

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Thursday, May 9, 2019

Workman 101 10:00 a.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Engler called the meeting to order at 10:01 am with a call for approval of the April 2, 2019 minutes. Dr. Kevin Wedeward moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Brian Borchers. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Brief President's Report – *President Wells/VPAF Dr. McDaniel*

President Wells discussed the Legislative accomplishments for this year. The President noted that this was a new type of session with new leadership and in turn many new dynamic things were going on. President Wells discussed the Higher Education review. The HE budget is \$838.8M, with a 4.3% increase to I&G and RPSPs. HED received \$25M toward the College Affordability Scholarship. There will be a 4% compensation increase across the board and an approved minimum wage increase over the next several years.

The Council of University Presidents' set priorities with 5% compensation for faculty and staff (funded at 4% of I&G) rate. NMT received \$3,470,600 in capital outlay for a new campus lock system and roof replacements.

The set priorities for the RPSPs include NM Bureau of Geology, a new Cybersecurity Education Center, and NM Mesa, Inc. In addition, there was an interest to monitor our water supplies with the Water Data Act/HB61 for NMBGMR. The HB 7, Centers of Excellence, will create four centers of excellence for NMT, UNM, NMSU, and SJC. These were each funded at \$250,000 each.

Other appropriations to NMT included Chemical Engineering undergraduate and graduate assistantships and unit operation lab facility, rural economic development, and national Cave & Karst Institute.

Dr. Cleve McDaniel discussed our revenue. We only received 2% of the 4% I&G for employees. He discussed the ratio that they applied to the salary. Dr. McDaniel noted that our appropriations are half of what we need thus NMT needs to find other sources to compensate for the difference. Additionally, the \$9.00 minimum wage increase will cost \$50,000 to cover. In order to fund everything, NMT has asked for a 6% increase in tuition. President Wells stated that the last thing we wanted to do is raise tuition for something that should be addressed by the state. The overall increase from this year to next year for room and board is 3.82% for an undergraduate resident.

3. Commencement – *President Wells*

President Wells discussed the commencement speaker for graduation on Saturday. He stated that it was not the intent to create angst. In the past, we did not have a commencement speaker and this is something that the President has done. The speaker that was chosen was not meant to offend those that study climate change and it was not meant to be a debate. President Wells stated that the speaker will focus on his experience as an astronaut and what that means for future studies. However, going forward there will be a body that will vet this decision, including members from the Faculty Senate. President Wells noted that the NSF director will be our speaker next year. Additionally, President Wells has purchased water bottles that are reusable for commencement.

President Wells stated that if there is bad weather on Saturday, commencement will be held at Macey Center. Each graduating student will receive only 2 tickets for their family to attend due to limited seating. However, there will be viewing room in Workman 101, third floor in Fidel Ballroom, and Jones Annex 101. President Wells stated that they will be putting tarps down tonight in an effort to help with the rain that we are expected to receive Friday night. There will be no live stream this year but it will be displayed after the event.

4. Approval of Degrees

Action

Samantha Nelson presented the May 2019 undergraduate and graduate list. She noted that this is the May conferral list and it may not match the walking list. If the student did not fill a requirement, they will be approved during the June conferral list but can still walk.

Dr. Engler called for approval of the May 2019 graduate list, seconded by Dr. Kevin Wedeward. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Selection of Graduation Awards

Action

- a. Brown Award**
- b. Cramer Award**
- c. Langmuir Award**
- d. Founders Award**

An executive session was held where the senate approved these awards for the 2019 commencement.

Dr. Liebrock requested to have Academic Affairs send out congratulatory notes to all students who were nominated but did not receive an award.

5. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

Action

a. Regents –Faculty Conference Committee – *Michelle Creech-Eakman*

Dr. Creech-Eakman discussed the survey results from the Regents-Faculty Conference Committee. She stated that this committee was formed to understand changes in the campus climate. The committee sent out a survey and the challenge was to collect comments and categorize them into groups. Dr. Creech-Eakman noted that the committee had one email comment during the one week open

period regarding unhappiness with the way one sentence was phrased but they decided to keep it as is. They also received one point of clarification on the way the IRB was phrased. Dr. Creech-Eakman stated that the committee would like to ratify the feedback report so that they can send it to the Regents this summer.

Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld moved to accept this report, seconded by Dr. Brian Borchers. Motion passed.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

8. Announcements

Info

9. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the faculty senate adjourned at 11:48 am.