


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: February 8, 1996
SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING

**Faculty Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 12, 1996
Dean's Conference Room
4:00 p.m.**

1. Approval of Minutes of January 16, 1996, Faculty Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes of January 29, 1996, Faculty Meeting
3. Dean's Report
4. ERB Policy Question - Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd
5. Order of the Coif: New Chapter at University of San Diego - Associate Dean
Peter A. Winograd
6. Admission Policy - Michael Browde
7. New Business

Meeting of the Committee on Promotion, Tenure & Reappointment

A copy of the report of a subcommittee of the full Committee will be distributed in advance of the meeting. Please review the report. Action will be required.

LMR:mb

February 12, 1996

Faculty Meeting Minutes
School of Law
Dean's Conference Room, 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Anspach, Browde, Burr, Desiderio, DuMars, Fort, Fritz, Gonzales, Hall, Hart, Hermann, Kelly, Kovnat, MacPherson, Mathewson, Montoya, Norwood, Romero, Schwartz, Sedillo Lopez, Utton, Valencia-Weber, Winograd, Wolf

Student Representatives: K.C. Maxwell

ABSENT: Bergman, Blumenfeld, Creel, Ellis, Gill, Martinez, Moore, Occhialino, Rapaport, Scales, Seielstad, Simmons, Taylor, Zuni

The meeting was called to order by Dean Leo Romero.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the January 16, 1996, meeting were approved as amended by Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the January 29, 1996, meeting were approved as amended by Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez.

Dean's Report:

Dean Romero announced that Professor Mike Norwood had been unanimously elected President of CALI (Center for Computer Assisted Legal Instruction) at the January 4, 1996 Board of Directors meeting. Professor Norwood reminded the faculty of the Donald Trautman CALI Lesson Writing Competition for Law Faculty and Law Students. The information on these prizes is at Margaret Banek's desk in the Dean's office.

Professor Suede Kelly is the co-author of a report on the effects of opening New Mexico to retail competition in the electricity business prepared for the New Mexico Public Utility Commission. The report was the basis for a front-page article in the Business Outlook section of the Albuquerque Journal.

The Natural Resources Journal and the New Mexico Law Review will be celebrating their 30th and 25th anniversaries, respectively, at a dinner at the Holiday Inn Pyramid Friday evening, February 16. Dean Romero encouraged faculty members to attend.

Dean Romero reported that the Board of Governors of the American Bar Association passed the following resolutions regarding the accreditation process for law schools at their February meeting in Baltimore, Maryland:

1. Resolved that, in determining whether a law school complies with the Standards, the ratio of the number of full-time equivalent students to the number of full-time

equivalent faculty members shall be considered; that, in computing the student-faculty ratio, each full time teacher on tenure track or with tenure-equivalent status shall be counted as one, and each other teacher (including tenured or tenure track teachers who have administrative duties, or are on partial research leave, or have emeritus status from the tenured faculty, and teach less than a full course load, and administrators and librarians who teach, clinical instructors, writing and other instructors, joint-appointment faculty, adjunct faculty and all other persons who teach at the law school) shall be counted at a fraction of less than one; and that, for the purpose of computing the total number of full-time equivalent faculty, all non-tenure track or non-full-time teachers counted at a fraction of less than one shall not, as so counted, in the aggregate constitute more than 20% of the full time equivalent faculty:

2. Resolved that, in determining whether a law school complies with the Standards, problems with the allocation of resources or physical facilities shall not be cited unless the problems have a negative and material effect on the education students receive; and that this policy shall be expressly set forth in the Standards or the applicable Interpretations; and

3. Resolved that, for purposes of implementing the foregoing policies, the Council of the section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar is requested to prepare appropriate revisions to the Standards and Interpretations consistent therewith, and to present such revised Standards and Interpretations to the Board of Governors and the House of Delegates in time for consideration and adoption at the 1996 Annual Meeting.

Dean Romero welcomed K.C. Maxwell, new third-year representative, to the faculty meeting.

Dean Romero reminded the faculty that Kenneth "Kip" Bobroff would be visiting the Law School on Wednesday, February 14.

Dean Romero announced that there will be a special faculty meeting regarding hiring decisions on Monday, February 19, at 4:00 p.m. and encouraged all faculty to attend and make arrangements to stay past 6:00 p.m., if necessary.

ERB Policy Question:

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd reported on correspondence he has had with Frank Ready of the Educational Retirement Board regarding their policy on how benefits are figured on individual contributions and how widely it varies from year to year. If the Law School faculty wishes, Mr. Ready has offered to do a workshop on UNM retirement benefits here at the Law School.

