


The University of New Mexico

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MEMORANDUM

TO: LAW FACULTY

FROM: ROBERT J. DESIDERIO, DEAN 

DATE: January 22, 1998

SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING

**Faculty Meeting Agenda
Monday, January 26, 1998
Dean's Conference Room
4:00 p.m.**

1. Approval of Minutes of December 16, 1997, Faculty Meeting
2. Dean's Report
3. Grading Curve - Associate Dean Alfred Mathewson
4. New Business

RJD:mb

January 26, 1998

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

Present: Baum, Bobroff, Desiderio, DuMars, Ellis, Fort, Gill, Godfrey, Gonzales, Hall, Hart, Kelly, Kovnat, Land, Lopez, MacPherson, Martinez, Mathewson, Montoya, Moore, Norwood, Rapaport, Utton, Valencia-Weber, Winograd, Zuni

Student Representatives: Berkheimer, O'Reilly, Singer-Mesco

Absent: Bergman, Blumenfeld, Browde, Dratler, Fritz, Taylor, Wolf

Dean Robert Desiderio called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. The Dean welcomed Visiting Professor Ed Godfrey, who is teaching Conflicts of Law this semester.

The minutes of the December 16, 1997 faculty meeting were approved with one correction by Professor Ruth Kovnat, who stated that the second part of her motion should read that "Adjunct professors would not be bound by the grading curve, but would grade their courses Credit, C-, D+, D, D- and F."

Dean's Report:

Several faculty members indicated they had not yet received the textbooks for their classes, and have been asking the copy center to make chapter copies while they are waiting for the books to come in. Dean Desiderio asked which classes had problems with the bookstore so that he could speak to Vice President Mc Kinney about the matter. He also advised the faculty of a company, Law Stuff USA, which offers on-line law textbook ordering and 2-4 day delivery.

Dean Desiderio reported that the Salary Committee, under the chairmanship of Professor Suedeem Kelly, has been meeting and discussing salary issues. Dean Desiderio has been told by Provost Gordon that the law school must have money in the budget permanently for proposed salary adjustments to correct vertical inequity, and not just for the first year. This means Dean Desiderio must wait on the Legislature before proceeding. The Governor has proposed funding education at 100% of formula, with a 3% salary increase for higher education.

Dean Desiderio reported that the Law Library fundraising campaign exceeded its goal--\$90,000 was raised, of which \$75,000 is eligible for the Regents 3:1 match of \$25,000 for a total of \$115,000 for our Library.

Dean Desiderio has been contacting law school alumni around the state to act as fundraisers. He reported that 10-12 alums have agreed to help raise funds for the Law School.

Dean Desiderio reported that candidates for the Development Director position are currently being interviewed and that the position should be filled in a few weeks. Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd urged faculty members to attend the meetings with the various candidates.

Faculty candidates are also being interviewed at the present time, and Dean Desiderio urged faculty members to visit with them while they are here.

Dean Desiderio announced that the Hispanic Bar will host a reception honoring the MALSA students on Friday, January 30, 1998, at 5:00 p.m. in the Forum of the Law School.

Dean Desiderio reported that the Law School will host a reception honoring the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association and attorney Johnnie Cochran the last week of February to thank them for funding the New Mexico Black Lawyers Association Cochran Award Scholarship. The Law School will also co-sponsor, with the Indian Law Section, an Indian Law CLE on April 1. In addition, the Navajo Nation Supreme Court will hear oral arguments at the Law School on the same day.

Dean Desiderio reported that the Court of Appeals will hear oral arguments in the moot courtroom at the Law School on Tuesday, January 27, starting at 1:30 p.m.

Dean Desiderio reported that Professors Bill MacPherson and Franklin Gill have visited the University of Chihuahua in order to establish a continuing exchange of faculty and students between UNM and the University of Chihuahua. The exchanges would take place over long weekends.

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd reported that due to Ethel Ortenburger's illness, there have been problems with the scheduling of rooms, and that faculty should check both the schedule book and the big red class schedule in the front office when they are looking for an open classroom.

Professor Gloria Valencia-Weber reported on the success of the march at the AALS Annual Meeting in San Francisco on January 9, and recognized the leadership and effort of Professor Margaret Montoya in coordinating the march. The faculty applauded Professor Montoya for her work with respect to the march.

Professor Al Utton reported that he had participated in a Water Summit on January 7, 1998 for the City of Rio Rancho and that three other presenters were UNM School of Law alumni—Maria O'Brien, Elizabeth Taylor and Senator Michael Sanchez.

Grading Curve:

Associate Dean Alfred Mathewson brought forward the motion to abolish the grading curve made by Professor Ruth Kovnat at the December 16 faculty meeting. After extensive discussion, Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez called the question on the first part of the motion, which would abolish the grading curve. When voted on, the motion carried. A motion was then made by Professor José Martinez to abolish the curve effective this semester (Spring 1998). The motion was seconded by Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, and when voted on, carried unanimously.

The second part of Professor Kovnat's motion, that courses taught by non-clinical adjuncts be graded Credit, C-, D+, D, D-, and F, was then brought forward for discussion. After discussion of the effects of this policy on trial practice, courses taught by emeritus professors, and the training of adjuncts, the motion was tabled until Dean Desiderio could ask for and receive input from the adjunct professors.

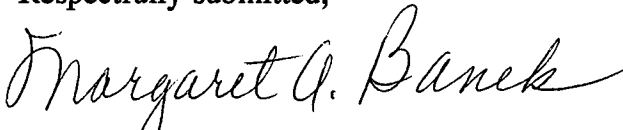
Professor Kip Bobroff moved that in all classes with more than one section taught by different faculty members, it be mandatory that the faculty consult with each other on grading. The motion was seconded by Professor Ruth Kovnat, and when voted on, carried unanimously.

New Business:

Professor Gloria Valencia-Weber expressed her concern that more of the candidates for the current faculty position do not have ADR training, and questioned if we are doing our students a disservice by not putting enough emphasis on experience in ADR when recruiting for the open positions. Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, chair of the Faculty Appointments Committee, indicated that the Appointments Committee was meeting immediately after the faculty meeting to discuss whether an additional ADR candidate should be invited for interviews.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret A. Banek

:mb

To: faculty
From: Margaret Banek <banekma@libra.unm.edu>
Subject: Spring Semester '98 Faculty Meeting Schedule
Cc:
Bcc:
X-Attachments:

I am scheduling the following dates for regular faculty meetings:

January 26
February 16
March 9
March 30
April 20
May 11

All meetings will be at 4:00 p.m. in the Dean's Conference Room.

I anticipate that we will have to schedule some special meetings as well.

Dean Robert Desiderio