

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, February 07, 2017

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Kieft called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm

Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the December 8, 2016 minutes, seconded by Dr. Michael Hargather. Motion passed.

2. Short announcements

a. New Faculty Introductions

Dr. Tom Kieft introduced Dr. Douglas Wells as the Vice President for Academic Affairs. Dr. Steve Simpson introduced Dr. Yulia Mikhailova and Dr. Jesse Priest as Assistant Professors in the CLASS department. Iver Davidson introduced Curtis Warren as new Canvas Director for ACT.

b. Point of Contact for Education Proposals – *Lisa Majkowski*

Lisa Majkowski stated that Dr. Peter Mozley asked her to serve as point of contact for educational proposals. Those who are interested in pursuing an educational proposal, Lisa will provide resources.

c. Inventors and Entrepreneurs Workshop and Wolves Den – *Frank Reinow*

Dr. Frank Reinow gave an update on the upcoming Inventors and Entrepreneurs workshop. It will be held on April 7 & 8. The whole community is invited and students are encouraged to attend. The purpose of the workshop is to educate everyone on the process of taking an idea, creating a product and bringing it to market.

Dr. Reinow asked faculty for help in recruiting students for the Wolves Den. This event will be on April 8 and it is their version of Shark Tank. This will provide students an opportunity to pitch their idea to a panel of experts.

d. March for Science – *Richard Sonnenfeld*

Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld announced on April 22 there will be a March for Science in Washington, D.C. where there will be satellite marches. Dr. Sonnenfeld posed the question, should we be doing something here to get faculty and students involved?

e. Mental Health Awareness – *Snezna Rogelj*

Dr. Snezna Rogelj gave an update on what the Biology department is doing in regards to student well-being, particularly with student mental health. This is important for obvious reasons. This realistic approach will ultimately benefit and

contribute to the quantifiable factors which are retention and student performance. Dr. Siv Watkins, Elaine DeBrine-Howell, Dr. Mark Samuels, and Dr. Stewart Thompson participated in a student led panel on the stigma of mental illness. The following day, Biology, QUASAR, and Techie Standup hosted Dr. Watkins led seminar discussion reverse engineering in the stigma of mental health. Dr. Rogelj noted that the room was packed full. A week later, Jeff Holland returned to Biology upon requests from students. He is a licensed clinical social worker and gave good advice with a well turn out again.

In all cases these events are based on a community discussion. The idea is that by trying to get people comfortable with discussing mental health, they will be more comfortable in asking for help. Our students want and need attention to this subject. We are sure to see an increase in their performance and an improvement in student retention. Dr. Rogelj encouraged faculty to make themselves available to students within their department.

f. Black History Month - Steve Simpson

Dr. Steve Simpson announced that there is an opportunity for students as part of Black History month. The Office of Residential Life is offering up to 12 student's free transportation and free passes to Santa Fe to see a screening title "I Am Not Your Negro".

g. President Wells

President Wells announced that the Cabinet meeting discussed a new council that he want them to form that will be more inclusive and bring us together for planning for the future. The Cabinet will develop a NMT leadership team council that will meet once a month to discuss strategic issues facing our institution. President Wells wants representation across the campus. Strategic planning and institutional growth will be discussed. It will consist of members from the Cabinet, Associate VP's, Deans, Faculty Senate Chair and Vice Chair, Directors of Institutional Advancement and Communication, and Student Body Presidents and Vice Presidents at the undergraduate and graduate level.

President Wells announced the AAAS team will be on campus on March 1 -3 dealing with our intellectual property and what we are trying to do to improve our efforts there. They will provide us with good advice to improve our intellectual properties endeavors here on our campus.

President Wells stated an undergrad student lost his back pack including his computer and homework in the first floor on the Bureau. He will try to find him a loaner computer but asked faculty to keep their eyes open for anyone who may try to sell a Mac Pro.

h. NM Tech Day – Peter Mozley

Dr. Peter Mozley announced that NM Tech Day was tremendously successful and NM Tech made a big impression. There were resolutions in both the House and Senate praising NM Tech.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee – Tom Engler

Dr. Tom Engler announced that the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee is presenting the nomination of John Dowdle for an honorary doctorate degree. Dr. Engler discussed Mr. Dowdle's background and stated that he has been very active with NM Tech and is instrumental in working with alumni. The committee received many letters of support and all were quite positive.

