

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, December 3rd, 2013**  
**Workman 101 4:00 p.m.**

## MINUTES

1. **Call to order**
- 2a. **Approval of the minutes of November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Approval will happen at the February Meeting**
- 2b. **Approval of the Agenda**
3. **Announcements**
  - a. **Boot Camp- *Steve Simpson***

Boot camp is the week before spring semester, January 6-10<sup>th</sup>, 9am -5pm each day. Boot Camp is for graduate students who are writing their dissertation. Please see Steve Simpson for more details.
  - b. **Co-op agreements-*Lillian Armijo***

Cooperative agreements must be authorized before allowing the students to take part; an offer letter needs to be on file, as well as advisor signatures and placement in the course as well. Un-authorized cooperative agreements result in multiple problems for the student.
  - c. **GSA Insurance- *Mallory White***

Vice President of the GSA Mallory White introduced a seminar that the GSA is hosting on health insurance for graduate students on December 4th at 3pm in Workman 101.
  - d. **Former President Stirling Colgate passed away on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. A service will be held on December 15<sup>th</sup> in Los Alamos at Fuller Lodge. An announcement from New Mexico Tech will be made soon.**
  - e. **Rick Aster gave a thank you to the Faculty and the Institution after 22 years of service. He reminded his colleagues to not lose sight of your ambition and the potentialities of this Institution.**
  - f. **Lorie Liebrock made an announcement on behalf of the graduate council that theses and dissertations will be changed to single-space for the final versions.**
  - g. **Sara Grijalva and Tony Ortiz made an announcement on the new transfer admissions standards. The committee tasked with the implementation of these changes has decided that the implementation of the change will go into effect for Fall 2015 admission. The changes will be included in the Fall 2014 catalog.**

#### 4. **Committee Reports**

##### **a. Budget & Research- *Ken Minschwaner***

The committee chair reported on the research activities of the committee on trends in faculty composition, salaries, staff hires and issues in collecting data going back to 2002. Discussion was held on the possibility of getting a student representative on the committee. This was met with opposition because it requires a change to the by-laws. A non-voting student member could be appointed in an advisory capacity without changing the bylaws.

**Ken Minschwaner made a motion to participate to the AAUP salary study that is published in the Chronicle and the Chronicle's "Great Colleges to Work For" survey. The motion was seconded by Rick Aster.**

Discussion was held on what the associated costs would be and who would serve as the institutional representative. The committee suggested discussing this with Lonnie Marquez first. Discussion on the privacy of the individuals' identities was held and if the salary that would be reported would be the 9-month salary, which it was stated it would be. The committee will make the arrangements to have the individual faculty participate. (Subsequently, on the day of Governor Martinez's visit to NM Tech, Mr. Marquez approved this participation and Dr. Bonnekesen contacted AAUP and the Journal of Higher Education about including Tech in their surveys).

**By unanimous consent the motion carried.**

##### **b. Student Learning Evaluation (Assessment) - Postponed to February**

##### **c. Student Retention- Postponed to February**

#### 5. **Old Business**

#### 6. **New Business**

##### **a. Committee Chair confirmations- *Richard Sonnenfeld***

The agenda order was changed by unanimous consent, and the following committee chairs were recorded:

ASAC- Andrei Zagrai

Student Discipline- Michelle Creech-Eakman

Honorary Degrees- Mike Heagy

Nominating Committee- Mark Samuels

Computing on Campus- no chair named.

ADA- Dave Westpfahl

Assessment- none named yet

Retention-Brian Borchers

Distance Ed- Steve Simpson, chair pro-tem

Ombudspersons- none needed.

Academic Freedom and Tenure- Richard Sonnenfeld

Budget and Research- Ken Minschwaner

Space Utilization- Paul Arendt  
Sabbatical- Julie Ford  
Faculty Development- Sharon Sessions  
Benefits- Bruce Harrison

b. Proposal and Discussion on ALP maintenance- *Gary Axen*

Gary Axen gave context for the handout, which included a two paragraph motion and 9 points of support by stating that last week the ALP program was ended by administration without any reasons being given.

Gary Axen read the motion:

**The Faculty Senate of New Mexico Tech disagrees with the Administration's recent decision to close the Alternative Licensure Program (ALP), and believes that the ALP should be grown and supported at the State's only STEM-focused university.**

**As the NMT body ultimately responsible for academic programs and decisions, the Faculty Senate requests that the recent deletion of Catalog text regarding the ALP be reversed.**

9 reasons were outlined in the handout as to the reasons to maintain the ALP program:

The reasons to maintain the ALP are clear:

1. New Mexico desperately needs well-qualified STEM teachers in the secondary schools. The future of the State literally depends upon having a strong STEM workforce.
2. NMT students are uniquely well qualified to fill this role, as shown by their lack of failures (historically, none) in the NM Teacher Assessment exams, relative to very significant failure rates (30-50%) of students from UNM and NMSU. International studies show the importance of teacher quality and expertise in their subject matter for students who pass through that teacher's classroom. Qualified NMT graduates who desire a career in teaching certainly should be encouraged to do so.
3. Putting highly qualified teachers into the community directly assists NMT in recruiting students who are more likely to succeed: teachers educated at NMT are excellent ambassadors for the Institute. In turn, this bolsters the retention rate, which is the new metric of State funding for NMT. All ALP students must take 18 credit hours (equivalent to a minor) in the program, many of which will not count toward other degree requirements, so will be credited as additional student FTEs.
4. NMT should lead the way in New Mexico STEM education, not shrink from this important responsibility. For example, the MST program is now considered by technical staff in the Public Ed Department to be the model for future developments in teacher education in New Mexico. The ALP should be the same.
5. Several students will now be forced to alter their degree plans or depart NMT (irrespective of the specific legalities of their current registration status--the spirit of the law should not be trumped by the letter of the law).

6. The ALP ran successfully for decades until staffing problems led to temporarily decreased enrollments, a short-term problem that does not justify elimination of the program. The need for STEM education in New Mexico clearly justifies reinvigoration of the ALP, which should be the goal.
7. Ultimately, it is the NMT faculty that is responsible for quality and implementation of Academic Programs. Therefore, the Faculty Senate should be fully involved in decisions to create or destroy programs at NMT. If a statement of fiscal exigency can be justified then that statement should be made publically.
8. It is our understanding that the President has indicated to the Board of Regents that the ALP will be supported. To suddenly reverse this does the Institute harm, and indicates a clear lack of Administrative transparency and willingness to work with the NMT Faculty, both also recently promised to the Board.
9. In the small Academic sphere, universities with histories of contentious unilateral Administrative decisions are soon branded nationwide as bad places to work, making faculty retention and recruitment even more difficult than the current fiscal situation dictates. The decision to cut this program without faculty input (and despite faculty concerns) is damaging to the morale of the faculty and students of NMT.

**Call for a second for the motion to adopt the first two paragraphs was made by Richard Sonnenfeld**

**Brian Borchers seconded the motion.**

**Bill Stone made a friendly amendment to change the wording to read:**

**As the NMT body delegated by the Regents with responsibility for academic programs and decisions, the Faculty Senate requests that the recent deletion of Catalog text regarding the ALP be reversed.**

Brian Borchers discussed that putting the catalog text back is not the same as restarting the program.

**Brian Borchers made a friendly amendment to change the wording of the motion to read:**

**As the NMT body delegated by the Regents with responsibility for academic programs and decisions, the Faculty Senate requests that the recent deletion of Catalog text regarding the ALP be reversed and that steps be taken to reinvigorate the ALP.**

**The motion with both amendments is:**

**The Faculty Senate of New Mexico Tech disagrees with the Administration's recent decision to close the Alternative Licensure Program (ALP), and believes that the ALP should be grown and supported at the State's only STEM-focused university.**

**As the NMT body delegated by the Regents with responsibility for academic programs and decisions, the Faculty Senate requests that**

**the recent deletion of Catalog text regarding the ALP be reversed and that steps be taken to reinvigorate the ALP.**

Lorie Liebrock responded to the proposal on behalf of Academic Affairs, by citing there was an average of 3.6 students per year for the last 10 years and that at least \$100,000 was being spent to run the program each year. She reiterated that she felt that all here are in favor of supporting of STEM education in NM and that George Becker and Mark Samuels are working hard to find ways to solve the issues for the students currently in the program.

John Wilson discussed the similarity to the situation when the decision was made to eliminate the daycare center, and that the problem is two-fold that there needs to be discussion in public forum first and secondly the elimination of the program.

Discussion continued on getting the data of the actual failure rates at the other schools and our own success rate. Discussion continued on each bulleted claim, and the solvency of the program, and the actual number of students enrolled. It was discussed that the highest number in 10 years was 11 students, and that 2-6 is the average. Discussion was held on the faculty's responsibility to care for the programs and to participate in the strategic planning. George Becker responded by saying that NMT is the producer of the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest number of math and science teachers. Discussion followed on the ALP linkage to the MST program, and whether they should or should not be linked economically.

A student stood for comment, saying that she would be devastated to lose the program, and was not aware of the ALP program's existence until it was cut. She suggested that advertising the program seemed to be essential.

**Motion to table by Mike Hargather second by Ken Minschwaner**

**Clicker vote: 11 ayes, the motion to table failed.**

**Results of vote in favor the amended motion:**

**32 ayes**

**5 nays**

**5 abstentions**

**7. Adjournment.**

**By unanimous consent the faculty senate adjourned at 5:03 pm.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Jacoby Boles**

**1-28-2014**