

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, October 1st  
Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Engler called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a call for approval of the September 3 minutes. Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 2. Introductions –*Dr. Tom Engler*

Dr. Engler introduced Henry Prager as the GSA President and Jose Martinez as the GSA Vice President, and Michelle Sherman as the SGA President.

#### 3. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

**action**

##### a. Nomination Committee – *Dr. Mark Samuels*

Eligible faculty senate members filled out paper ballots. The Nominating Committee counted the ballots with the results showing:

Chair, Tom Engler  
Vice-Chair, Mike Hargather  
Parliamentarian, Sally Pias

#### 4. Council of Chairs Report – *Dr. Doug Wells*

**action**

##### a. CSE Curricular Changes

Dr. Mazumdar discussed several minor changes and a new ethics course that will be taught in collaboration with the CLASS department. CSE 382 will be cross listed with PHIL 382. The CSE 382 course has a prerequisite (CSE 326) so that students take this course late and not early. The PHIL 382 course will have a different prerequisite (ENGL 112).

There was a question on having two different pre-requisites for a course. If the student is a CS major, they will take the CS version. There may be some conflict and most likely students will need waivers. However, this is really an advising issue.

Dr. Mazumdar moved to accept these changes. Motion passed with two nays.

Dr. Mazumdar discussed an undergraduate honors thesis option in Computer Science. It is intended to be taken after the student has completed twelve required courses in the CS major and they maintain a certain GPA. This three credit thesis will replace one of the four courses needed for a technical elective.

Dr. Mazumdar moved to approve this option. Motion passed unanimously.

**b. Enrollment, Recruitment, and Retention**

Dr. Wells briefly discussed the main points of his presentation.

Enrollment - We are in trouble with our enrollment numbers and we need to fix this. We are currently down 64 students from the same census date last year and we have been down in enrollment for the past three years. Departments will have to fund this loss of income. Over the last fifteen years, the science programs have been dropping at NMT. Engineering programs rose over ten years, but over the last five years they have been dropping. National trends show that engineering and science programs have been rising and are remaining steady. The graduation rate of STEM majors nationwide from 2000-2015 show that the number has been growing steadily nationwide.

Recruiting Initiatives - These need to be discussed more thoroughly to reverse these trends. Academic Affairs along with several faculty have been working on a pilot program to offer WUE to several targeted transfer schools.

Upgrades, Usage, and Activities - There are some simple things that we can do to make our classrooms, academic spaces, and activities more attractive for both recruiting and retention. Additionally we can up our game on the promotion and support of student activities that are attractive to students. Similarly, the transfer student meeting that we held last year, their number one suggestion was to have student club to student club interactions. Also, we can add more support to faculty who are attending student recruiting events.

Retention, Persistence, and Graduation and the Flow Chart – Dr. Wells briefly reviewed our institutional goal for first-time and full-time bachelor’s degree seeking freshman and transfer students. We have increased our Institutional Research (IR) “footprint” and have added an IR position with the Office of the Registrar that is focused on statistical analysis of data. We have discovered that housing arrangements show a correlation between student success.

Retention Initiatives – Our retention rate is flat and our graduation rate is high. There are some items in the queue such as overhauling departmental reviews to reward departments and faculty for student success, advising evaluations, intrusive advising and intervention, and degree works.

Graduate Education – Our graduate education data show trends in applications and enrollment. We have been steadily declining in graduate applications for over a decade; however, the number of graduate students enrolled has remained flat. This means that we are making no progress in one of our fundamental aspirations of becoming a Carnegie Research 3 University.

However, there is a number of items that we have been doing to improve our graduate recruitment and retention.

**c. Faculty Visa's & Permanent Residency**

We current do not have a tracking mechanism that tracks faculty VISA's. Academic Affairs is working with HR to create a spreadsheet to help track the process of VISA's for faculty.

**5. Graduate Council Report – Dr. Aly El Osery**

**action**

**a. CEE Curricular Changes**

Dr. Richardson discussed the five year Bachelor of Science/Master of Science programs. There is a requirement that a student be admitted to the graduate program one full year prior to undergraduate graduation. He proposed to remove “one full year” requirement as they felt this was restrictive. Dr. Aly El-Osery stated that this will affect all departments that have five year programs. He feels that this gives department's room to allow programs to be restrictive based on how they structure their program and not coming from the graduate office.

More broad changes are coming to this five year text. Faculty would like to hold off on voting until all changes are presented together. Dr. Hargather moved to defer back to committee, seconded by Dr. Tom Kieft Motion passed with one nay.

Dr. Richardson discussed several language changes to the catalog for CEE. Dr. Richardson moved to approve this. Motion passed unanimously.

**b. CSE Curricular Changes**

Dr. Mazumdar discussed changes to the graduate program for the MS degree in CS.

He proposed to remove the MS degree with a specialization in IT.