Dr. Tom Engler stated that the committee supports the recommendation of the honorary doctorate for John Dowdle and moved for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Report of Council of Chairs – *Douglas Wells*

Dr. Douglas Wells announced that there are curricular recommendations from the Council of Chairs.

a. Mechanical Engineering – David Grow

Dr. David Grow discussed the catalog changes for Mechanical Engineering.

Dr. Douglas Wells moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Electrical Engineering – Aly El-Osery

Dr. Aly El-Osery discussed the catalog changes for electrical engineering.

Dr. Douglas Wells moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Community Education – Mark Samuels

Dr. Mark Samuels discussed the catalog changes for community education catalog changes. One edit correction on a misspelling for Thai Massage.

Dr. Douglas Wells moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Report of Graduate Council – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Lorie Liebrock stated that faculty must do assessment for graduate programs. Dr. Liebrock also thanked faculty and their students who helped with Graduate Education Day and made that a success.

Thanked those who helped with graduate education day.

a. Chemistry – Mike Heagy

Dr. Mike Heagy discussed the Chemistry catalog changes.

Dr. Lorie Liebrock moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Mechanical Engineering – Jamie Kimberly

Dr. Jamie Kimberly discussed the Mechanical Engineering catalog changes.

Dr. Lorie Liebrock moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Old Business

a. Gen Ed's – *Douglas Wells/Steve Simpson*

Dr. Douglas Wells stated that there is a multifaceted movement to change the Gen Ed's across the state. It is coming from HED, the political side, and statewide consortium universities. There is a meeting Dr. Wells and several others will at-

tend in Albuquerque tomorrow to talk about where we are. His impression is that there is not nearly enough interaction between this body and the body that is pulling together this Gen Ed has happened. His mission is to steer this back to faculty and he is looking for ways to do this.

Dr. Wells' game plan is to get every faculty senate in this state to weigh in as a body. This can be difficult, however, there are several mechanisms including a portal created for input. If we create a special one for senates, each senate will have power to express their opinions.

Dr. Steve Simpson stated that this is one of many initiatives going on in the state. Our particular one is looking at the current five areas of general education. The provost at NMSU is leading a charge to overhaul that. The NMSU provost website has a bottle that has been put together by this committee of what Gen Ed will look like. It has a series of skills that we are supposed to assess Gen Eds by. Currently the website is set up to where you can view and submit feedback. We are looking to have something that is more affordable and comes from institutions.

Dr. Brian Borchers stated that there are a layered set of committees. A problem with these committees is that there has not been good communication between each other. An example of this was an idea that was adopted at his committee that was never presented to another committee.

Dr. Borchers moved to create a committee to write a response and share feedback to the faculty senate chaired by Dr. Steve Simpson, seconded by Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Simpson will work on a committee and submit to Faculty Senate for approval. The task force has the opportunity to serve on this committee. The committee will prepare a response that the faculty agrees on with bullet points attached that are major to us.

7. New Business

a. Departmental Budgets – *Douglas Wells*

Dr. Douglas Wells stated you can't do business where your budgeting is not tied to needs, performance, or demands. The idea is that he will give all departments a template with guidelines that will provide information to Academic Affairs on what your department needs. Academic Affairs can't plan to move forward if we don't know what you need.

Dr. Wells will have the template available before March 1st when DAR's are due. This is a perfect venue for making the case of what you need and informing Academic Affairs.

The Budget and Research Committee, with Chair Dr. Ken Minschwaner has prepared reports on where spending was occurring and where the revenue came from in the past. Dr. Mike Heagy will look into it with the committee.

b. Brainstorming – How do we tap into ideas from faculty, staff, administrators and students? – *Douglas Wells*

Dr. Douglas Wells asked how we tap into ideas from faculty, staff, administrators, and students. Good administrators foster those ideas in an environment, tap into

them, and help grow the institution. Dr. Wells stated that he can't talk to everyone one on one but he can talk to the department chairs and directors. He wants to make sure that faculty are talking to one another and those ideas are vetted and come up the chain.

Dr. Michael Hargather suggested a focused but unstructured event such as beer with the bosses.

8. Discussion

9. Adjournment.

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:27 pm.