

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

3:30 p.m. Workman 101

## Minutes

### 1. Call to order

Dr. Brian Borchers called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm with a call for approval of the December 6, 2022 minutes.

### 2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Ian Crump moved to approve seconded by Dr. Kaarin Goncz.

Motion was moved and approved unanimously.

### 3. Presidents Report-*President Wells*

President Wells gave a Presentation on 2023 Legislative Update-

- **2023 Shared Legislative Priorities;**

- I & G Funding-** Provide a minimum 5% increase and address inflation.

- Compensation-** Fully fund 5% compensation increase allowing for flexibility; fund ERB contribution increase.

- Higher Education's Role in creating an Innovation Economy-** up to \$40 million for the Research Closing Fund, \$10 Million for the Higher Education Endowment Fund, \$10 Million for Workforce Training, \$10 Million for Workforce Training Endowment.

- Campus Safety-** \$8 million for enhanced training

- Student Success-** Provide \$6 million in funding for mental health services and \$3 million for wrap around services

- Dual Credit** –Provide \$15 million to support colleges cost of construction

- Infrastructure Renewal & Replacement** -\$25 million for deferred maintenance and critical IT infrastructure, plus support for updated facilities index.

- Financial Aid-** funding for the Lottery and Opportunity Scholarships and ensuring eligibility for hardship exemptions.

- **2023 NM Tech Legislative Priorities;**

- Recurring Funding Requests:**

- I & G Funding-** Increase NM Tech I & G base funding by \$7.2 million over FY2022 funding level.

- RPSF Funding;**

- \* **Cybersecurity Centers of Excellence-** increase of \$751,199

- \* **Geophysical Research Center-** increase of \$250,000

- \* **Energetic Materials Research & Testing center-** \$240,000

- \* **Center for Homeland Security/Playas-** Increase of \$240,000

- NM Bureau of Geology** - \$1,332,200

- Capital Outlay Projects:**

- \***Drone Research Facility** - \$600,000 (req.fr. Academic Affairs)

- \***Research Center Equipment** -\$1,900,000.

- Supplemental Funding Requests (non-recurring);**

- \***Stem Graduate Fellowship Endowment-** \$8,000,000
- \* **Student Support Services--** \$250,000
- \* **Natural Gas Utility Expenses-** \$811,800
- \* **Cybersecurity initiatives-** \$250,000
- \* **NM Bureau of Geology-Water Data Act-** \$250,000
- \* **NM Bureau of Geology/Hantush- Deju National Hydrologic Innovation Center Brackish Water Assessment-** \$35,000,000
- Other Projects;**
- \* **NMT Facilities Condition Index Assessment-** \$380,894

**Brief Update on Legislative process FY 2024 State Budget-** Process for all budgets and request start in the summer and the fall thru the interim committees and that is the time to press the legislature Three Different recommendations and we always see which one best favors the universities. But very commonly they go with the Legislative recommendation. Goes over the FY2024 State Budget Update. Higher education had a favorable recommendation for I & G. House & Appropriations & Finance Committee met on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Only offering 1% money for I & G. Inflation is 6%. Only recourse is to raise tuition. We have pushed for targeted increase for faculty statewide as well. They have agreed to that, Senate Finance Committee met on Monday, they adjourned without making any recommendations. Long way to go. Lots of negotiation. Be patient as to what comes out for final recommendation. As to request that we have for changing our base funding that additional 7 plus million is outside the formula. Keeping hopeful that we can make progress as we go thru the session. This year a pretty remarkable situation for us. Normally we have one person -legislature that represents us. We now have a strong delegation in the House of Representatives Gayle Armstrong and Tara Jaramillo. And in the Senate- Senator Hemphill and Senator Diamond. They all are on the finance committees. So for Tech we couldn't have asked for anything better. They really care for our university. A lot of opportunity. Gail Armstrong is the ranking member on the House Appropriation Committee. We continue to advocate for out of formula base adjustment. All ends March 18 and Governor has time to line item veto.

The presentation was followed by a Q&A. Some key takeaways:

- During this discussion, Dr. Tom Kieft- curious as to the Capital Outlay Request- in a year when the State as to severance tax money the request seems modest. In the past we have asked for buildings just curious about strategies - Dr. Stephen Wells commented- we have asked for additional money for the PRRC Building and I didn't put that in there because that is going thru a slightly different process. Most money comes thru GO Bond Request, that's were large capital. As to Severance Tax. . We can't ask for buildings during this time here.
- Dr. Van Romero- Thanked Dr. Wells and his team for the battle in Santa Fe. Understand that this is the NM State Budget. Is there a game plan/timeline yet for the Federal Request from the University? President Wells commented –you know what is going on in Washington. Our goal and we have been talking to VP Doyle and our team. To put a request to the university. We are still working on that Van. We have specifics request that have gone in from this last year and waiting to see what the situation is. I will let you know when we have that timeline to the feds. And we hope we can do it campus wide. I can address your question we have 2 million dollars set aside.
- Dr. Sneza Rogelj- I will be quick Dr. Wells- I would like to ask for clarification on Research Closing Fund. Could you remind or clarify what that is. Dr. Wells commented- That is we were very successful in convincing our legislatures to put

invest in higher education research and the fact that there are opportunities to bring in matching funds for things like DOA-might require or DOD. Senator Scholl's has always fought for 10 million dollars and never got really far. We finally put a lot of emphasis from the summer before and that is when they put up the first 45 million dollars. The VP's of research from the 3 research institutions worked out the processes and rules then sent to the Higher Education Department and we are waiting for them to the final step once that happens then that is available to our faculty for matching funds and some areas in commercialization. I can get you that wording or ask VP Doyle or Nelia Dunbar to get provide that to you because there are some opportunities for commercialization in there.

