




**The University of New Mexico**

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**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** LAW FACULTY  
**FROM:** ROBERT J. DESIDERIO, DEAN   
**DATE:** NOVEMBER 10, 2000  
**SUBJECT:** SPECIAL FACULTY MEETING

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**Faculty Meeting Agenda  
Tuesday, November 14, 2000  
Room 2406  
4:00 p.m.**

1. Approval of Minutes of November 7, 2000 Faculty Meeting
2. Admissions Committee Report – Susan Mitchell and Associate Dean Peter Winograd
3. New Business

RJD:mb

November 14, 2000

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

PRESENT: Baum, Bobroff, Browde, Burr, Canova, Fort, Gonzales, Hall, Kelly, Lopez, MacPherson, Martin, Martinez, Mathewson, Montoya-Lewis, Norwood, Occhialino, Pokorak, Romero, Schwartz, Valencia-Weber, Winograd, Wolf

Student Representatives: Charles Lakins, Bryan Davis, Samantha Adams

ABSENT: Blumenfeld, Cruz, Desiderio, Ellis, Fritz, Gill, Hart, Hughes, Land, Moore, Organick, Rappaport

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m.

After proper motion and second, the minutes of the November 7, 2000, faculty meeting were approved as distributed.

Susan Mitchell, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid, introduced Sara Perkinson to the faculty. Sara is our new half-time law advisor and recruiter. She also has been assisting with the Admissions Open Houses and will be working on the Admissions web page.

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd reported that the two open houses held by the Admissions Office were very successful and well-attended.

Professor Gloria Valencia Weber passed around photos that Herb Wright took at the Indian Law Convocation and thanked the faculty for their attendance and support. She reported that there have been numerous requests for the videotape of Kevin Gover's speech and that there is interest in publishing the text of the speech in the New Mexico Law Review and the Tribal Law Journal.

Associate Dean Alfred Mathewson reminded the faculty of the AALS Equal Access to Justice one-day colloquium, which will be held on Friday, November 17, at NM Parent and Child Resources, 2100 Air Park SE in Albuquerque. So far over 50 people have signed up to attend this conference.

#### Admissions Committee Report

Associate Dean Peter A. Winograd asked Professor Ted Occhialino to bring his tabled motion forward. This is a modification of the motion tabled from the May 8, 2000 meeting. The motion also was on the faculty retreat agenda, but discussion and action were postponed to a later date.

Professor Occhialino made the following motion (attached): that the Dean use the School of Law's best efforts to fund the John Doe Fellowship program at the University of New Mexico School of Law through endowments, annual gifts, tuition waivers or other sources of funds that would not diminish amounts currently dedicated to other programs at the School of Law. The program is to be implemented on a gradual basis as funds become available, but in any event at least one John Doe Fellow shall be appointed each academic year beginning in the fall of 2001. When fully operational, the Committee will be authorized to make grants totaling up to \$215,000 (plus inflation) per year to qualifying students.

The motion was seconded by Professor Rob Schwartz and discussion followed. Professor Tim Canova stated there should be an effort to market the law school more effectively through our admission materials and web page. Professor Sherry Wolf stated that the scholarship should be offered simultaneously with the acceptance letter. Professor Kip Bobroff stated the merit scholarship should not be awarded on the two criteria of LSAT score and GPA alone, but believes other factors should be considered as well, and suggested the motion be deferred until the next meeting. Professor Schwartz noted that the proposal is specifically focused on academically outstanding students and should not be diluted by attempting to achieve other goals. He said that other goals should be pursued by other means. Professor Occhialino noted that the motion did not state that LSAT and GPA were the sole criteria but provided that "primary factors" are LSAT and undergraduate grade point average of the applicants, "although other factors demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and potential may also be considered by the Committee."

Apparently a major deciding factor in applicants' decisions about where to enroll is a school's image, and as we are not ranked as high as some competitor schools in various surveys, we are losing some very attractive applicants. It is hoped that a merit scholarship program would cause some of them to matriculate here.

