


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) 277-1597

MEMORANDUM

TO: LAW FACULTY
FROM: ROBERT J. DESIDERIO, DEAN 
DATE: NOVEMBER 30, 2000
SUBJECT: FACULTY MEETING

**Faculty Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, December 5, 2000
Room 2406
4:00 p.m.**

1. Approval of Minutes of November 14, 2000 Faculty Meeting
2. Admissions Committee Report on Standards for John Doe Fellowship - Associate
Dean Peter Winograd
3. New Business

RJD:mb

December 5, 2000

Faculty Meeting Minutes
School of Law
Room 2406

PRESENT: Baum, Blumenfeld, Bobroff, Browde, Burr, Canova, Cruz, Desiderio, Fritz, Gill, Hall, Hughes, Kelly, Lopez, MacPherson, Martin, Martinez, Mathewson, Moore, Occhialino, Romero, Valencia-Weber, Winograd

Student Representatives: Lakins, Davis, Adams

ABSENT: Ellis, Fort, Gonzales, Hart, Land, Montoya-Lewis, Norwood, Organick, Pokorak, Rapaport, Schwartz, Wolf

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

Dean Desiderio asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the November 14 faculty meeting as distributed. Professor Kip Bobroff questioned the paragraph which stated the Admissions Committee would only modify the criteria of the proposed merit fellowships by reducing the stated LSAT score and use a percentile for the criteria. He believed that the Admissions Committee had a broader charge to review all criteria for the grants. He expressed concern that some excellent students would be overlooked because of the emphasis on the LSAT score and GPA.

Professor Ted Occhialino stated that the LSAT and undergraduate and/or graduate grade point average are the "primary factors," but pointed out that "other factors demonstrating outstanding academic achievement and potential may also be considered by the Committee."

Associate Dean Peter Winograd reported from the Admissions Committee that the LSAT criterion had been restated as 85% or better, with the other criteria unchanged (an undergraduate grade point average of 3.7 or above or graduate grade point average of 3.9 or above, plus other factors usually considered in the admissions process).

Professor Leo Romero moved to approve the minutes as distributed. Associate Dean Peter Winograd seconded the motion, and when voted on, the motion carried.

Dean's Report:

Dean Desiderio announced the Law School Faculty and Staff Holiday Potluck Luncheon, and urged faculty to attend. He also reminded them that Peggy is accepting contributions for staff gifts of \$40.

Dean Desiderio reminded the faculty that exams begin Dec. 6 and that grades are to be in to the Registrar 30 days after the last exam. Dean Desiderio announced that Janet Cox is recovering, although slower than expected, and exam coverage will be handled by other staff members.

Dean Desiderio reminded the faculty that AALS annual meeting registrations must be received in the AALS office by the "early bird" deadline of December 8 to avoid a surcharge.

Dean Desiderio reported that construction bids will be opened by the University at 4:00 p.m. on December 19. We have received a \$100,000 pledge to the building from the Rodey firm, and Dean Desiderio will be contacting the Sutin and Modrall firms to seek similar pledges. The dean will travel to Las Vegas on December 21 to meet with Jim Rogers.

Self Study Committee Report:

Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez reported that work on the report is progressing well—two of the sections are in. Professor Burr reported that most faculty members have turned in their resumes and encouraged the others to turn theirs in as soon as possible. The date of the site visit is April 8-11, 2001.

Admissions Committee Report:

Associate Dean Peter Winograd reported that the Admissions Committee decided to restate the John Doe Fellowship LSAT guideline to the 85th percentile (approximately 161 LSAT score). Dean Winograd assured the faculty that the John Doe Fellowship will not be awarded on "numbers" to the exclusion of other factors. He stated that our law school classes have many students clustered in the middle range, and that a "spread" of students, to be accomplished by attracting more academically excellent students, will benefit everyone at the law school. These students will bolster the intellectual life and reputation of the law school, which in turn will benefit their classmates and alumni/ae by increasing the value of the UNM Law degree. These fellowships will be awarded with or immediately after the letters of acceptance.

After an extensive and vigorous discussion of how this policy might affect minority applicants and how this fellowship will be presented in a public relations manner, Professor Occhialino offered a motion to reconsider the previously passed motion, which was seconded by Associate Dean Peter Winograd. Dean Desiderio called for a hand vote, and the motion to reconsider was defeated by seven voting to approve, eight opposed to the motion, and one abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret A. Banek

:mb