**4. Introductions of new members- *Dr. Michael Jackson***

- **Sadie Stidstone-** Administrative Assistant to Vice Presidents Office in Academic Affairs –Thank Lindsey for her 8 years of assistance.
- **Dr. Michael Doyle** -New Vice President for Research –Thanks Dr. Van Romero for his 25 years of service as the VP for Research-Along with Doug Wells.

**5. Reports of Senate Standing Committees**

**a. Nominating Committee – *Dr. Mark Samuels***

At the last senate meeting we approved the Mental Health Wellness Committee and we were asked to find four faculty members. The following have agreed to serve on the new Mental Health and Wellness Committee; Taylor Dotson, Tie Wie, Yulia Mikhailova, Minnie Mao.

Motion was moved and approved unanimously to accept the new four committee members.

**b. Budget Committee – *Dr. Mark Person (15 minutes)***

I want to thank my committee members for all their efforts on putting this together. It was rather rushed. The review process with the VP from Finance Administration so view this as interim information subject to change. Not all committee members were happy with the report that was distributed. Felling like it needs to be back checked more and we intend to do that in our final report. The main mandate we were given to understand the why the structural portion of our budget as a percent was relatively low compared to other NM Universities. We believe on our first findings that you know your salaries, as to faculty salaries are part of the major budget. Salaries are low. We have been working on comparing faculty salaries. It is a pretty difficult thing to do. We are low. As to the average Asst. Professor Salary is about 75 k here at UNM 100,000. Will take 8 years of consecutive raised to match UNM Salaries. We are in the hole. (Inaudible) As to Playas. AS to P Double RC- As to Playas almost wiped out the gains from those other entities. It's been losing money. And we hope the new VP.

Questions or comments:

Interested in the admins- when they are getting their raises and wages to salaries and how that is going to go. Mark comments we are planning to look into that this spring. We will address that when it comes. Brian -send comments to Mark.

**c. Curriculum Committee – *Dr. Linda DeVeaux (45 minutes)***

**Dr. Linda DeVeaux** -thanked the committee for all their hard work.

All nine curriculum change proposals put forward by the Curriculum Committee (28, 33, 38,

42, 46,48,53,30,52) were approved without amendments. Curriculum (49) & (54) –passed with amendment & two motion in (54)

**Curriculum (49)** was passed but with one amendment.

Cybersecurity 502 will be cross listed with a new philosophy 482. PHIL 482 will be now be cross listed with the existing Cybersecurity 502 shares lectures with PHIL 482 but additional work is required for the graduate credit.

TCOM 403/503- description updated- adding TCOM 407 new course.

Question & Comments; (49)

Dr. Aly El Osery- as to crossing 400 level class with a -500 class- usually each class is at 2 different levels like that - is it extra work required to graduate- look like you are calling it the same class. There is supposed to be an update that the say's 500 level requires additional work- Brian-Yes I believe that is in there- we can check the detail.

Brian- this an amendment that we can consider.

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Motion to amend that proposal to add that phrase.  
2nd by Laurie- All in favor – Amendment approved.

**Curriculum (54)-** The Proposal is to change the name of the Basic Sciences Degree to change to Interdisciplinary Sciences and then also add a BA into Interdisciplinary Sciences-

Questions-Comments: (54)

Dr. Haoying Wang- So it a name change- Linda no with an addition to an entirely BA –

Suggest to split into two votes. One the name change to the existing BS Program and one on the new BA Degree Program  
Any objections- No

1<sup>st</sup> Motion on the name change to the BS- existing Program- become a BS Interdisciplinary Sciences-  
**Passes unanimously**

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to adopt the new BA Degree in Interdisciplinary Sciences

Question & comments (54)-

Dr. Haoying Wang - for the BA in Interdisciplinary Sciences Degree is there a clear definition of what is – Reason it's called Interdisciplinary -we need to define it can't be broad-  
Answer- Steve- so Interdisciplinary Sciences like the basic sciences before are designed so that the students kinda of craft the degree that they are interested in. the one that we included with the Interdisciplinary Sciences we moved into the Interdisciplinary Sciences studies is a degree is secondary advisor that they have 2 different people that they can get advice from.

Dr. Haoying Wang – still concerned as to the BA in Interdisciplinary Sciences Degree- as to student having a hard time marketing themselves.

Dr. Steve Simpson- Students chose a focus area.

Dr. Bill Stone- concerned that this is a fairly weak degree. We already have the general studies which allows students to make up a degree with not much requirements. Hopefully they get good advising. I don't see a real need for another degree with weaker requirements. I'm against this proposal I think we already have degree that students can take they want and can create their own study plan.

Stuart- making a point that we already voted on the name- why are we arguing.

Dr. Brian- to be clear question we are debating right now is the adoption of the BA Degree Program into Interdisciplinary Sciences- BS program that was Basic Sciences has been changed to Interdisciplinary Sciences that is complete

Dr. Beth Simpson -Couple of things from education perspective. As to education requirements.

Dr. Sharon Session – echoes what Beth just said the huge needs to be able to educate the teachers across NM. Stem – would allow us to have opportunity- speaks in favor

2<sup>nd</sup> Motion to adopt the new BA Degree in Interdisciplinary Sciences-  
**Motion & Passes unanimously**

**6. Council of Chairs Report – *Dr. Mike Jackson (5 minutes)***  
No report.

**7. Graduate Council Report – *Dr. Aly El-Osery (5 minutes)***  
No Report

**8. Old Business-**  
There was no old business

**9. New Business**  
There was no new business.

**10. Announcements**  
Announcement were sent out. Read the announcement that were provided.

**11. Adjournment**  
Motion to adjourn was made and seconded.  
The motion passed unanimously.