


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: ROBERT J. DESIDERIO, DEAN 

DATE: March 27, 1998

SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING

**Faculty Meeting Agenda
Monday, March 30, 1998
Dean's Conference Room
4:00 p.m.**

1. Dean's Report
2. Faculty Leaves Committee--Discussion Item
3. New Business

RJD:mb

March 30, 1998

Faculty Meeting Minutes

School of Law

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

Present: Baum, Bergman, Bobroff, Desiderio, DuMars, Ellis, Fort, Fritz, Gill, Godfrey, Gonzales, Hall, Hart, Land, Lopez, Martinez, Mathewson, Montoya, Moore, Norwood, Valencia-Weber, Winograd, Wolf, Zuni

Student Representatives: Berkheimer, O'Reilly, Singer Mesco

Absent: Blumenfeld, Browde, Dratler, Kelly, MacPherson, Rapaport, Schwartz

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

Visiting student Robyn Robinson announced the Phi Delta Phi Ethics Week project, a panel discussion of ethics in the practice of law, to be held on April 15. She asked faculty members to participate in the panel discussion and to answer questions from students.

Professor Chuck DuMars announced that the National Moot Court Team competed in Sacramento, California over the weekend, advancing to the final round, where they lost by only .8. Members of the National Moot Court Team are: Trena Klohe, Jim Loonam, Dylan O'Reilly, Amy Skogen, and Robert Stone. Professor DuMars reported that he received many complimentary comments on the students' performance.

Dean Desiderio announced there will be a special faculty meeting to discuss the curriculum and other matters on Monday, April 13, at 3:00 p.m.

Dean's Report:

Dean Desiderio distributed a document to the faculty listing the University's preliminary projections for the allocation of funds for the 1998-99 fiscal year. He explained the funding changes reflected in the document. He also reported that the Law School will receive only \$5,000 from the Woodward Trust this year, 50% less than last year. In addition, because of fewer student credit hours for the summer of 1997 than the summer of 1996, the University reduced the law school's summer budget by \$7,000. The cause of part of the reduction of student credit hours was the University's unwillingness to give tuition waivers to our Instituto students, thereby making it impossible for them to register for non-degree credit. Dean Desiderio is working on this problem.

Dean Winograd reported that the Law School is currently using Bondurant monies to pay work study students, and asked the faculty to let him know their work study needs for the summer at once.

Dean Desiderio reported that the funding freeze will not be lifted next year. All new money has been earmarked for faculty and staff compensation increases.

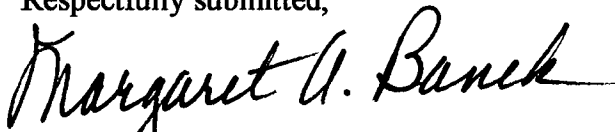
Dean Desiderio announced that faculty are needed to teach in the Instituto during the month of June.

Faculty Leaves Committee:

Professor Fred Hart, Chair of the Faculty Leaves Committee, asked for faculty discussion on his memos of February 11 and March 30 regarding faculty responsibilities and productivity. An extensive discussion of baseline faculty obligations including teaching, assisting students, scholarship, support of colleagues, and public service followed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret A. Banek". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Margaret A. Banek

:mb

RECEIVED MAR 30 1998

To: Colleagues
Re: Faculty meeting on Monday, March 30
From: Fred Hart

Over the past few months I have given considerable thought to the topic we will be discussing on Monday. In part it is germane to the charge given to the Faculty Leaves Committee to explore ways in which the law school might assist faculty in their efforts to become more productive. In part, however, it goes to a broader issue: a faculty members obligations to the students, other faculty members, to scholarship, to the university, etc. I offer a few thoughts that are somewhat more than random, but not much. The committee has not reviewed this document; and bear no responsibility for it.

It is relatively simple to express the responsibilities of "the law school" in general terms: it has a responsibility to help those who aspire to become lawyers; it has a responsibility to produce scholarship; and to offer services to the university, legal and general communities. In general, it is the responsibility of individual faculty members to participate in the achievement of these goal. The "law school" has the responsibility of encouraging and assisting, faculty members in these endeavors. The "law school" also has a responsibility to each faculty member to help achieve personal goals, especially when those are connected with faculty member's obligations: to become an outstanding teacher, to become a scholar recognized in his or her field, etc. As members of the law school community, *we* have these responsibilities.

I start with an assumption that I believe we share: that being a full time faculty member is a full time job. Yet, it is not quite the same as being a member of the staff who work for the law school. Except for six or so hours in class, we can chose when to be here, and what to do. We can come and go as we please. We can chose from many activities, all of which are legitimate parts of our work week. This is a rare privilege that few working people have.

..

Let me raise some questions about being a “full time” faculty member at this school.

1. Should there be an expectation that a faculty member be “around the building” regularly, and, if so what is meant by “regularly?”

Is the only requirement that one meet classes and attend faculty and committee meetings and perform other obligations?

If some faculty teach only three days a week, is there an expectation that they be at the school only those three days?

If a faculty member teaches only one course during a semester, is it enough to be at the school on the days he or she is teaching?

Should we encourage faculty to post office hours?

2. Why is it so difficult to find teachers to teach the first year writing courses?
3. What is a faculty member’s obligation to serve as a moot court judge, to supervise papers, to help with substantive problems met by students in the clinic, to advise students, etc.
4. Why have there been few significant changes in the curriculum over the past few years?
5. What projects should we encourage: service on national committees, speaking off the campus and at other schools on the campus, scholarship, designing new courses, writing pro bono briefs etc.
6. Should faculty attend faculty colloquiums? Spend some time visiting with other faculty, etc.
7. Should consulting for pay be limited? What about writing for money? Does it make a difference whether it is done at the law school or away?

My objective in posing these questions is simple and limited: I’d like to see them discussed. One faculty member has said to me that “we don’t trust each other as we used to.” He was expressing the opinion that we formally assumed without question that everyone on the faculty was exerting every effort to improve the school, and that now we are not sure. At times, I believe that some faculty feel that they are not appreciated, that their work goes unnoticed. It is clear that everyone is

busy. That for all there are two few hours in the day. Does our size make it impossible to know what our colleagues are doing? To be confident that they are truly contributing to the community? Perhaps if we discuss what we are about, we more appreciate each other and be a better community.

You might wish to consider the following statement which was prepared by Em Hall.

A UNM law professor works full time for the law school. The principle part of the job involves excellent teaching to students at this law school. Excellent classroom teaching meets part of this goal. The teaching component also requires a real presence in the law school community at the law school in order to maintain a vibrant and productive atmosphere in which we can all work.

In addition, the job of UNM law professor involves the secondary function of uniquely contributing to the wider legal community in ways appropriate to our primary full time job. These secondary contributions can take many forms---traditional scholarship, appellate briefs, litigation, legislative consulting, for example. But, whatever the form, the secondary contributions should not affect our primary function and should not duplicate activities adequately performed by the existing private or public bar. Rather, the secondary activities should reflect our privileged status as primarily full-time teachers at the Law School.