

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, December 3, 2024
3:30 pm, Workman 101
Minutes

1. Call to Order.

Dr. Linda DeVeaux called the meeting to order at 3:33 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes.

- Dr. Iain Crump moved to approve the October 1, 2024 minutes, followed by a second from Dr. Taylor Dotson. Motion passed.
- Dr. Iain Crump moved to approve the November 5, 2024 minutes, followed by a second from Dr. Taylor Dotson. Motion passed.

3. Reports of Standing Committees.

a. Budget and Research Committee, *Doug Wells*.

Dr. Wells began by presenting the committee's agenda for the upcoming year. This was followed by a presentation on enrollment, with a focus on undergraduate new-student enrollments (first-time, full-time or FTFT and transfer) and its connection to university finances. There was no discussion on graduate student enrollment because their numbers have increased. Some elements in the presentation included:

- A graph outlining FTFT first-year students as a function of time, going back to 2014 with a projection into the next year.
- The 'enrollment funnel' that describes the nominal admission process, starting with inquiries through enrollment, excluding things like advising, housing, and financial aid processes. Note: A major challenge in reporting any of these numbers though is changes in definitions that can affect data and projections.
- Applications as a function of time, 2015-2020, follow the same general trend with where we are at this time. Although no data after 2020 was included, they appear to follow the same general trend.
- The process used to develop next year's enrollment projection. The estimate was based on looking at prior years: this year's number of paid deposits at this time multiplied by the average number of students who came to NMT, divided by the average the number of paid deposits at this time from prior years. Although the current projection is about half of this year's incoming class, there is still time to adjust our activities to correct this.
- Dr. Wells suggested this be viewed as an engineering process and that we identify things in our processes that we can fix while recognizing that no blame is being identified to individuals or offices.
- Some potential issues identified were: marketing, name buys (less than prior years), in-person recruiting (focusing more on out of state at conferences rather than within NM), Exploration Day (less planning than prior years), and delays in distribution of Financial Aid (in prior years, such as when the opportunity scholarship began, partial support via merit scholarships were distributed relatively quickly). The Enrollment Management Committee also existed and looked at coordination issues and data trends that included groups from across the campus. Other areas to look into

included Summer STEM, maintaining updated websites – particularly related to enrollment, etc.

- Dr. Wells emphasized our goal is to address any issues and hopefully mitigate some of the projections – as the loss in enrollment translates into financial losses, including those that affect auxiliary services. Enrollment losses also factor into other revenues received through the formula funding, potential loss in future graduate student enrollment, and other loss in legislative perspectives of NMT and ‘word of mouth’ recruitment of students (a AY2018-2019 survey indicated about half of students were influenced by someone they knew to attend NMT).
- Dr. Wells reiterated though that there are areas where we can recover with the goal of growing the number of paid deposits between now and March 1. This includes conversion of admitted students to those with paid deposits.
- Dr. Wells offered some suggestions for what could be done. These include: (1) bringing in individuals at NMT with experience in managing enrollment activities, (2) assist with training of offices, (3) name buys, (4) update web pages, (5) offer in-state tuition to out of state students, (6) focusing on in-state travel rather than out-of-state, and (7) ask Marketing to focus on our programs for the next few months.
- Why should students be interested? We are relatively cheap in comparison to other states. The benefit is that we still have time, and we have people who are experienced who could assist with these activities.
- In terms of long-term solutions, it would be beneficial for the campus to review the current enrollment management plan and engage with EAB.

Following the presentation there was further discussion that included how to implement elements of the presentation. The committee did not have a formal recommendation or motion for the Senate to consider. A few other challenges were discussed, such as aid not being distributed and students not receiving timely responses regarding their application status.

The committee was thanked for their work and specific suggestions and that moving forward with specific recommendations can be revisited under the New Business component of the agenda.

b. Curriculum Committee, *Isabel Morris*.

Dr. Morris led the discussion of twelve curriculum proposals.

- Details pertaining to proposal 0065 were presented (changes to the MS degree in hydrology). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0075 were presented (new graduate certificate in Geothermal Energy). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There are few geothermal programs in the US so it is an open market for NMT to enter into. The Department of Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering was thanked for leading this effort. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0081 were presented (changes to the undergraduate degree program in physics). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0082 were presented (changes to the CSE course numbers to align with the state’s CCNS for lower division courses). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. Q: what about personnel changes? Can be

made later in the academic year. A question was asked whether personnel changes need to be included as part of the curriculum change and whether other requirements, such as prerequisite requirements elsewhere in the catalog, would be changed automatically. It was understood that personnel changes could be made later by reporting them to the Registrar's office and that prerequisite changes would be made automatically within CourseDog. The motion was unanimously approved.

