

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, February 5, 2019

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Engler called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm with a call for approval of the December 4, 2018 minutes. Dr. Anwar Hossain moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Brian Borchers. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Announcements

a. Faculty/Staff Introductions

Dr. Glenn Spinelli introduced Dr. Dan Jones as Assistant Professor of Geobiology in Earth & Environmental Sciences Department and Academic Director of the National Cave and Karst Research Institute.

Dr. Steve Simpson introduced Rachel Cruz as an English instructor in the CLASS department.

b. President's Report - *President Wells*

President Wells provided an update regarding three primary topics: 2019 Legislative activities and priorities, capital projects for this year, and the 2027 Blueprint.

Legislative priorities:

- 5% increase in compensation for the faculty and staff
- 5% increase in formula funding statewide
- 1% increase employer contribution to Educational Retirement Board funding, with no increase in employee contributions
- \$25 million for College Endowment
- \$50 million for the College Affordability Act
- \$25 million to Building Renewal and Replacement (BRR) and Equipment Renewal and Replacement (ERR)

State Statutory Program – NM Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources

- \$4,542,900 (\$600,000 expansion)
- Restore staffing cuts. Re-hire critical positions required to ensure a diverse economic base, including the economic geology, petroleum,

hydrology, GIS and web development and also hires would be in the field of industrial minerals.

New Research & Public Service Project (RPSP) - Cyber Security Educational Center (New)

- \$548,570
- The principal goals of the CEC are to educate students in cybersecurity issues, to provide them with the knowledge and skills needed to operate as cybersecurity professionals, and to promote economic development as a result.

Capital Outlay Projects

Critical Campus Safety Updates

- \$1,295,000
- Resources to improve campus safety and security
- Funding will be used to enhance campus safety through increased security surveillance systems and upgrades, building access control with key card access, and additional lighting in parking lots and perimeter of campus.

Building Renewal (Roof Replacement) & Asset Protection

- \$1,489,600
- There are currently facilities that are critical to the learning environment and support research that need critical replacement roofs and asset protection.

Governor's Proposed Centers of Excellence

Four Center's of Excellence at 3 Research Universities & San Juan Community College

- Cybersecurity – NMT
- Biotechnology – UNM
- Advance Agriculture – NMSU
- Sustainable Energy – SJCC

Proposed NMT Cybersecurity CE

Motivation:

- 2 major indicators that there is extraordinary potential for economic development by state investment in a Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCE).
 - Overly high percentage of New Mexico's information technology development that is contracted to companies outside of the state.

- More specific potential comes from the large demand for cybersecurity professionals and the rapid growth in that demand

Plans:

- Fostering Economic Growth
- Innovate & Commercialize
- Collaborate with Nat. Labs
- Build Cybersecurity Workforce & Industries

Update on Capital Projects

Brown Hall Renovation:

There was significant mold in basement. That has been remediated but because it needs a new cooling system, one side has remained vacant. The renovations will include a new HVAC, Electrical, and IT system and possible readjusted space. The administration will be housed in West Hall during the renovations. Students will be back in 2021

Jones Hall Renovation:

The bid construction is higher than what they expected. Construction Manager at Risk will deliver the best option for designing the building down. We are working to get below the 10% high that we are at.

President's Residence and Deju University House

The abandoned house across from Brown Hall will be torn down and will offer space for the future.

The Regents have planned for the President's Residence, and President Wells announced that it is being funded by gifts. Adjoining this will be a Deju University House. This will be a place for entertainment and house up to 190 people. President Wells noted that this may be used as a Faculty club occasionally.

The majority of the current residence will go to the Advancement for their use. An office will remain for the President and spouse and the Casita will be for guest use. The house will be named in honor of Sterling Colgate.

NMT's Blueprint (Vision) 2027

President Wells discussed building a vision over the next decade. The Blueprint 2027 was started in the fall of 2017. A leadership council was pulled together that included representatives from faculty, student, administration, and the community of Socorro. This council worked to think about what they want this campus to look like in ten years. We want our university to be recognized worldwide as a premier research, teaching and doctoral-granting institution. We will excel as a welcoming, vibrant, rural STE²M (science, technology, engineering, entrepreneurship, and mathematics) university

composed of an exceptional and diverse community of students, scholars and staff. Goals were created:

- establish a planned growth and marketing strategy that significantly enriches our national and international recognition both in undergraduate education and as a doctoral-granting institution;
- create diversified funding streams to sustain academic and research programs, student success, and planned growth;
- create an innovative, entrepreneurial campus with participation from students, faculty and staff;
- build a campus culture of mutual respect, trust, integrity, dignity and professionalism with student, faculty and staff; and
- establish community and state-wide partnerships to ensure New Mexico's economic growth and development through education, research, entrepreneurship, and cultural opportunities

There was a retreat in December to look at where the trends are with our vision, build upon those updates, and define our top goals for this year. Ultimately, we want to report this to NMT and stakeholders. President Wells noted that we don't have a state of the union address. He would like to bring everyone together to hear about the work we are doing and have everyone on the same page. This could possibly be done at convocation.

c. Technology Mil Levy– *Superintendent Ron Hendrix*

Superintendent Ron Hendrix discussed the Mil Levy that they are proposing for the community for property tax for the purpose of technology.

