

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 6, 2018

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 with a call for approval of the February 6, 2018 minutes. Dr. Kevin Wedeward moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain.

2. Announcements

a. Administrative Reorganization & Legislative Update – *President Wells*

President Wells provided a summary on the 2018 Legislative session. President Wells announced that the Council of University Presidents stood firmly together on this. This year we have 2% new money or about \$12 million new dollars in the funding formula and a redistribution set at 4%. Another important item is a 2% compensation increase for higher education employees in state general funded positions including Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP's). On a general note, one item that we fought for was to decouple the lottery bill. It decouples the scholarship from tuition and maintains sector equity with flat rate scholarship levels of \$1500 for research universities, \$1020 for the comprehensives, and \$380 for the two-year sector. President Wells stated these are pending signature from the Governor. For us, NMT, we were successful for a general obligation bond, which will go before voters in November, features \$7.1 million for Brown Hall renovation; severance tax bond package features \$90,000 for R&ED's new Makers space; and one-time non-recurring Special appropriation for PRRC-Waste water system pilot = \$245,000.

President Wells discussed the general changes to NMT's affiliated entities and administrative re-organization. The driving forces for doing this were: vision and strategic planning, presidential assessment, efficiencies and effectiveness, and external reviews. Some key changes and re-organization now include changing the Research Foundation to a philanthropic foundation, one that is helping us raise money through the Office of Advancement. This change resulted in the move of all intellectual property from the Research Foundation to the Research Park Corporation. There will now be one entity outside of NMT that will be managing IP. We will be enhancing our fundraising efforts through that and the Office of Advancement now reports directly to President Wells.

President Wells also announced that he consolidated all Economic Development into one office (Office of Innovation Commercialization). This will allow the Office of R&ED to re-focus on research. The duties for the Research Office have changed. Van Romero is now the Chief Science Officer. The Office of Research and "Centers for Scientific and Engineering Research & Testing" serves as the

primary institutional office for matter related to research (basic, applied and transdisciplinary).

The Center for Technology Commercialization has been converted to the Center for Technology Commercialization (OIC). They will work to support the faculty and students in their research endeavors. We will enhance the NMT Research Park Corporation effectiveness and hire a new executive director. The (NMTURPC) is building a board that consists of people who know NMT but also those who are outside.

President Wells stated that these changes are best for NMT. He is here for faculty success, student success, and the success of NMT.

b. Policy on Policy – *Peter Mozley*

Dr. Mozley stated that this policy is of foundational importance to the Institute. One important factor for this body is the concept of shared governance needs to be protected. There are some major problems with our current policy. It requires approval by the VPAA and President before the Senate can consider a policy. It sets policy for how the Senate internally routes policies. It should be governed by the Senate Standing Rules. It implies that the Senate only has a say in policy recorded in the course catalog. The draft policy defers to Senate Standing Rules for routing prior to Senate vote. It allows appeal to the President in the event of a dispute between the Senate and VPAA.

Dr. Mozley stated that there has been a substantive amount of input so far from the President, members of the Cabinet (especially VPAF and VPAA), Deans, Lala Garcia, Faculty Senate Chair Tom Kieft, Steve Simpson, Dave Burleigh, Brian Borchers, and Fred Phillip for Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.

Dr. Mozley stated that the next steps include requiring input from faculty, posting a draft for 15 days for comment from the University, and approval by VPs, President, and Regents.

c. New Student Advising – *Liz Lyons/Luz Barreras*

Liz Lyons stated that this year the advising is accelerated for preferred students for the fall semester. The OSL office was tasked with coming up a work flow for this. They came up with a form to be submitted by the advisor. The advisor will need to submit the students schedule using Banweb or Bean Web. The OSL will be hosting several information sessions next week for faculty to learn the new process.

Liz also stated that the Student Research Symposium registration period is tomorrow at 5:00 pm. Also, there are 4 confirmed Learning Communities. They are waiting to hear back on others and if they can offer new LC's that would be better.

d. State of Enrollment Issues – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells discussed some calculations that based on paid student numbers, we will be up 86 students next fall and applications will be up 43 students. Both paid and apps are starting to level off. If this is true, we will have the largest incoming

class ever. Also, our retention is up at the highest level ever recorded at NMT. Faculty and staff efforts are paying off.

