


The University of New Mexico

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MEMORANDUM

TO: LAW FACULTY
FROM: ROBERT J. DESIDERIO, DEAN 
DATE: February 12, 1998
SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING

**Faculty Meeting Agenda
Monday, February 16, 1998
Dean's Conference Room
4:00 p.m.**

1. Approval of Minutes of January 26, 1998, Faculty Meeting
2. Dean's Report
3. New Examination Distribution Procedure – Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd
4. Faculty Leaves Committee Report – Professor Fred Hart
5. Faculty Appointments Committee Report – Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Chair
6. New Business

RJD:mb

February 16, 1998

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

Present: Baum, Bobroff, Desiderio, Ellis, Fort, Fritz, Gill, Godfrey, Gonzales, Hall, Hart, Kovnat, Land, Lopez, Martinez, Mathewson, Montoya, Norwood, Rapaport, Scales, Utton, Valencia-Weber, Winograd.

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

Absent: Bergman, Blumenfeld, Browde, Dratler, DuMars, Kelly, MacPherson, Moore, Schwartz, Taylor, Wolf, Zuni.

Dean Robert Desiderio called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the January 26, 1998, faculty meeting were approved as distributed.

Dean's Report:

Dean Desiderio announced that Kevin Gover, Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs and a graduate of the Law School, will be the graduation speaker for the Law School on Saturday, May 16.

Dean Desiderio reported that all the Development Director candidates have been interviewed, and that he will make a decision when he receives feedback on the candidates from the main campus Development Office.

Dean Desiderio reported on the status of several bills regarding the University and the Law School which are before the Legislature. He stated that HB 2 looks promising for passage. HB 2 is the House of Representatives version of the higher education funding request, and includes \$30 million in additional funds for higher education, full formula funding, no cutting of special programs, and a compensation package of 4 ½ % for faculty and staff. President Pro Tem Manny Aragon is sponsoring the \$4 million request for the new Law School building, which will be funded through the New Mexico Finance Authority. The \$100,000 appropriation for the Library made it through the House and is now in the Senate.

A bill to appropriate \$200,000 to the Institute of Public Law for the Corrine Wolf Children's Law Center project has been sent to the Governor.

There will be a special faculty meeting on Monday, February 23 at 4:00 p.m. in the Dean's Conference Room to discuss faculty hiring.

Associate Dean Alfred Mathewson reported that he has been working with the Division of Public Administration to convert the shared Hatch Professorship to a new faculty professorship award on the order of the Regents' Professorships, and that the funds should be available next year.

New Examination Distribution Procedure:

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd reported that he has been advised of a problem with the alternate-day scheduling of exams. He has been informed that students have picked up exam packets on the first day of the exam and then wrote and submitted their answers to the questions on the second (alternate) exam day. This is a matter of great concern and would clearly be a violation of the Honor Code. He distributed a draft memo which would inform the students of a new examination distribution procedure and asked the faculty for their approval. After extensive discussion, a motion to approve the memo was made by Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez. The motion was seconded by Professor Ann Scales, and when voted on, the motion failed. Dean Desiderio will discuss having a meeting with the students on the Honor Code with Student Bar Association President Carla Lopez, and exam administration controls with Janet Cox.

Faculty Leaves Committee:

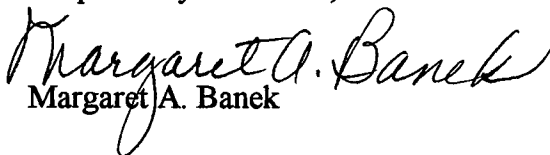
Professor Fred Hart asked for input from the faculty on his memo of February 11, 1998, regarding incentives to encourage faculty research and writing. He would like faculty input on whether this would decrease the time faculty spend at the law school and if it would have a detrimental effect on attendance at faculty meetings, colloquia, etc. He requested that this be a subject for discussion at a future faculty meeting. Dean Desiderio agreed, and it will be put on the agenda for either the March 9 or March 30 faculty meeting.

Faculty Appointments Committee:

Dean Desiderio commended the Committee for their hard work, and commented on the high caliber of the six faculty candidates under consideration. Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez, Chair of the Committee, spoke to the ADR issue. She pointed out the curricular fit that we have with the six candidates, and suggested that if the candidate with ADR experience is not offered a position this time, we should have a focused search for an ADR candidate next year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Margaret A. Banek

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Hold for faculty meeting

MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty
From Committee on Faculty Leaves
Date: February 11, 1998

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The dean has asked the Committee on Faculty Leaves to consider ways in which the productivity of the faculty might be increased by making changes in our usual expectations of faculty responsibilities. For example, should faculty be allowed to teach only three days a week rather than the usual four, should faculty be allowed to teach a heavy schedule one semester and a lighter one the other semester, should some faculty's teaching load be reduced to three hours in a semester if he or she is engaged in a time consuming project, should some faculty be freed of Committee assignments, should staff support be more available to some faculty. Other possible modifications of our present faculty obligations that would lead to better teaching and research are also possible.

Several basic issues arise in connection with any recommendations that the Committee might make. The first is the question of present expectation that we have for faculty. The law school's statement on promotion and tenure state these in general terms, but it is difficult to specify these in any detail. For example, to what extent is a faculty member expected to be available at the school for interaction with students and other faculty? Our normal scheduling of classes over four days may indicate that faculty are expected to be here at least four days, but this will become less clear if we have some faculty teaching only three days. Whatever the norm for the number of days one is expected to be here, how much of day should be spent at the school? To what extent are faculty expected to help students with client cases, judge in the moot court programs, meet with Committees, what is our position on posted office hours, etc.

The Committee believes that a discussion of this question by the entire faculty would be helpful to its deliberations.

A second question is whether deviations from the norm ought to be granted to only faculty members undertaking certain projects or available to all. For example, the Committee is of the belief that scheduling of classes so that some (all?) faculty teach only three days in a week, and of allowing faculty to unbalance the number of course taught over the year so that three courses are taught in one semester and only one in the other would be relatively easy to effectuate. Should this be open to all, which is the Committee's initial reaction, or only to those who present a reason. And, if the options are not open to everyone, what criterion should be applied in making decisions and who should make the decision. Also, if we have a general expectation that people be at the law school at least four days a

week, should it apply to those faculty members who have teaching responsibilities on fewer than four days. .

Another proposal the Committee is considering is whether faculty members ought to be given a reduced load of teaching. If this were to be implemented, what criterion should be applied in determining who should be granted a reduced teaching load, and who should make that decision. It seems clear, for example, that outside consulting for pay should not entitle one to a reduced load, but what about service on national committees or study group for pay or for no pay?

The Committee does not have in mind the establishment of "rules," but perhaps guidelines would be advisable, if not necessary. We also believe that with the growth of the faculty over the past several years, there is less of a common understanding of what is expected of faculty, and that a discussion of these issues of an hour or so would be worthwhile. Until the Committee has a better sense of the basic expected role of full time faculty, it is reluctant to offer concrete suggestions of ways in which faculty productivity may be increased.