

**The University of New Mexico**

School of Law  
Office of the Dean  
1117 Stanford NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1431  
(505) 277-4700

**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: LAW FACULTY  
FROM: LEO M. ROMERO, DEAN *LMR*  
DATE: October 9, 1992  
SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING AGENDA

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Faculty Meeting  
October 12, 1992  
Dean's Conference Room  
4:00 p.m.

- ✓ 1. Approval of Minutes of September 28, 1992
- ✓ 2. Dean's Report
- ✓ 3. Proposal to Shorten Period for Adding Courses from 4 to 2 Weeks - Peter Winograd
- ✓ 4. Discussion on Grading - Ruth Kovnat
- ✓ 5. Report on Law Library Acoustic Solution - Chris Fritz, Ted Occhialino, & Lorraine Lester

October 12, 1992

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Faculty Meeting Minutes  
School of Law  
Dean's Conference Room, 4:00 PM

PRESENT: Bergman, Browde, Burr, Clark, Desiderio, DuMars, Ellis, J., Ellis, W., Fort, Fritz, Gill, Hall, Hart, Jenkins-Smith, Kovnat, Lester, MacPherson, Occhialino, Parnall, Romero, Sanders, Scales, and Winograd.

Student Representatives: Benavidez, Gonzales, Kingen, and Leavengood.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Leo Romero.

Dean Romero formally welcomed the newly-elected student representatives. The first-year class will be represented by Joe Leavengood, the second-year class by Karen Kingen, and the third-year class by Tomas Benavidez.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the September 28, 1992 faculty meeting were approved.

#### **Dean's Report:**

- The Dean was pleased to announce that a \$5,000 contract from the New Mexico State Supreme Court has been received by Professor Michele Hermann to establish a statewide program in alternate methods of dispute resolution.
- The faculty joined Dean Romero in offering congratulations to Research Professor Franklin Gill for the success of the first U.S.-Mexico Trade Law Institute Conference held in Santa Fe in early October. Over 100 attendees (including 28 Mexican lawyers) participated. The conference proceedings will be published in the symposium issue of the *New Mexico Law Review* in March, 1993.
- Various visiting faculty positions and deanships are currently available around the country. The folder with announcements, the AALS Placement Bulletin and other information is available from Trish Bianchi.
- The Tenth Circuit Court has scheduled oral arguments for Wednesday, November 18, 1992 beginning at 8:30 AM in the Moot Court Room. The Court will hear six cases, including two with civil procedure issues and several with criminal law issues. Dean Romero has received copies of the briefs and will be placing them on Reserve in the Law Library for the use of faculty and students.

#### **Proposal to Shorten Period for Adding Courses from Four to Two Weeks:**

Associate Dean Winograd presented a proposal which would shorten the period from four to two weeks in which a student may add a law course to his/her schedule without the instructor's permission. This proposal would have no effect on the existing drop period of eight weeks and instructors would still have the option to allow a student to add a course after the two-week period with permission. The proposed policy change was

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recommended to become effective with Spring Semester 1993. This proposal being duly seconded, the question was called and the recommendation was approved.

**Student Activities for Halloween and Thanksgiving:**

Cherie Gonzales, President of the Student Bar Association, was recognized by Dean Romero and distributed a memorandum to the faculty regarding student activities planned for the Halloween and Thanksgiving holidays. The SBA is planning a costume party for all faculty, staff and students on Friday, October 30, 1992 at the Albuquerque Press Club. In addition, a children's costume contest and trick-or-treating around the offices in the Law School is proposed. The SBA asked that members of the faculty indicate their willingness to participate by returning the form found on the bottom portion of the memo to Ethel Ortenburger by Friday, October 16th. The SBA is also soliciting input regarding a proposal for a canned food drive at Thanksgiving. The "canned immunity" concept, if approved, would exempt students displaying cans of food from being called on in the participating professor's classes on November 18-19, 1992.

**Discussion of Grading Policies:**

Associate Dean Ruth Kovnat distributed additional copies of information packets containing current Law School policies and five years of grading studies. The intended goal of this discussion was to review current practices and decide if there are issues or topics which warrant further exploration through faculty committee action. Associate Dean Kovnat suggested the following topics for consideration: 1)What is meant by the current grades and grading system? 2)Is the traditional model of grading, whereby a single final exam is given at the end of the semester, the most appropriate way to evaluate student learning? 3)Should the School's current grading policies be retained? 4)Should any policies be changed?

Extensive faculty discussion included the following areas: the importance of first-semester and first-year grades and ranks in evaluating and motivating student performance; the use of ranking and grade information by prospective employers; changing the existing ranking system; the use of practice exams and modes of providing feedback to students; sharing interpretations of the meaning of specific grades (e.g., what does a 'C' mean); providing examination performance feedback in addition to the grade assigned to the exam; providing institutional letters of recommendation; and assigning a small number of students from each year's entering class to each faculty member for ongoing advisement and mentoring. It was proposed that the Dean refer two issues to faculty committees which would include student representation to ensure adequate student input. These two issues are:

1)Consideration of assigning a small number of students from each year's entering class to each faculty member for ongoing advisement and evaluation, and 2) Exploration of alternatives to first-semester grades and rankings for evaluating and motivating student performance. Dean Romero will send these topics to committee.

**Report on Law Library Acoustics:**

Professor Chris Fritz, Chair of the Library Committee, presented the background of the noise problem in the entrance and mezzanine areas of the Law Library and the history of the Committee's attempts to solve this problem. Acting Law Library Director, Lorraine Lester, then proposed a solution which involves the construction of a glass sound barrier. A two-dimensional representation of the proposed structure was distributed. At least \$42,000 will be required to implement this proposal. \$40,000 remains of the original \$140,000


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legislative appropriation received for Law Library improvements and it was hoped additional funds could be identified to accomplish this goal. The Committee recommended that the faculty adopt this proposal and requested approval so that construction could begin during the Christmas 1992 break. No objections to this proposal were voiced by members of the faculty.

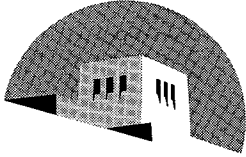
**Extension of Student Incomplete:**

Professor Michael Browde presented a petition on behalf of third-year student Jeffrey Smith to extend his Incomplete deadline for Spring Semester 1992 from October 15th to October 29, 1992. After proper motion and second, the petition was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.



**E.A. Jenkins-Smith**  
Faculty Secretary



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**M E M O R A N D U M**

TO: FACULTY  
FROM: LEO M. ROMERO, DEAN *LMR / JB*  
DATE: OCTOBER 23, 1992  
SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING

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THE FACULTY MEETING SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 26 HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO ATTEND THE FACULTY LUNCH MONDAY, 10/26 AT 12:20 IN THE FACULTY LOUNGE.