Dr. Liebrock stated that the Graduate Office is behind the curve on paid students. The office is having some struggles with getting the online payment set up. However, the engineering application fee has been lowered and numbers are up 20% on applications.

e. Faculty Introductions – *Richard Sonnenfeld*

Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld introduced Dr. Caitano De Silva as an Assistant Professor in the Physics Department.

f. Academic Lab Upgrades – *Dan Lunceford/Joe Franklin*

The online directory is going live over spring break. Testing machines are available if anyone would like to try them out.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee – *Mike Heagy*

Dr. Heagy stated that the latest policy to come out of the Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee addresses hiring faculty with tenure at an Associate Professor rank or Full Professor Rank. The candidate would submit a CV and full tenure packet or professorship promotion packet. The hiring committee will review and provide a letter to the department for recommending tenure or Full Professor with tenure. Dr. Heagy stated that the committee did look over a number of other university policies regarding this.

Discussion was held that the hiring committees would often have assistant professors that would be making decisions for associate professors or a full professor with tenure. However, they would not be able to serve on internal tenure committees. It was stated that it isn't just the hiring committee, the Chair, Deans, and VPs are also reviewing this. Additionally, the hiring committee is not making the decision, they are making a recommendation. Dr. Sue Bilek suggested that the promotion committee would be another option to review before the final decision if they get the rank of full professor.

An additional comment was made that the policy should state that the status needs to be a full professor at their current institute to get the rank of full professor.

Dr. Sonnenfeld moved to refer back to the committee, seconded by Dr. Borchers. They need some time to take the comments into account. Motion passed.

b. Honorary Degree & Awards Committee – *Bhaskar Majumdar/Mingji Zhang*

Dr. Majumdar discussed the policy as it recognizes individuals by awarding special honors to persons who have contributed significantly to the culture, educational, or scientific development of programs or services at NMT, as well as those eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of more general significance and transcend geographic limitations.

The committee believes that neither of the two candidates meet the minimum degree requirements set forth by the policy stated above. Nevertheless, both

candidates made contributions that enhance the value of NMT as a premier education and research institution. A suggestion was made that the Alumni Association has two awards, one being service where this might be appropriate.

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

a. Earth & Environmental Science Catalog Changes

Dr. Spinelli discussed curricular changes for Earth & Environmental Sciences. Dr. Spinelli moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

b. Computer Science & Engineering Catalog Changes

Dr. Shin discussed curricular changes for Computer Science & Engineering. Dr. Shin moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

c. Materials Engineering Catalog Changes

Dr. Burleigh discussed curricular changes for Materials Engineering. Dr. Burleigh moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

d. Management Catalog Changes

Dr. Reinow discussed curricular changes for Management. Dr. Reinow moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

5. Report of Graduate Council – *Lorie Liebrock*

a. Writing Graduate Contracts

Dr. Liebrock stated that there have been a number of problems with student contracts this year that we would like to avoid going forward. TAs and RAs cannot be working even a day until their I9s have been completed. There are specific pay start dates for graduate contracts. There will be a link online for the contracts and when the start pay dates are. Dr. Liebrock stated that they are doing some other updates to the contracts to make them process more smoothly.

b. Tuition Waivers for Graduate Contracts

Dr. Liebrock stated that we are too far in the hole budget wise and with our indirect rates so we cannot afford to switch tuition to waivers. When that happens, all of the indirect that is charged on tuition goes away. Once the indirect rates are back up, then this will come back and we will push to switch to waivers.

c. Master of Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Lin stated that there some specifics recommendations from the State. HED is requesting that we remove the independent study option completely and submit a new form. Dr. Lin moved to accept this change. Motion passed.

d. Earth & Environmental Science Catalog Changes

Dr. Spinelli discussed the graduate curricular classes for Earth & Environmental Science. Dr. Spinelli moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

e. Physics Instrumentation PhD

Dr. Sonnenfeld discussed the PhD with a dissertation in Instrumentation for Physics. Dr. Sonnenfeld stated that this is unique and valuable to our students. Dr. Sonnenfeld moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

f. CSE Cybersecurity Graduate Certificate

Dr. Shin targets discussed a cybersecurity Graduate Certificate and curricular changes for Computer Science Engineering. Dr. Shin moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

g. Management Engineering Catalog Changes

Dr. Reinow discussed curricular changes for Management Engineering with some additional added courses. Dr. Reinow moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

h. Materials Engineering Catalog Changes

Dr. Burleigh discussed the graduate curricular changes for Materials Engineering. Several courses were dropped that have not been taken in years.

Dr. Burleigh moved to accept these changes. Motion passed with a friendly amendment that we leave MATE 520 Biomedical Materials in for now until we see if there is a need for it.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Discussion

9. Adjournment

By unanimous decision the faculty senate adjourned at 5:43 pm.