


The University of New Mexico

School of Law
Office of the Dean
1117 Stanford NE
Albuquerque, NM 87131-1431
Telephone (505) 277-4700
FAX (505) 277-0068

MEMORANDUM

TO: LAW FACULTY

FROM: LEO M. ROMERO, DEAN 

DATE: April 29, 1994

SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING AGENDA

**Faculty Meeting
May 2, 1994
Dean's Conference Room
4:00 p.m.**

1. Approval of Minutes of April 18, 1994 Faculty Meeting
2. Dean's Report
3. Curriculum Committee - Report Item
4. Military Recruiting
5. Role of Legal Writing Director
6. Part-Time Legal Education - Action Item
7. Class Rank and Grading - Action Item
8. Half-Time Career Counselor - Action Item
9. New Business

May 2, 1994

Faculty Meeting Minutes

School of Law

Dean's Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Anspach, Bergman, Browde, Burr, Cook, Ellis, W., Fort, Gill, Godfrey, Gonzales, Hall, E., Hand, Kelly, Kovnat, Mathewson, Montoya, Occhialino, Pearson, Price, Romero, Sanders, Scales, Schwartz, Taylor, Utton, Valencia-Weber, Wolf.

ABSENT: Desiderio, Ellis, J., Hall, J., Hart, Hermann, MacPherson, Martinez, Norwood, Winograd, Zuni.

Student Representatives: Henry Alaniz.

Others: Susan Mitchell.

The meeting was called to order by Dean Leo Romero.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the April 18, 1994, faculty meeting were approved as written.

Dean's Report:

Dean Romero reminded the faculty that the deadline for reporting grades for the spring semester is June 13, 1994.

The next faculty meeting will be a brown bag lunch meeting on Monday, May 16, at noon.

The faculty joined Dean Romero in congratulating Professor Al Utton on receiving the 39th Annual Research Lectureship from the University.

The faculty joined Dean Romero in congratulating Professors Ted Occhialino, Sherri Burr, Margaret Montoya, Alfred Mathewson, Jenny Hall, and Barbara Bergman and coordinator Ron Bratton on the successful completion of the oral arguments for this year's Advocacy program.

Dean Romero read a thank-you note from Margaret Benny, one of the recipients of a 1994 Faculty Award.

A domestic policy has been drafted by Anne Thomas, Director of the Equal Opportunity Programs Office. This policy will extend spousal benefits to same-sex domestic partners of employees. A copy of this draft policy will be available from Margaret Banek.

The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is soliciting applications for Fellowships in the Humanities and Social Sciences. Information on the application process is available from Margaret Banek.

The Valparaiso University School of Law is seeking a distinguished scholar to chair its endowed Seegers Lecture Series. Information on the qualifications for this position are available from Margaret Banek.

The April 15 AALS Placement Bulletin has been received and is available in the Dean's office.

The American Civil Liberties Union is seeking (1) a legislative representative/legislative counsel and (2) a joint director for a Reproductive Freedom Project/Women's Rights Project. Information on these and other positions are available from Margaret in the Dean's office.

Admission Committee Report:

Susan Mitchell, Director of Admissions, reported that we received 1255 applications for the 1994-95 term (401 residents and 854 non-residents). Two hundred students have been accepted for the fall of 1994 (142 residents and 58 non-residents, 105 men and 95 women).

Curriculum Committee Report:

Professor Maureen Sanders reported that there is still work to be done and that she is preparing a written summary report which will be distributed to the faculty. The curriculum for next year is pretty well set and decisions regarding adjunct courses will be made very shortly.

Military Recruiting:

Dean Romero stated that the ad hoc committee requested that this agenda item be postponed until the next faculty meeting.

Class Rank and Grading:

Professor Ann Scales reported that the ad hoc committee recommended that the faculty abolish the ordinal ranking system and use the standing or bar graph system. A motion was made by Professor Maureen Sanders and seconded by Professor Denise Fort to accept the committee's recommendation to adopt the bar graph system beginning with the class of 1997 (the class that will enter in the fall of 1994). The motion carried.

A motion was made by Professor Scott Taylor to apply the new bar graph system to the current first-year class (the class of 1996). Professor Willis Ellis seconded the motion, and it carried.

A motion was made by Professor Al Utton, and seconded by Professor Sherri Burr, to amend the motion to put in place a dual system whereby both an ordinal ranking and a bar graph ranking would be calculated and students would have the option to choose which ranking would be given to prospective employers. When voted on, the motion failed.

Professor Scales reported that the other recommendation of the ad hoc committee asks the faculty to establish two presumptive curves, one for small-section classes and another for large-section classes, to apply to all first-year and upper-level required classes except the Clinic.

A motion was made by Professor Scott Taylor, and seconded by Professor Suedeen Kelly, to adopt the recommendation of the committee. After discussion, Professor Ted Occhialino moved to amend the motion to apply the presumptive curve system to the Clinic as well. The motion to amend was seconded by Professor Suedeen Kelly, and when voted on, it carried.

When the amended motion was voted on, it carried.


Role of the Legal Writing Director:

Dean Romero asked for discussion on his memo of April 26 regarding the role of the legal writing director. The faculty discussion showed a consensus of opinion that the primary role of the legal writing director should be to provide remedial assistance for students with writing problems. Other responsibilities of the legal writing director mentioned by the faculty included teaching faculty how to teach writing and staying current with developments in the legal writing field. The Dean stated that he would appoint an ad hoc committee to advise him on the role of the legal writing director.

Due to the lateness of the hour, it was decided to postpone the rest of the agenda items until the May 16 faculty meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret A. Banek

mb