

**The University of New Mexico**

School of Law  
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**M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** LAW FACULTY

**FROM:** LEO M. ROMERO, DEAN *Lmk/JSB*

**DATE:** November 5, 1992

**SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING AGENDA**

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**Faculty Meeting  
November 9, 1992  
Dean's Conference Room  
4:00 p.m.**

- ✓ 1. Approval of Minutes of October 12, 1992
- ✓ 2. Dean's Report
- ✓ 3. Report on Law Library Director Search - Al Utton or  
Chris Fritz
- ✓ 4. Report on Academic Advisement - Student Affairs Committee
- ✓ 5. Continuation of Grading

November 9, 1992

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

PRESENT: Browde, Burr, Clark, Cook, Desiderio, Ellis, W., Flickinger, Fort, Fritz, Gill, Hall, Hart, Jenkins-Smith, Kovnat, Lester, Occhialino, Parnall, Price, Romero, Scheible, Sedillo Lopez, Taylor, Utton, and Winograd.

Student Representatives: Benavidez, Kingen, and Leavengood.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Leo Romero.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the October 12, 1992 faculty meeting were approved.

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

- Professor F. Chris Garcia has been named as the University's Interim Provost beginning January 1, 1993. Professor Garcia previously served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. President Peck has formed a search committee, which includes Dean Romero, to find a permanent replacement for departing Provost Paul Risser.
- Spring Semester 1993 sabbatical requests have been approved for Professors Bill Ellis and Rob Schwartz. The faculty congratulated these professors. In addition, Dean Romero reported that Professor Schwartz will be pursuing his Fulbright research in Granada, Spain this spring. In an electronic mail message sent from Tasmania, Professor Schwartz also discussed establishing a formal exchange program between the University of Tasmania and the University of New Mexico for both law students and faculty.
- Dean Romero received a thank-you memo for recent Halloween activities from second-year student Ron Bratton. The Dean shared the students' appreciation of faculty participation in the trick-or-treat event for children of students, faculty, and staff. Third-year student representative, Tomas Benavidez, also passed on the Student Bar Association's thanks for making this a successful event.
- The School has received information about the American Judges Association annual law school essay competition. Dean Romero asked that faculty members advise their students of this competition and keep it in mind when they receive good student papers. It was suggested that those students winning thesis honors be advised to consider entering this competition and Dean Romero agreed to pass the particulars on to the Honors and Awards Committee. Additional information is available at Trish Bianchi's desk.
- Dean Romero has been informed that the AALS has cancelled annual meeting room reservations at the Park 55 Hotel in San Francisco due to an ongoing labor dispute. This decision does not affect reservations made for sleeping accommodations by individuals planning on attending the January 1993 meetings.
- The University of British Columbia at Vancouver is soliciting interested law students and faculty scholars for its graduate program at the International Center for Criminal Law

**November 9, 1992**

Reform and Criminal Justice Policy. Additional information is available at Trish Bianchi's desk.

- The Law and Economics Center at the George Mason University School of Law plans to hold its 24th Economics Institute for law professors from July 11 - 24, 1993 at Dartmouth College. Interested faculty members may get additional information from Trish Bianchi.

- The journal, *Mosaic*, is inviting submission of articles for its special edition on literature and the law.

- 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.

### **Report on Law Library Director Search:**

Professor Al Utton, Chair of the Search Committee, reported on the status of the search for the new Law Library Director. The Committee has pursued an aggressive campaign to identify interested and qualified candidates through advertising and contacts with every law library director in the country. Currently 19 applications have been received. The Committee plans to have files available for review beginning on November 16th. Based on comments received, a short list of four to six candidates will be developed and presented to the Dean. It is hoped that interviews with finalists will be scheduled for February and early March 1993. A short discussion on confidentiality issues ensued and faculty members were reminded that all applicant files are to be treated as confidential at this stage of the hiring process.

### **Report on Academic Advisement:**

Professor Scott Taylor, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, discussed the makeup of this Committee, the history and background of the Dean's charge to the Committee, and the previously circulated memo containing the Committee's proposed changes to the School's academic advisement system. The consensus of the Committee is that the current system of student advisement is not adequate and something more substantial is needed. The draft proposal calls for some sort of assignment system whereby each student would have a formal faculty advisor and each faculty member would have six to eight advisees. In addition, there would be one week each Spring Semester designated as an advisement week for all first- and second-year students to have access to their faculty advisors. The Committee supports ongoing informal advisement and stressed that a formal advisement system is not intended to be construed as requiring faculty permission or approval of a student's program. The Committee is currently working out the details of this proposal and requested faculty input in developing a final policy statement. Faculty discussion included the following topics: possible advisor assignment systems versus individual student choice, the desirability of maintaining the same faculty advisor throughout a student's law school career, the impact on student course registration procedures, allowing students to opt out of advisement, increased time commitments required from faculty advisors, the preferred timing of advisement over the course of an academic year, and parenting versus mentoring concerns.

November 9, 1992

**Discussion of Grading Policies:**

Associate Dean Ruth Kovnat recapped the issues generated from the previous faculty discussion of grading which were sent by the Dean to committees. These issues were: 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. She also suggested the faculty consider further discussion of two topics: alternative evaluation systems other than a single final exam and whether courses taught by adjunct faculty should be graded on a "CR/C-/D+/D-/F" basis. After discussion of the current alternative grading practices used by various faculty members the Dean agreed to schedule a faculty lunch in the Spring Semester to facilitate further exploration of this issue.


**Other Business:**

- Professor Ted Parnall announced the members of this year's International Moot Court (Jessup) Team. The faculty offered congratulations to Jane Birge, Suzanne Judge, Kristin Moody, Shannon Oliver, and Atrelle Sena for their selection.
- Professor Chris Fritz reminded members of the faculty to continue circulating the request from the Library Committee to identify gaps in the Law Library collection. This information will be used in the Spring Semester when plans are made with Development Director Susan Cote to design fund-raising strategies for the library.
- Student representative Tomas Benavidez reported that the SBA's canned food drive at Thanksgiving has been cancelled because of a previously scheduled effort by Phi Delta Phi.
- The faculty were reminded that the Tenth Circuit Court has scheduled oral arguments for Wednesday, November 18, 1992 beginning at 9:30 AM in the Moot Court Room. Professor Ted Occhialino requested that members of the faculty encourage their students to attend these arguments even though there might be conflicts with scheduled class meetings. Copies of the briefs are on Reserve in the Law Library for the use of faculty and students.
- Associate Dean Peter Winograd reminded faculty and student representatives that second- and third-year classes will meet using the following schedule for November 30, December 1, and December 2, 1992:

Monday, November 30, 1992  
Tuesday, December 1, 1992  
Wednesday, December 2, 1992

Monday class schedule  
Thursday class schedule  
Friday class schedule

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 PM.

  
E.A. Jenkins-Smith  
Faculty Secretary