



The University of New Mexico

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MEMORANDUM

TO: LAW FACULTY

FROM: ROBERT J. DESIDERIO, DEAN

DATE: APRIL 23, 1998

SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING

**Faculty Meeting Agenda
Monday, April 27, 1998
Dean's Conference Room
4:00 p.m.**

1. Approval of Minutes of April 13, 1998 and April 20, 1998 Faculty Meetings
2. Dean's Report
3. Legal Writing Director Search - Associate Dean Alfred Mathewson
4. Proposal to Change the Writing Requirement Policy Regarding Case Notes Written for the *New Mexico Law Review* - Professor Chris Fritz
5. Library Committee Recommendation - Professor Chris Fritz
6. New Business

RJD:mb

April 27, 1998

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

Present: Baum, Bergman, Bobroff, Browde, Desiderio, DuMars, Ellis, Fritz, Godfrey, Gonzales, Hall, Hart, Kelly, Kovnat, Land, Lopez, MacPherson, Mathewson, Montoya, Norwood, Rapaport, Scales, Schwartz, Valencia-Weber, Utton, Winograd, Zuni-Cruz

Student Representatives: Berkheimer, O'Reilly, Singer

Absent: Blumenfeld, Dratler, Fort, Gill, Martinez, Moore, Wolf

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

A motion was made by Professor Ruth Kovnat and seconded by Professor Margaret Montoya to approve the minutes of the April 13 and April 20 faculty meetings as distributed. When voted on, the motion carried.

Dean's Report:

Dean Desiderio announced sadly that first-year law student Karlos Ulibarri's mother has passed away. A group of students is accepting donations to help with the funeral expenses.

Dean Desiderio and Vice President David Mc Kinney appeared before the American Bar Association Accreditation Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana on April 24 to update the Committee on the status of the addition to the Law School. Governor Johnson has called a special session to start at noon on April 29. It is not known if funding for the addition will be considered at the special session or next year. Dean Desiderio reported that another possibility is for the University itself to issue bonds to fund the project. The ABA will issue a formal response to the Law School.

Dean Desiderio announced that Summer Research Grant Awards will be going out this week to faculty.

Dean Desiderio reported regretfully that Professor Ann Scales has resigned her position at the School of Law effective July 1, 1998.

Associate Dean Peter Winograd reminded the faculty to turn in their forms if they want work study help over the summer. He also asked for nominations for tutors in first-year fall semester courses, and said that the names submitted will be distributed to faculty who will be teaching those courses.

Legal Writing Director Search:

Dean Desiderio reminded the faculty that although the Legal Writing Director position is a one-year lecturer position, he has been assured by Provost Gordon that he may offer a 3-year letter of agreement to the Legal Writing Director in order to give the position more stability.

Associate Dean Alfred Mathewson reported that the Search Committee had received 15 applications for the position, and unanimously recommends Barbara Blumenfeld for Legal Writing Director. Dean Desiderio stated that he has received many comments from students on the search, and that the students overwhelmingly are in favor of hiring Ms. Blumenfeld for the position. Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez recommended that Ms. Blumenfeld receive a formal evaluation each year in order to facilitate a contract extension for Ms. Blumenfeld. A motion was made by Associate Dean Alfred Mathewson to offer the Legal Writing Director position to Ms. Blumenfeld. The motion was seconded by Professor Margaret Montoya, and when voted on, the motion carried unanimously.

Proposal to Change the Writing Requirement Policy Regarding Case Notes Written for the New Mexico Law Review:

Professor Chris Fritz recommended that case notes written for *The New Mexico Law Review* and *The Natural Resources Journal* be eligible to fulfill the writing requirement. The present policy allows comments written by the editorial staff to count toward fulfilling the writing requirement, but specifically excludes case notes. Professor Mike Norwood recommended that the eligibility process be formalized so that the students would be required to consult with faculty members. Professor Fritz assured the faculty that the students would be required to fill out the standard form for the Registrar, listing a first and second reader. A motion was made by Professor Chris Fritz and seconded by Professor Suede Kelly that the writing requirement be amended to allow case notes produced by members of both journals to be eligible to satisfy the writing requirement, and case notes written this academic year (1997-98) be included as well. When voted on, the motion carried.

Library Committee Recommendation:

Professor Chris Fritz, Chair of the Library Committee, distributed a memo recommending changes to the Faculty Library which would create a more useful working environment and reduce expenses from duplicate library materials. The recommendation is to cancel subscriptions to the regional reporters, which would save \$15,000 per year, and install PCs and a dedicated printer to access Lexis, Westlaw, and any other electronic resources to which the library has access. By removing the stacks of print materials, the room would be opened up, and perhaps a couple of large conference tables could be added for additional faculty work space. After discussion of the proposal, it was the consensus of the faculty that the room should not be used for meetings, but kept as a retreat area.

Dean Desiderio then called the question, and the faculty voted to approve the recommendation of the Committee to discontinue the subscriptions, install the PCs and printer, and reconfigure the room for additional faculty work space.

New Business:

A discussion of the ongoing student e-mail debate ensued. It was suggested that during orientation a discussion could take place about what it means to be taught by a diverse faculty. It was also suggested that serious exit interviews with 3Ls take place. Faculty were reminded that students need a forum to express themselves—students need to express their views and faculty need to listen. Students should be aware that there is an appropriate method and medium to express dissatisfaction, and, if need be, an effective forum created for it.

It was the consensus of the faculty to have Dean Desiderio call Professor Burr and tell her how the faculty feels about the personal attacks to which she is being subjected.

The meeting was 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, flowing style.

Margaret A. Banek

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