

UNM School of Law
Faculty Meeting
March 3, 1980
Conference Room
4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Present: Desiderio, DuMars, J. Ellis, W. Ellis, Fink,
Goldberg, Gonzales, Hart, Hermann, Norwood,
Occhialino, Romero, Schwartz, Simson, Stelzner,
Teitelbaum, Utton, Weihofen; Student Representa-
tives Carabajal, Otten, Valdez; Camp

Dean Desiderio called the meeting to order; minutes of the meeting of February 18, 1980, were approved.

Teitelbaum and Stelzner agreed to represent the law school on the Faculty Senate. Dean Desiderio asked for volunteers to represent the law school at the University commencement exercises. As to the law school commencement program, Justice Sosa has agreed to be the speaker.

The Dean announced that Wayne State University Law School and the University of Illinois College of Law are looking for deans and that the Journal of College and University Law is seeking both an editor and an institutional home.

He also announced his intention to visit briefly with faculty members to discuss budget and other matters.

As a possible consequence of a petition signed by some law faculty members protesting announcement of a general meeting by the Coronado Credit Union after the meeting had been held, another meeting was called for 5:15 p.m. today. Goldberg announced his intention to attend and invited other members to do so.

Then the faculty tackled the main order of business: The Proposed Resolution to Expand Part-Time Legal Education Opportunities at UNM Law School. Further discussion was tabled until the next meeting. *Part-Time*

Stelzner invited suggestions and volunteers with regard to involvement of the law school faculty in improvements in the state's corrections policies.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Louise R. Camp
Louise R. Camp
Sec'y

Next meeting: March 24, 1980

PROPOSED FACULTY RESOLUTION TO EXPAND
PART-TIME LEGAL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES AT UNM LAW SCHOOL

A. INTRODUCTION

The Law School presently requires that all first year students be full-time students and that after the first year a student take a minimum of twelve hours a semester. A number of exceptions to this rule exist, some formal, such as final semester students who need less than twelve hours to complete their degree requirements, some semi-formal, such as students with emergency situations who register for less than twelve hours of credit with the permission of the Dean or the Associate Dean, and some totally ad hoc and unapproved. A need for formalizing exceptions to the rule is presented by the current state of affairs. A recent survey by Ms. Camp reveals that over the past few years an extraordinary number of students have taken fewer than the required number of credit hours per semester. Although most of these students have either needed less than twenty-four hours in their third year or less than twelve hours in their last semester to graduate, a sizable number do not fit this category. It is disturbing that many of the remaining group are students who have registered for more than 12 credits a semester and later dropped below the minimum without permission.

The need for more formal exceptions is also supported by evidence of an impressionistic sort that some students currently enrolled in a full-time program would benefit from an expanded part-time legal education opportunity. Additionally, it is possible that some persons are deterred from applying to U.N.M. because of the lack of any formal part-time legal education opportunity, and that at least some of those so deterred would be students we would like to attract and to accommodate.

The A.B.A. rules require that a full-time student take a minimum of ten hours a semester and receive credit for at least nine hours. The A.A.L.S. rules are essentially the same. For part-time students, the A.B.A. rules require eight credit hours and the A.A.L.S. rules require six credit hours.

Although A.B.A. and A.A.L.S. rules require that major changes in operation be reported, and in some cases that such changes receive prior approval, the changes which would be made by the proposed resolution do not seem to be such major changes in operation as the rules contemplate.

B. PROPOSED RESOLUTION

All first year students must be full-time students. After the first year every student must take a minimum of twelve hours a semester except that students who meet the following criteria may be permitted to register for as few as eight hours:

(1) Students who need fewer than twenty-four hours to graduate in the regular three year program may take less than twelve hours in either the first or second semester of their third, year, or both, on the condition that the student's program satisfies residence requirements. Ordinarily, such students will be students who have received credit for courses taken during the summer or intersession.

(2) (a) Students who are in the process of completing their first year may petition the Part Time Legal Education Committee for permission to complete the balance of their law school program in as many as four additional academic years. A few students, selected by this Committee, will be permitted to elect such a program. Their number is not to exceed twelve per year without the consent of the full faculty. The Committee will select those students who will benefit from part-time attendance and whose participation will not jeopardize the Law School's commitment, generally, to a full-time law school program. Illustrative situations which might merit participation in a part-time program include:

- (i) Students whose financial situation requires that they work while pursuing a legal education;
- (ii) Students whose family responsibilities make it difficult for them to pursue a full time legal education;
- (iii) Students who for continuing medical reasons must take a longer period to complete the law school program;
- (iv) Students who have a job opportunity or commitment which justifies extension of the normal three year program;
- (v) Students whose educational experience would be substantially enriched by an extended law school program.

(2) (b) Prior to commencing their third year, students who are in the process of completing their second year of legal education may petition to complete their academic program in more than one year. Procedures and criteria established in (2) (a) shall be applicable to these petitions. No more than twelve part-time third year students shall be approved without the consent of the full faculty.

(2) (c) In unusual situations and for compelling reasons, the Committee may consider a request for part-time legal education in advance of the enrollment of the student at the law school, but in no event may the Committee dispense with the requirement that all first year students be full-time.

(3) Appeals from adverse decisions of the Committee may be made to the full faculty.

(4) Nothing in this rule shall restrict the discretion of the Dean or Assistant Dean to authorize less than a full credit load in student emergencies or to authorize a leave of absence from the Law School for one semester or one academic year.

(5) No student may take more than five academic years from the time of matriculation to complete all requirements for graduation without the prior written consent of the Dean. Consent shall be given only for compelling reasons.