Mr. Hendrix stated that the technology in our schools is subpar to other schools in the state. He noted that the computer room at Midway has computers that are at least 10 years old and there are many classrooms in Socorro that are without computers. This money will also help with campus security. This is a \$3 million levy. This means that what the evaluation of the house is, a third of that evaluation will be taxed \$1 per thousand. Ballots were mailed today and have to be returned by March 5.

Mr. Hendrix went on to state that academic improvement and development for teachers has not been a priority in the past. Consultants are coming in and working with the teachers at the Middle School. He noted that it is hard to get people to come and live in Socorro. Mr. Hendrix additionally stated that they put in for \$15 million for systems money from PSFA to work on our schools to get them up to par. He closed by stating that he appreciates our support and wants to continue working with us.

d. In Memoriam for Dr. Loren Jacobson – *Richard Sonnenfeld*

Dr. Sonnenfeld announced that Dr. Loren Jacobson passed away over the break. Colleen Foster will be posting an article on him.

e. Alexander Prusin Memorial Lecture – *Steve Simpson*

Dr. Simpson announced that Dr. Alexander Prusin had been working on a book project for about ten years. He died six weeks before it came out. His colleague that helped with the book will hold a lecture on February 22 in Macey Center at 3:30 pm.

f. Policies & Procedures – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated there are three interim guidelines/policies that have been approved, concerning the Grievance and Disciplinary policy and the emeritus guidelines. Wells announced that these are all interim and he has asked the Academic Freedom and Tenure committee to look at them and bring them up to speed with the AAUP.

g. Provisional approval for Alternative Teaching Licensure Program (ATLP) – *Megha Khandelwal/Mark Samuels*

Last Wednesday Dr. Khandelwal and Dr. Samuels went to Santa Fe to get the accreditation from the NM Public Education Department. They received the provisional approval for both the accredited licensure in secondary education and elementary education. This means that teachers will be able to teach from K-12. Dr. Khandelwal noted that they are also planning to include our current undergraduates and will have a minor in education. This will be separate program with additional classes once it's accredited.

h. Green Glass Library Project– *David Cox*

David Cox announced that the Library has invested in an evaluation of our collection of the print materials. On an ongoing basis, most academic departments will do a weeding system to make sure that the materials are relevant and what needs to be improved. The Biology department will start in March.

i. SRS – *Liz Lyons*

Liz Lyons announced that registration for the Student Research Symposium is open online until March 1. Currently, 20 students have registered, but 90 are expected. Abstracts will be due a week later. This year, a traveling trophy will be awarded to the department that has the most participants.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Calendar Committee Report – *William Stone*

D. Bill Stone stated the Committee took the current calendar and moved it forward as a starting point. In the fall semester there are 16 weeks of class with a Monday, Thursday, and two Friday's off (35 days for MWF and 31 for TTR). During the spring semester there are also 16 weeks of class with one

week off for Spring Break. Additionally, there is a Monday, Thursday and two Friday's off. Fall semester has exactly one more week of classes. There have been various suggestions with the most popular decision to take off a week for Thanksgiving.

Email feedback to Bill Stone, Kevin Wedeward, or Samantha Nelson. The Committee hopes to come back and be ready to adopt next time.

4. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells*

a. Course Retake Policy

Dr. Sonnenfeld discussed the proposed Course Retake Policy. This policy would allow students to retake a course if they received a grade of C or above on a course.

Discussion was held with questions such as: will this hurt our 6-year graduation rate, what about suspended students, and what do the majority of universities do.

Dr. Bill Stone moved to refer this policy back to the Council of Chairs, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion passed with several nays.

5. Graduate Council Report – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock announced that there is a stipend update that is in draft. This change was to make it uniform and make the stipend portion that the student takes home the same whether it is fall, or summer for the same total number of hours worked.

Dr. Liebrock also wanted to remind departments to discuss the accelerated MS proposed changes.

a. Biology

Dr. Snezna Rogelj discussed the Biology catalog changes. The total credits required for the 5 year BS/MS has been changed from 160 to 147 to reflect the reduction in credits required for the BS, as well as the 3 credits that may be taken to satisfy both degrees.

Dr. Rogelj moved to accept these changes. Motion approved.

b. Civil & Environmental Engineering

Dr. Clint Richardson discussed the proposed non-significant change request for the Master of Science in Civil and Environmental Engineering. It will parallel the current program in Environmental Engineering as far as thesis option and independent study option graduate.

They are proposing to change all the courses to CEE. They currently offer 500 level courses in environmental engineering which will now be designated as

CEE and all undergraduate civil engineering courses will have a graduate component. Additionally, there will be two areas of specialization (Environmental Engineering and Civil Engineering).

Dr. Richardson moved to accept this. Motion approved.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Discussion

9. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the faculty senate adjourned at 5:26 pm.