Order of the Coif: New Chapter at University of San Diego:

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd brought before the faculty a request for a new chapter of the Order of the Coif at the University of San Diego. Professor Fred Hart moved to grant the motion for the new chapter. Professor Mike Norwood seconded the motion, and when voted on, the motion carried, with two dissenting votes.

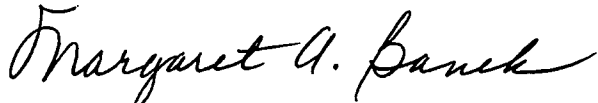
Admission Policy:

Professor Michael Browde reported that the Admission Committee has reviewed the Law School Admission Policy in light of recent national court cases and has revised the policy as distributed to the faculty on January 29, 1996. The revised policy has been reviewed by the University Counsel's office, and they had no difficulties with the policy as written. Professor Margaret Montoya amended the policy to provide for a review every five years or on the occasion of a substantive change in the law. Dean Romero called the question, and the faculty voted unanimously to approve the policy as amended with a date of February 12, 1996 (attached).

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd asked the faculty to fill out their exam requests and get them in as soon as possible so that he can complete the exam schedule.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret A. Banek

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Attachment

The University of New Mexico School of Law
ADMISSION POLICY
Adopted by the faculty
February 12, 1996

The faculty at the University of New Mexico School of Law is committed to excellence and diversity in its student body. Indeed, we believe that diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives among the student body help to insure a dynamic, productive, and positive learning experience. In seeking to achieve diversity, the admission committee is instructed to consider a wide range of factors in evaluating applicants for admission, including but not limited to: demonstrated intellectual capacity, academic achievement, employment history, life experiences (including those related to ethnicity and national origin), academic and personal motivation, commitment to public service, the extent to which the applicant has overcome educational and/or economic obstacles, and other indicia that the applicant can succeed in law studies and make a significant contribution to the law school community.

Applicants are to be evaluated for their potential for academic success in law school and their potential to contribute to an enriching educational environment while in law school. As in most law schools, undergraduate grade point (UGPA) and performance on the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) are important factors in evaluating that potential. UGPA and LSAT scores are considered along with all other factors in deciding which students from among a very talented and qualified pool should be admitted to this law school. Unlike some law schools, however, the University of New Mexico does not use any presumptive cutoff points that rely solely on the combination of UGPA and LSAT scores. While high UGPA or LSAT scores are positive factors and low UGPA and LSAT scores negative factors, UGPA and LSAT scores at one extreme or the other do not automatically grant or preclude admission.

Admission decisions at the UNM School of Law are made by a five-person admission committee, which includes a third-year student elected by the student body. We believe that their collective judgment provides for fairer and more balanced decisions concerning the

selection of a diverse entering class. Each member of the admission committee evaluates all resident applications. All non-resident applications are prescreened by the director of admission.

Applicants are advised that important documents in this evaluation are the letters of recommendation, LSDAS report which includes their academic transcript and LSAT score(s), the personal statement, as well as any other relevant information provided by the applicant. Each of these documents provide members of the admission committee with important information about each applicant which in turn allows each member to make the difficult determinations on admission. Applicants are well advised to give considerable attention to each of the required documents to insure that the completed application fully and accurately reflects the applicant's individual background, abilities, qualifications and goals. The combined evaluation and judgment of the entire committee is then used to decide which applicants should be admitted. The law school does not grant personal interviews as part of the evaluative process because it does not have the resources to conduct the number of interviews which would be required.

Applicants with relatively low undergraduate grades and/or LSAT scores, but with overall records demonstrating that they have overcome educational and/or economic obstacles and show other indicia that they can succeed in law studies, may be admitted conditioned on their successful completion of an approved prelaw program.

Since this school is a publicly funded institution and the only law school in the state, New Mexico residents are given preference, although nonresident applications are encouraged. The admission committee seeks to admit an entering class comprised of approximately 85 to 90 percent New Mexico residents and 10 to 15 percent nonresidents. Geographical distribution from within the state also may be a factor in selecting the entering class as part of our search for diversity.

It has been our experience that a large percentage of the applicant pool is qualified to be admitted to law school, and if admitted would succeed in law school. Given

the small size of this law school, however, the applicant pool must be reduced to approximately 200 admittees in order to fill an entering class of approximately 105 to 110 members. Of necessity, therefore, many qualified applicants are regrettably denied admission.

The deadline for applications for admission for the fall semester is the preceding February 15th. Some applicants may be admitted on a rolling admissions basis, but action on all completed applications will be made by May 1 of that year. The use of a post-May 1 waiting list may result in the admission of some applicants after that date.

The School of Law adheres to the equal opportunity policies of the University of New Mexico and make appropriate accommodations for admittees with disabilities.

This policy shall be subject to periodic review by the faculty every five years or at an earlier date as requested by the dean.