

**New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology**  
**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Tuesday, October 1, 2013**  
**Workman Center 101, 4:00 p.m.**

- 1. Call to order.** Having determined there to be a quorum, Faculty Senate Chair Richard Sonnenfeld called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.
- 2.a Approval of the minutes of September 2, 2013.** Noting that the Minutes had some errors, and that Jacoby Boles was unavailable, the Chair suggested skipping the item until the next meeting.
- 2.b Approval of the Agenda.** Members approved the Agenda by unanimous consent.
- 3. Announcements.**
  - a. Accreditation Update – Mary Dezember.** Dr. Dezember explained that the HLC reaccreditation process includes five written components with supporting evidence files, similar to the dissertation process. A handout of a draft segment explained the process and how it works. Faculty members have until Monday to submit reports before a first draft is sent to the President, Vice Presidents, Registrar, faculty “and anyone who wants to be included,” she said. Dr. Dezember noted that a content management system which also plugs into the newly launched Strategic Plan process could be part of the annual DARs. Dr. Dezember also announced ~~She announced~~ that the third annual Student Research Symposium, ~~an event tied to the reaccreditation process,~~ will be held on Wednesday, April 9, 2014, because no Friday dates were open.
  - b. Faculty Development Committee – Sharon Sessions.** Dr. Sessions asked faculty interested in serving as a faculty mentor, or mentee, contact her by email; and asked committee members to let her know if they want to continue serving.
  - c. Academic Dishonesty Incidents Report – Mary Dezember and Lorie Liebrock.** Dr. Dezember and Dr. Liebrock distributed a report of all incidents dating back to 2007. Of the 73 incidents of academic dishonesty, 24 occurred during the Spring 2009 semester, or one-third of the total. The second-highest semester total was eight.
  - d. Graduate Student Critical Reading Workshop – Steve Simpson.** Dr. Simpson distributed a flyer for the Title V-sponsored workshop at Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, adding that students can register online.
- 4. President’s Report.**
  - *Funding Formula.* Dr. López reported on a new funding formula supported by the Council of University Presidents (CUP), with a base budget based on the previous year’s. The proposal includes funding for each new bachelor of science graduate, master’s and doctoral graduates. Were it to be funded, New Mexico Tech would receive an additional \$1.7 million, which the President said he could use to boost

faculty salaries. However, convincing the Higher Education Department (HED) is another matter. The proposal will be presented to legislators in November and December, and hopefully adopted in January, he said. Mr. David Abbey, executive director of the Legislative Finance Committee, visited the campus yesterday, as the University seeks capital funding for a new chemistry facility.

- **Committee Appointments.** The President also added two additional members to a committee (the Presidents/Faculty Advisory committee) charged with eliciting escalating faculty concerns ~~and funneling them~~ to his office; the committee has no decision-making authority, he added. Dr. López noted that he also is in the process of appointing a Strategic Plan Committee to number 20 or 21. While he cannot appoint everyone who has volunteered, there will be opportunities for input. Members of the faculty liaison committee are Dr. Scott Teare, chair; and members Dr. Snezna Rogelj, Dr. Hamdy Solimaon, Dr. Julie Ford, Dr. Fred Phillips, Dr. David Burleigh and Dr. David Westpfahl????
- **Academic Affairs.** The President announced he will soon appoint an interim Vice President for Academic Affairs to succeed the retiring Dr. Peter Gerity on Jan. 31, 2014; and that he will name a screening committee to select a permanent replacement. A nationwide search will be launched by advertising in academic publications, i.e., the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and professional associations, a process expected to last not less than six months, and hopefully not more than within eight months.

## 5. Committee Reports.

**a. Council of Chairs.** No report.

**b. Graduate Council – Lorie Liebrock.** Dr. Liebrock noted the committee did not receive their materials in time, and will give a report next month.

**c. Academic Standards and Admission – Andrei Zagrai.** Dr. Zagrai reported that the committee met at the start of the summer semester to consider requests, primarily for student re-admission, and came up with two recommendations: 1) to move the deadline for admission cases to the 5 p.m. on the Wednesday before classes start “to give us a chance to meet before the start of classes on Monday,” he said; and 2) to raise admission standards in requiring transfer students to qualify for Math 103. President López said the recommendations should first go to Academic Affairs as a Faculty Senate recommendation, and then to him.

**d. Distance Education – Mark Person.** No report.

**e. ADA report – Dave Westpfahl.** Dr. Westpfahl reported that someone has been turning off door activators, and asked anyone hearing of an incident to report it to the ADA. In addition, Dr. Mark Samuels noted people parking in areas reserved for handicapped individuals. The President offered to follow through on the possibility of having Campus Police issue tickets; or the University could consider a policy to fine violators.

## 6. Old Business.

a. **Voting for Officers – Mark Samuels.** Dr. Samuels announced that no one came forward to challenge the three nominees – Dr. Sonnenfeld, President; Dr. Phillips, Vice President; and Dr. Burleigh, Parliamentarian. While eligible Faculty Senate members filled out paper ballots, Elaine DeBrine-Howell introduced the new Student Association President, Malcolm Lockett. Mr. Lockett noted that his style of leadership differs from that of Sohaib ~~Solimon~~Soliman, the previous SA chief, explaining that he is less aggressive. He already has attended meetings related to the N.M. Lottery Scholarship, with the top proposals to be forwarded to state Sen. Michael Sanchez of Belen for review. One recommendation is to fund the scholarship program with \$1 billion from the permanent fund. The committee will meet again before the Legislature convenes in January 2014. Vote totals were not ~~announced~~made public for Sonnenfeld, Phillips and Burleigh, who were elected to their nominated positions.

b. **Quantized Voting for Regents Faculty Conference Committee Report.** The faculty Senate created this committee during its September 2013 meeting, and thus the nominating committee needed to staff it. Dr. Samuels reported that the committee include the dean of engineering, graduate dean, dean of arts and sciences and Faculty Senate chair. Dr. Michael Hargather asked who will represent junior faculty, and Dr. Romero then nominated him to fill the post. Dr. Julie Ford seconded the nomination, and Dr. Hargather agreed to serve “if no one else wants it.” Committee member Dr. Navid Mojtabai offered to step down to make room for Dr. Hargather; however, Dr. Zagrai pointed out that he and Dr. Hargather were in the same department, and it would be more beneficial for him to vacate his post instead. The vote was unanimous, with Dr. Mojtabai casting the only nay vote.

c. **Ad hoc Regents Faculty Conference Committee Report – Quantized Voting .**

The chair asked the assembled faculty to “grade” the previous report by the ad-hoc Regents Faculty Conference Committee report using clicker technology. The clickers malfunctioned and Dr. Sonnenfeld suggested that this item could be deferred to the November meeting. He once again asked the assembled faculty to read the report so that they could have an opinion on whether the agreed with more than 90% of it (A), more than 80% (B) more than 70% © more than 60% (D) or if they had such a fundamental problem that it should get and “F” (E on the clicker).

d.

7. **New Business.** None

8. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted, Valerie Kimble for Jacoby Boles*