A consensus was reached that the LSAT score in the proposal was set too high and that it should be adjusted downward so as to broaden the pool of eligible applicants who were nonetheless academically outstanding persons who might not otherwise apply to UNM or accept an offer to attend UNM if they did apply. Professor Sedillo Lopez suggested a floor should be set by percentile rather than raw score and suggested the possibility of setting the score at the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile.

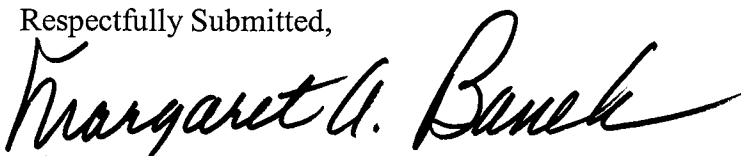
Associate Dean Winograd proposed that the motion be voted on with the understanding that the Admissions Committee would thereafter modify the criteria for consideration in a manner that would likely diminish the LSAT score normally required by the motion, and would state it in percentiles but that would be consistent with the intent and spirit of the motion on the floor. The Admissions Committee would then report back to the faculty at its next meeting what the final percentile would be.

When voted on, the motion, with the understanding suggested by Associate Dean Winograd, carried.

Susan Mitchell distributed a list of the members of the Class of 2000, and asked the faculty to check the top five students they would admit, knowing what they know now.

The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Margaret A. Banek

Attachment

**Motion:**

**That the Dean use the School of Law's best efforts to fund the John Doe Fellowship program (as described below) at the University of New Mexico School of Law through endowments, annual gifts, tuition waivers or other sources of funds that would not diminish amounts currently dedicated to other programs at the School of Law. The program is to be implemented on a gradual basis as funds become available, but in any event at least one John Doe Fellow shall be appointed each academic year beginning in the Fall of 2001. When fully operational, the Committee will be authorized to make grants totaling up to \$215,000 per year to qualifying students**

**THE JOHN DOE FELLOWSHIPS AT THE UNIVERSITY  
OF NEW MEXICO SCHOOL OF LAW**

**INTRODUCTION**

The John Doe Fellowships have been created to increase the number of law students with very high predicted law school grade averages at the University of New Mexico School of Law. The Fellowships were established to address a problem perceived by many members of the faculty: while University of New Mexico law students are, in some ways, more diverse than ever, and while current students bring a wide range of important attributes to the class, there are fewer and fewer truly academically outstanding UNM law students enrolling each year. This appears to be a result of the fact that fewer such students are applying to this law school, and fewer academically outstanding applicants choose to attend the University of New Mexico School of Law, instead choosing to attend other law schools. This decrease in academically outstanding students negatively affects the quality of the education and co-curricular programs offered at the law school.

**SELECTION PROCESS**

Each year a special committee of the University of New Mexico School of Law Faculty will select up to ten applicants to be awarded John Doe Fellowships. The committee will actively recruit appropriate candidates with the goal of increasing the pool of academically outstanding applicants, and the number of those applicants who actually attend this law school. The primary factors that will be considered in selecting John Doe Fellows will be the LSAT and undergraduate grade point average of the applicants, although other factors demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and potential may also be considered by the Committee. Absent other indicia of academic excellence, applicants will be considered for John Doe Fellowships only if they have LSAT scores above 168, undergraduate grade averages above 3.7 or graduate school averages of 3.9 or above.

**VALUE OF THE AWARD**

Each John Doe Fellow will receive a grant equal to the full cost of tuition and fees, all required books, and \$500 per month for the first academic year and for each academic year thereafter if the Fellow's cumulative grade point average for the preceding academic year places the Fellow in the top 15% of the class for that academic year. The monthly stipend shall be in the form of a research assistantship which will be paid from available funds currently committed to student research assistants for faculty members. In addition, John Doe Fellows will be invited to participate in a special seminar program, and will be assigned to work with faculty mentors in their areas of special interest.