

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING Wednesday, December 6, 2016 Workman Center 101

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Kieft called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. with a call for approval of the November minutes. Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Bill Stone. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Short announcements

a. January Intercession Course – *Lisa Majkowski*

Ms. Majkowski announced that for the first time, the University will offer an intercession course between the fall and spring semesters for students wanting to move ahead in the humanities and social sciences. Starting in January, Dr. Mary Dezember will teach an art history course to meet for five hours on each of eight days; the class is already full. Ms. Majkowski added that Registrar Sara Grijalva predicts the arrangement will be the model for the future. Majkowski will present the results of a pilot program on at the next Faculty Senate meeting in February 2017. Dr. Van Romero and Mr. Carlos Romero may attend as well, she said.

b. Library Extended Hours – *Bill Stone*

Dr. Stone announced Skeen Library's extended hours during finals week: Friday to midnight, Saturday to 10 p.m. and Sunday through Wednesday to 2 a.m. In addition, the Library now has a quiet floor at the basement level, and Senate members were encouraged to share this information with their students.

c. Research Opportunities with University of Puebla – *Carlos Romero*

Mr. Romero was unable to attend the meeting.

d. iFactory – *Dave Lepre*

Mr. Lepre, Director of the Office of Communication, was unable to attend the meeting. Dr. Mark Person of the website committee began the discussion by noting his concerns, stating that he was worried the process had become "a train wreck." Among issues raised was whether the project is cost-effective, the possibility of "regurgitating bad data," the lack of students on the website committee, and insufficient communication between Mr. Lepre and website committee members. Dr. Peter Mozley said he would invite Mr. Lepre to the next Faculty Senate meeting, and perhaps set up a forum. During discussion, it was noted that the school's iFactory consultants are developing different website

“personas” that would vary the online experience of the user, according to his or her determined identity. Dr. Iver Davidson explained that the consultants will harvest what’s online and develop a program whereby departments would produce their own copy. iFactory already has a spreadsheet with 146,000 files.

e. Student Mental Health Issues – *Siv Watkins/Melissa Begay*

Both Dr. Watkins and Ms. Begay voiced their concerns about a recent spike in reports from suicidal students. The number since the beginning of the semester is “startling,” said Dr. Watkins. After telling students in her classes that nothing was as important as their physical and mental health, several then opened up to Dr. Watkins about their feelings, with some so depressed they cannot get out of bed. She was raising the issue to see if there is something faculty can do to raise awareness of the issue and be aware of available mental health resources. Dr. Snezna Rogelj said she also noted a “precipitous increase in the level of depression” among students. “You’re not treating disembodied brains,” she said. “These are human beings whose bodies and minds are still changing.” She urged fellow faculty to be more tolerant. During discussion, it was reported that the Behavioral Intervention Team (BIT) chaired by Ms. Janet Ward, Director of the Office of Counseling and Disabilities, meets every other week and conducts a variety of interventions. Dr. Lorie Liebrock asked faculty to refer to the team any students about whom they have concerns.

f. Other – *Dr. Peter Mozley*

Dr. Mozley announced that in response to the need to develop alternate sources of funding, and the need to update the University’s intellectual property (IP) policy, President Stephen Wells has named Dr. Peter Anselmo as the “point person” tasked to promote entrepreneurship and intellectual property development for faculty and students.” Dr. Anselmo has been working with a faculty/staff committee to develop a new IP policy that should be finalized soon. Dr. Mozley reported that despite the severe budget cuts in the allocation from Santa Fe President Wells has made it a priority to provide funds for equity adjustments for the most compressed faculty, and to provide funds for new and replacement faculty positions.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Retention Committee – *Brian Borchers*

Dr. Borchers referred to slides from a Power Point presentation as he delivered the committee report. He reported the rise in student retention over the past four years as “statistically significant” and the highest ever. The fall 2012 entering class posted a 24.3 percent four-year graduation rate, which is the best ever reported. The Strategic Plan includes tasks to consider changing admissions standards by requiring new students to at least place into Math 103, and raising the minimum GPA to 2.9. Dr. Borchers outlined possible consequences of the two proposed changes and made a motion to refer the proposal to the Senate’s Academic Standards and Admissions Committee. Dr. Liebrock seconded the

motion. Dr. Lisa Young, chair of the aforementioned committee, cast the single no vote.

b. Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee – *Sue Bilek*

Dr. Bilek introduced two proposed changes to the policy on tenure and promotion: 1) A change of language regarding an annual meeting with a faculty member's tenure committee, and 2) A suggestion for a more timely return of tenure candidate's probation appraisal form to provide the individual with more time to address it. Dr. Bilek noted times the appraisal was made in January, but did not reach the candidate until November. Modifying the form's appendix would make its language consistent with the proposed changes. (See attachment.) She then made a motion to adopt the changes. Several friendly amendments were introduced as to use of the verbs should, shall or will. Dr. Borchers moved to amend the original motion to substitute "should" for "will." Dr. Michael Hargather seconded the motion, which failed on a 13 (yes), 15 (no) vote. A motion to table also failed. When called for the question, the original motion passed unanimously.

c. Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee – *Tom Engler*

Dr. Engler issued the first call for nominations for the Founder's and Langmuir awards for 2017. He announced that the committee has received a nomination for an honorary degree not yet ready to present to the Senate.

4. Report of Council of Chairs – *Peter Mozley*

Dr. Mozley reported that the Council of Chairs did meet, but had no business to consider.

5. Report of Graduate Council – *Lorie Liebrock*

a. Chemistry Catalog Changes

Dr. Michael Heagy explained the proposed editorial changes which include adopting a new course in communications and an additional two credit hours to the degree program. The changes were unanimously approved to include a friendly amendment made by Dr. Liebrock to use the word "specialization" for purposes of consistency.

b. Ph.D. Proposal for Electrical Engineering

A proposed doctoral degree program in Electrical Engineering with a specialization in Electronic Cyber Systems could bring in as many as six additional students and would meet a critical infrastructural need for defense and homeland security, explained Dr. Ali El-Osery, department chair. As explained by Dr. Liebrock, the Higher Education Department will not approve a duplicate program; the specialization is the only way to get doctoral program approval, and the proposed dissertation topic currently does not exist in New Mexico. Dr. Liebrock said cyber security is a field with a lot of growth. The Senate unanimously approved the proposal.

c. Change in Ph.D. degree requirements

Dr. Liebrock introduced a proposal to modify the University's doctoral degree programs by requiring candidates to have at least one first-author paper on his/her

dissertation accepted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal or conference proceedings. Any exception would require approval by the department chair and graduate dean. Current policy requires that said paper only be submitted to a recognized journal. “Standards are not the same across fields,” Dr. Stone said. “I prefer to keep it in the hands of the program and committees.” Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld and other faculty agreed, saying they supported “states’ rights” in letting the departments decide for themselves. Dr. Mozley noted that candidates with no published papers will not be very competitive when it comes to landing jobs, adding that the proposal does have “an escape clause.” When the question was called for, the proposal failed.

6. Old Business.

None

7. New Business

None

8. Discussion. None.

9. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Stone.

-Submitted by Valerie Kimble