

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 7, 2020 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 minutes from March 3, 2020. Dr. Sally Pias moved to approve, seconded by Dr. Steve Simpson. Motion approved.

2. NMT's Response to COVID-19 Pandemic – *President Wells*

President Wells stated the COVID-19 Task Force was created on March 10 with great representation. They have also been working closely with the community including the Mayor, City Manager, and the Presbyterian hospital. Additionally, they are working to keep everyone informed and updated.

President Wells stated that we have restricted access to the campus. This was done because we had issues with some faculty and staff coming on to campus when they should not have been. Many of the Research centers have been physically closed. We have had all divisions submit business continuity plans as many people are working from home. The Office of Student Life has been successful in providing services to the students that are here, particularly with housing. Fidel Center is pretty minimal with a monitor at the door. They are also serving grab and go food meals. Lanyards have been provided to students who need access to the campus. ITC, ACT, and the Tech Transfer Office at AFRL have been very helpful during this time and VPNs and hotspots have been distributed. The response plan will be updated every week.

President Wells briefly discussed the CARES ACT and the provisions that relate to higher education. There is an education stabilization fund of about \$31 billion. Higher education receives roughly 46%. This is dictated primarily through Title IV distribution. President stated that he will keep us dated as we go through and see the impact that this is going to have on both higher education overall and for our campus. This is all set in the backdrop of challenging economic conditions here in our State. This will cause a special session and reconsideration of our budget items. We are proceeding now with the budget that we were given by this last Legislative Session which includes the 4% salary increases. The Higher Education Department and the CUP are working very diligently to have a more equitable distribution of budget reductions. President Wells stated that he is also in a test group with HED Dr. Kathie Winograd to develop a series of public service announcements regarding what Public Education is doing during this time.

Lastly, President Wells announced that commencement this year will most likely be some type of virtual gathering in May and then a physical commencement during 49ers in October.

3. New Business

action

a. Proposed modification of S/U Grading Policy- *Thomas Engler*

Dr. Engler proposed modification of the S/U grading policy to ease requirements and allow students to opt for S/U at all undergraduate courses. This change would allow an S/U course to be accepted as part of graduation requirements and would meet any requisites for the future for this semester.

Dr. Engler moved to bring to floor, seconded by Dr. Stewart Thompson.

Dr. Borchers moved to offer those students that have withdrawn or changed to audit after spring break (Friday, March 13) the opportunity to reenroll in the class to get a S/U option, seconded by Dr. Thompson. A satisfactory grade for undergraduates is C-. Suggestion was made to check in with financial aid if this will affect scholarships and GPA.

Vote was held on the amendment only as proposed. Motion passed with several nays.

Dr. Jamie Kimberly moved to extend this option to graduate students as well with a C or better as they are also subject to the same stresses as undergraduate students, seconded by Dr. Michael Hargather. Michael Voegerl stated that International students are not allowed to do Pass/Fail in courses that count towards their degree requirements.

Vote was held on the second amendment. Motion passed with several nays.

Vote was held on original motion with both amendments for both graduate and undergraduates. Motion passed with several nays.

4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

action

a. Retention Committee – *Brian Borchers*

Dr. Borchers stated that this body, as part of the institute's strategic plan, adopted goals for retention and graduate rates. Dr. Borchers shared the latest data that we have. We have been over 50% for freshman for the six-year graduation rate for the last two years. We should be around 55% this year. The retentions rates have not improved much but the graduation rate has. The four-year graduation rate has dramatically improved since the state went to 15 credit hour per semester rule. The first semester GPA for freshman has risen dramatically from 2.5 in the fall of 2006 to 3.06 in fall of 2019. Transfer student numbers have also gone up slightly recently. The committee is also looking into financial aid. Among our students who file for federal financial aid, the average unmet financial need per year is over \$5,000.

b. Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee – *Taffeta Elliott*

Dr. Elliott stated that the committee would like to be able to ask students what advising experience they are having. The committee would like to use these reviews to assess faculty performance.