Dr. Mazumdar moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**c. Graduate Level Courses Cleanup**

Dr. Aly El-Osery stated that they are several graduate level classes that are listing 100 or 200 level course as pre-requisites. The Graduate Council proposed to remove all 100 and 200 level courses as prerequisites for graduate level courses.

Dr. El-Osery moved to approve these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Unfinished Business**

**a. Proposed Bylaw changes to FS Standing Rules – Dr. Tom Engler**  
**action**

Dr. Engler announced that the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Standing Rules were discussed at the last meeting. Dr. Engler received feedback and some language was added to the document.

Dr. Engler stated that at the last meeting, we had discussed having tenured faculty only on the Student Discipline Committee. However, there were some comments that untenured faculty work closely with students. Dr. Stone moved to strike the word tenured, seconded by Dr. Todd Wolford. Motion passed.

Henry Prager moved to add one undergraduate student representative and one graduate student representative to the ADA Committee, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion passed. Dr. Brian Borchers moved to clarify that an undergraduate student representative serves on the Retention Committee, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain. Motion passed. Dr. Andrei Zagrai moved to add one undergraduate student representative and one graduate student representative to the Space Utilization and Campus Planning Committee, seconded by Dr. Brian Borchers. Motion passed.

Dr. Michael Hargather moved to approve the document as a whole with the amendments, seconded by Dr. Andrei Zagrai. Motion passed unanimously.

## **7. New Business**

**Info**

## **8. Announcements**

**Info**

### **a. Report of HED Summit – *Dr. Tom Engler***

Dr. Engler stated that several weeks ago he attended an HED Summit. This is where the Governor launched her free tuition and fees program for NM students. It has not been approved yet, but this was the main topic for the Summit.

### **b. Absentee Notifications and Withdrawal Without Prejudice Procedures – **Dr. Peter Phaiah****

Dr. Phaiah announced that certain functions that come out of the Dean of Students Office. He has been working with Dr. Peter Mozley and other offices so that these functions are clearly articulated to students and faculty.

Absentee Notifications - These have been cleaned up and expectations are more detailed.

Withdrawal Without Prejudice Policy – This is for extremely unusual circumstances where a student may petition for this. Students may not withdrawal without prejudice from a course they are failing due to plagiarism, cheating, or other disciplinary issues.

Student–Faculty Engagement Meal Ticket Programs – This is an effort to foster greater student-faculty engagement opportunities outside of the classroom or office.

Student Emergency Meal Program – This is a process by which students in financial crisis can receive emergency meal tickets.

**b. Report on Honesty Violations – *Dr. Peter Mozley/Dr. El Osery***

Dr. Mozley discussed a report on undergraduate honesty violations for the past year. In 2015 we had a huge spike in the number of violations. Since then we implemented a number of various strategies to improve this and our number of violations have gone down.

Dr. El-Osery discussed a report on graduate honesty violations for the past year. There are fewer cases for graduate students, but the consequences are more serious. There were two cases last year.

**c. STEM teaching workshop – *Dr. Kip Carrico***

Dr. Carrico announced a STEM teaching workshop will be held on Friday October 11.

**d. 49ers – *Sandi Lucero***

Sandi announced the 49ers schedule. This year they will be holding a memorial service on Sunday morning. Those who attend will be encouraged to plant a tree with a paper memory of a loved one.

**e. Research Integrity training for Graduate students – *Dr. Van Romero***

Dr. Van Romero stated that every two years there is a worldwide conference on research integrity and responsible conduct of research that he attends. One thing that is happening worldwide that may be of interest is if there is a research misconduct complaint in Australia, the Research VP investigates it and makes a determination. However, once the investigation is done they then send it to the media while here we seal it. The most important thing that came out of this is that the agencies are requiring more and more training and now it is very specific for graduate students.

Dr. Romero briefly introduced Mikell Coleman as the new compliance officer in Research. He expects the officers to be facilitators and not policeman. Carlos Romero announced that one of the first item's on Mikell's agenda is to do a comprehensive policy and procedural review of our safety programs that deal with research. This will be a transparent process and they will constitute a research policy committee where the faculty senate will be asked to participate. One of the procedures will be the training videos for graduate students. It is a good practice to train the current and next generation of researchers. These training videos are considered the baseline courses that any researcher should take and are considered best practices. The training videos will be required for graduate students and will be available online. It will also be available for faculty and staff to take. The Graduate Dean will be tracking this information for graduate students.

Several comments were made that students should not take all of these courses. The trainings need to be based on the research that they are doing and it needs to be discussed further with faculty and at the Graduate Office.

**f. Memoriam – Dr. Mike Heagy**

Dr. Heagy announced that Dr. Robert Wayne Ohline recently passed away.

**9. Adjournment**

By unanimous decision, the faculty senate adjourned at 5:38pm.