUNCING

## The Solicitation of Humanities Articles for Newspaper Publication in New Mexico

The Committee for the Humanities and Public Issues welcomes articles from professional humanities scholars and social scientists in New Mexico. The committee's objective is to place the articles in newspapers to reach the general public. Authors will receive an honorarium for their time, efforts, and expertise.

**SUBJECT MATTER:** The articles should pertain to a local, regional, state, or national contemporary public issue. A contemporary public issue is an issue which the public deals with as a public.

The purpose of the articles is not to present a humanities discipline per se, but to relate the knowledge or insights of that discipline to a better understanding of the issue or problem. The authors should view the issue through the perspective of their academic discipline. Articles should *not* deal with personal or private concerns; they *should* focus on contemporary public issue *understanding*, avoiding one-sided advocacy, calls to specific action, and attempts to solve problems.

**LENGTH:** Articles should be about 1,000 to 2,500 words.

**WRITING STYLE:** Articles should be stimulating, understandable, and devoid of professional jargon. *Authors are writing for the general public*, not for their colleagues or students. Authors should begin with the issue and conclude with the implications of the points they have made.

**EDITING:** The committee may approve articles subject to revisions made by the authors. Newspapers may make suggestions on revisions, but all changes must be approved by the authors.

**REVIEW COMMITTEE:** The committee is composed of professional humanities scholars and social scientists from nine colleges and universities in New Mexico. Five members will review any single article. Members of the committee are not eligible to submit articles.

**SUBMISSION PROCEDURE:** Submit ten copies of the article to the New Mexico Humanities Council (NMHC) office in Albuquerque. If the committee approves the article by a majority vote it will be sent to the daily and weekly newspapers in New Mexico selected by the NMHC.

**HONORARIA:** If an article approved by the committee is published by one or more of the newspapers on the NMHC list, the author will receive a \$300 honorarium.

**ANONYMITY OF AUTHORS TO REVIEWERS:** Authors should identify themselves in a cover letter only. *Their names and institutions should not appear on the manuscripts submitted.* No reviewer will be from the same academic institution as the author. Newspapers will print the name of the author, his or her academic institution, and discipline.

**DECISIONS OF REVIEW COMMITTEE:** Four of the five members of the committee who review any single article must approve it before it is sent to the newspapers. The comments of the individual reviewers will be made known to the authors.

**DECISIONS OF NEWSPAPERS:** If an article is approved by the committee *and* printed by one or more of the newspapers on the NMHC list, the author will receive an honorarium.

**PROFESSIONAL HUMANITIES SCHOLARS:** Professional humanities scholars devote their *professional lives* to the study of history, literature, philosophy, ethics, comparative religion, languages, linguistics, jurisprudence, archeology, history and criticism of the arts, and those aspects of the social sciences which involve humanistic content and methodology. The humanities comprise the family of knowledge that deals with what it has been—and is—to be human, to make value judgments, and to select the wiser course of action. This is achieved primarily through the examination of the human experience and its implications for the present and future.

Professional humanities scholars can contribute to an *understanding* of public issues by providing perspective, a sense of proportion, of what is possible, difficult, and impossible; they can impart a sense of history, of the timelessness of many human problems which must be confronted by each generation; humanists can help develop a framework within which we can view ourselves and our social problems; they can assist in distinguishing questions of value and questions of fact, stressing the need for deliberate value decisions and recognizing that few if any important problems are purely technical; humanists can try to make sure that certain fundamental questions get asked, and while they have no guaranteed answers they can help see to it that basic questions are openly raised and discussed; they can help in understanding the meaning of the basic notions and key words and concepts in our society (freedom, justice, progress, decency, etc.); and they can aid us in establishing a sense of alternatives in viewing and dealing with problems.

The terms "humanities" and "humanist" do not imply a quasi-religious approach to the conditions of human existence. They do not imply a vaguely benevolent "humanitarian" approach to the solution of human problems. "Humanities" are the branches of learning concerned with human thought and relations, as distinguished from the sciences." A professional humanities scholar is one whose major profession is in one of the academic fields of the humanities (history, literature, philosophy, et. al.).

"The humanities become stagnant, academic, and pedantic when they are removed entirely from the concerns and realities of modern life; modern life becomes that much more haphazard when it is removed from the sense of past endeavors, present values, and future goals."

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