- Details pertaining to proposal 0083 were presented (changes to the Fine Arts component of the Community Education program). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. Discussion summarized the changes that included some courses receiving non-credit option (listed as CONC – Community Outreach Non-Credit), that CEFA courses will not satisfy general education while ARTS courses will, and that CEFA course credits can count toward the 120 credit degree requirement. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0084 were presented (changes to the Physical Recreation component of the Community Education program). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0085 were presented (changes to the undergraduate bachelor of science degree program in Management). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. Due to changes in the course numbers, a question about whether the content of the courses would reflect the appropriate level (e.g., if moved from a 300 to a 400 level). There was subsequent discussion about the difference in expectations between 300 and 400 level courses and that some the proposed changes are being made to ensure the material is being presented at the appropriate level. The program is planning to introduce new courses at different levels, in part to provide some structure to their course sequence. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0088 were presented (new accounting and financial management certificate program). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0090 were presented (change to Earth and Environmental Science course). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0091 were presented (changes to the undergraduate courses in CLASS). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0092 were presented (changes to the undergraduate Spanish courses in CLASS that includes aligning with the state's CCNS). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0094 were presented (changes to the undergraduate course in mathematics). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Details pertaining to proposal 0095 were presented (changes to the BMS program in Biology). The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Finally, as a follow-up to the November 5, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting, the renaming of the BMS program (proposal 0079) was tabled until February's Faculty Senate meeting.

4. Grad Council Report, *Aly El-Osery*.

a. Grad Council Minutes.

Dr. El-Osery provided an overview of the Grad Council minutes. This included: a recently held seminar for undergraduate students to promote graduate studies (about 35 individuals participated) and a recently held contract training session that Dr. El-Osery thanked individuals for participating in (about 40 faculty and staff attended).

There were also a few proposed changes to the names of PhD degree programs. Those having “with dissertation in ...” or “with specialization in ...” were given the option by the HED to drop these terms so that the name of their degree is general and not restricted to the particular specialization. The following departments were interested in dropping these terms from their degree programs at the MS, ME, and PhD levels: EE, MENG, and ChE. The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was unanimously approved.

5. Council of Chairs, *Michael Jackson*.

a. Draft Minutes of the November 19 Council of Chairs meeting. VPAA Jackson highlighted several items found in the draft minutes from the last Council of Chairs meeting.

- Michael Smith, Director of NMT’s Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis visited to discuss potential collaborations and opportunities for faculty and students. We anticipate having more individuals from the research centers visit the Council to discuss similar opportunities to connect individuals and strengthen existing synergies.
- Draft guidelines are being developed on how to address course credits when students are readmitted to the institution after an extended period from when the courses were taken.
- The Board of Regents is currently reviewing the recent changes to the Strategic Plan that were endorsed by the Faculty Senate. Once they finalize their decision, this information will be disseminated to the Faculty Senate (and campus).
- We will be working on maintaining a five-year academic calendar (something that will be addressed by the Registrar later in today’s agenda).
- There was a recent meeting with Bibliu and the campus bookstore about other ways that students can purchase (or rent) their textbooks. This conversation is ongoing and when more information is available it will be reported out.
- The syllabus template will be revised for the Spring 2025 semester and, once complete, will be disseminated. Faculty were reminded to make sure Spring semester syllabi are in the appropriate shared folders. The template can be used or, if not, please be sure to include the information in the template in your syllabus. The spring semester’s study day for students will be Friday, May 9. As with this semester, that week’s class schedule will be M, T, W, F to balance the instructional time across types of courses (MWF and TR) to the extent possible.

Several items were subsequently discussed including removing videos from Zoom, the August 2025 transition from Panopto to Canvas Studio, rationale for the syllabus template and for collecting syllabi, and the professional development training that was scheduled for Friday, December 6.

- Regarding the transition from Panopto, ACT will be preparing videos to assist faculty with how to record lectures with Canvas Studio (as the software should allow faculty to have more control over recordings) and how to transition videos from Panopto to Canvas Studio as it may not be automatic. No videos have been deleted at this time.
- The rationale for the syllabus template is to ensure student receive consistent information from the institution. Collecting the syllabi helps address student inquiries (e.g., grade

appeals, transfer into or out of NMT) and to have a repository of information if questions arise. It is not about reviewing individual faculty syllabi.