There was concern with the question on gender identity. Question was asked if ethnicity should also be added to this survey. Dr. Wells stated that we are conflating institutional research with annual reviews for faculty. We need to be very careful with this. Also, who is looking at this? If it is to generate data on how the university is doing, why would we weave this into a personnel review? Dr. Elliott stated that this is more of training for the committee and feedback to the individual faculty and steps that can be taken.

Dr. Stone moved to refer back to committee, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion passed with several nays.

5. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells* action

a. New Course Numbers, Community Education Change, and IB

James discussed increasing 300 to 400 level courses to four digits by adding a zero at the end of the three-digit course.

James discussed relaxing the current continuous enrollment requirements for non-degree seeking students such as those taking community education courses.

James discussed a proposal for International Baccalaureate guidelines. There are currently 17 students that this would apply to.

Motion moved and approved with two nos.

b. Biology

Dr. DeVeaux discussed proposed changes for Biology. She proposed to add a line to descriptions for BIOL 351 and BIOL 352 explaining that these courses are a sequence. Remove co-requisite of BIOL 352R from BIOL 351, as BIOL 352L will be offered. Additionally, she proposed to make Psychobiology of Sex (cross-listed as PSYC 350) a Biology course. It has been offered as BIOL 389/PSYC 350 several times.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

c. CLASS

Dr. Simpson discussed several course additions, course changes, and a minor in Creative Thinking and Practice for the CLASS department. Students will be able to “double dip” as some courses can be applied to a major or a minor.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

d. Chemistry

Dr. Heagy discussed changing the prerequisite and co-requisite for the new Math courses. There was also a renaming.

Friendly amendment for CHEM 109 changed from CHEM11XX to CHEM 1120

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

e. Computer Science

Dr. Mazumdar discussed several proposed changes. He proposed to define “junior standing in Computer Science”. Courses with labs are to be taken concurrently. The Math co-requisite for CSE 107 was MATH 103 and will now be MATH 1240, which will be taken later. CSE 113 has MATH 1240 as a co-requisite, so they feel that there is no time being lost. CSE 101 is a two-credit course with a zero-credit lab. Add CSE 213 as a pre-requisite to CSE 321. Lastly, students must register for CSE 325 and CSE 325L concurrently.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

f. Electrical Engineering

Dr. El-Osery discussed the proposed co-requisite changes for EE 161 and EE 162 to change to MATH 1240.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

g. Engineering Science

Dr. Wedeward discussed the proposed co-requisite for MATH 1230 and some editorial changes.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

h. Materials

Dr. Burleigh discussed a proposed change to the description for MTL 202

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

i. Mechanical

Dr. Zagari discussed the proposed change to MENG 110, 110L to MATH 1220.

A friendly amendment was made to change co-requisite to prerequisite.

Motion to vote on the amendment was moved and approved.

Motion with amendment moved and approved unanimously.

j. Physics

Lisa Young discussed the proposed change for MATH 101 to MATH 1220 as a co-requisite for PHYS 109.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

k. Petroleum

Dr. Nguyen discussed a proposed change to the prerequisite for the PETR 425L to a co-requisite of PETR 413. Additionally, with the change of the lower level course number, he proposed to change to co-requisite MATH 104 to MATH 1240.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

6. Graduate Council Report – Aly El-Osery action

a. Graduate Student Course Load

Dr. El-Osery stated that students who are on a reduced registration cannot do work authorization. He proposed to extend a onetime work authorization on a reduced load without any restrictions.

Motion moved and approved.

Dr. El-Osery proposed to clean up language on general requirements for a second Master of Science degree.

Motion moved and approved.

Dr. El-Osery proposed a change from students taking six credits out of their department to out of their program.

Motion moved and approved.

b. Engineering Management

Dr. Reinow discussed the independent study be turned into a professional MEM one with an independent option and one with a thesis option.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

c. Materials

Dr. Burleigh discussed an accelerated BS/MS two sentence description.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

d. Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity Graduate Programs

Dr. Liebrock proposed 3 programs, Master of Science, Professional Master, and Doctor of Philosophy in Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity.

Motion moved and approve unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business

8. Announcements

Dr. Hargather announced that the SRS will be held online next week. More information will be coming soon.

Dr. Borchers announced that degree works is finally ready for faculty to use. A faculty session will be held later this week.

9. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at the 6:03 pm.