- Regarding training, faculty were reminded that their proposal was to require attendance at these professional development events. However, because this was a different type of program than what was originally considered, along with the sensitivity of the topic being discussed, it was not mandatory and faculty could decide whether they want to attend or not. Nevertheless, individuals are encouraged to attend as this will provide participants with safety tips they could use in their classroom or in public. VPAA Jackson encouraged individuals to sign up or inform him of their plans to not attend so they knew approximate enrollment numbers. VPAA Jackson also emphasized that this is a one-time event and that next May's program will focus on required training faculty need to participate in (e.g., research compliance) and active learning techniques. These align better with the purpose for having an in-service day. VPAA Jackson also confirmed that the restructuring of the last week of class into a M, T, W, F schedule was to balance the instructional time across different course offerings – something he did look into prior to implementation.

- b. Although discussed at the Council of Chairs, the policy and procedure related to Honorary Degrees is coming forward from the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee. The proposal, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was endorsed by the Faculty Senate. The policy and procedure will be distributed to the campus community for feedback before, eventually, progressing to the Board of Regents for review.

6. Old Business.

7. New Business.

- a. Academic Calendar, *Heather Juarez*.

The Registrar provided an overview of the academic calendar and answered several questions. For example, while the calendar contains key dates needed by individuals from across the institution, it is missing a few such as when grades are due for a given term. The Registrar indicated that information will be sent separately to the campus community by the Registrar's office. It was noted that this year's intersession dates are listed as beginning on January 2, 2025. However, it should be January 6 instead. The Registrar noted that will be corrected and that it will be clear that the calendar is subject to change.

The academic calendar, having come from the committee, was moved for approval. There was no further discussion. The motion was approved.

- b. A motion was made by Dr. Tom Kieft to have a vote of no confidence in the Vice President of Student Affairs (VPSA). The motion was seconded and discussion ensued. The motion should be directed to a specific individual (e.g., President), include the reasons why (e.g., enrollment is in a bad state), and suggested actions (e.g., suggestions that came forward from the Budget and Research Committee).

Individuals identified a key reason is urgency in the matter and that the VPSA didn't appear to demonstrate urgency in addressing the situation. Individuals also recognized that the Faculty Senate doesn't have all of the information to evaluate personnel, but they can offer their perspectives and their experiences to guide such decisions. It was noted that some of the

recommended items should already be underway and that multiple changes in personnel within the division appeared problematic.

Dr. Brian Borchers moved to amend the motion to include “because of the enrollment crisis NMT is facing and the substantial turnover of staff in Student Affairs, the Faculty Senate votes in no confidence in Vice President Greene.” Dr. Kieft seconded the amendment with the request that the Senate wordsmith the motion as needed.

Other concerns raised was the apparent lack of urgency, poor communication and management of financial aid distribution, and apparent neglect of standard activity and actions related to the recruitment and matriculation of students. There has also been apparent dissatisfaction from students (e.g., student organizations) but this was not included because student representation was not in the meeting (and faculty did not want to speak for students). Due to the meeting time, and the potential impact such a vote implies, the question to vote was called.

The motion that was voted on is: “Due to the following reasons, the Faculty Senate votes no confidence in the current Vice President of Student Affairs

1. enrollment crisis (Budget and Research Committee Report),
2. loss of staff in student affairs,
3. his lack of urgency in response to the November Faculty Senate meeting,
4. the poor communication and management of Financial Aid distribution, and
5. not carrying out standard recruiting practices.”

The motion passed unanimously, with a quorum present, and no objections.

- c. Dr. Kieft then moved that the Faculty Senate recommend the administration adopt all of the Budget and Research Committee’s recommendations. Dr. Dan Cadol seconded the motion. Discussion ensued about which recommendations to include, as some may be outside Faculty Senate’s purview.

Dr. Bill Stone proposed an amendment to include recommendations 1, 3, 4, and 7. Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld seconded the amendment. Discussion continued about whether recommendations 2, 5, and 6 should be included. The amendment passed with some dissents.

Dr. Tom Kieft proposed an amendment that the remaining recommendations be considered by the administration. Dr. Mark Person seconded the amendment. The amendment passed with some dissents.

Dr. Taffeta Elliott proposed an amendment that recommendation 2 be included in the recommendations. Dr. Doug Wells seconded the amendment. The amendment passed with some dissents.

Therefore, the motion “The Faculty Senate votes that the recommendations in the Budget and Research Committee Report be adopted

1, 2, 3, 4, and 7

and that the remainder be considered.” The motion passed.

Dr. DeVaux will now prepare a summary and send it to the President.

8. Announcements.

No announcements were submitted.

9. Adjournment.

Dr. Brian Borchers made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 pm. Dr. Lorie Liebrock seconded the motion. Motion passed.