

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, December 3, 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 November 5, 2019 minutes. Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain. Motion passed unanimously.

### 2. Introductions

Dr. Lorie Liebrock introduced Lisa Ackley as the Cybersecurity Coordinator.  
Dr. Mark Samuels introduced Colton Bjerke as the new director of the Title V grant.

### 3. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

**action**

#### a. Honorary Degrees Committee – *Dr. Bhasker Majumdar*

Dr. Majumdar discussed the nomination for an Honorary Doctorate Degree for Lukas H. Lundin. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering Department has unanimously agreed to award this to him.

Dr. Majumdar moved to approve this Honorary Doctorate Degree. Motion passed unanimously.

#### b. Calendar Committee – *Bill Stone/Kevin Wedeward*

Dr. Wedeward announced that the Calendar Committee will be coming forward with several recommendations for the next five years for the academic calendar. One item that they are proposing will be to adopt the full week of Thanksgiving as an academic holiday. An update to the calendar is still under review. It was approved but then the Registrar asked us to move the fall semester back so that they have enough time to enter final grades. Residential Life also brought up additional issues that need to be addressed. Food services would be closed and students would need to find places to stay. The committee will work to address these concerns and others. The proposed calendar will be sent out as an electronic vote later this month.

### 4. Council of Chairs Report – *Dr. Doug Wells*

**action**

#### a. CLASS Curricular Changes

Dr. Dotson discussed CLASS changes. He noted that most of these changes are being made since they now have a new faculty that can teach this emphasis.

Dr. Dotson moved to approve these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

#### b. Math Curricular Changes

Dr. Hossain discussed a new course proposal, Statistical Machine Learning.

Dr. Hossain moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**c. Business Certificate Program**

Dr. Reinow discussed the proposed Business Certificate program. Math 101 will be included in the proposed courses.

Dr. Reinow moved to approve this program. Motion passed unanimously

**d. Enrollment and Recruitment**

Dr. Wells discussed data that shows a decline in our enrollment. He noted that we don't have the data for inquiries to applications. Our paid to accepted students has had a huge decline in the past several years. Additionally, the number of denied students went from single digits to 250. Also, our published admission rate is incorrect. It is higher than 80% for complete applications. As a result, students have asked why they would apply at NMT when it's hard to get in. The World Wide Web reporting is showing 21%. This needs to be fixed and we should say that our admissions rate is greater than 80%.

Dr. Wells announced that given our difficulties, we are doing several things to address our enrollment. We have an experimental WUE recruiting program, student-created videos for departmental/program web-pages, partnerships with MST teachers, NMT student-led recruiting efforts, enhanced communication plan for admitted students, and partnerships with Alumni recruiters.

Dr. Kieft noted that many faculty have been working with Admissions and attending their recruiting events. Roswell only had 19 students but none were from Roswell High. Las Cruces, Gallup, and Farmington had less than 10 students present. Other universities go to the high school during the school day instead of at night. Our admission practices are not working and faculty are getting the message to do more.

Dr. Liebrock announced that the cybersecurity center met with 150 students in about 2 hours in Magdalena at the high school and middle school. Dr. O'Malley announced that he attended a Systems Go event and received close to 60 undergraduate applications.

Dr. Kieft noted that there are many good things being done from Academic Affairs but not from our Admission's Office.

Dr. Tom Kieft moved to vote no confidence in the admissions office, seconded by Dr. Gary Axen. Motion passed with one nay.

**e. Advisor Evaluation Policy**

Dr. Mozley discussed that the proposed Advisor Evaluation Policy would allow students once a year to have the opportunity to comment on the quality of their advising.

The policy was approved at the Council of Chairs. Dr. Mozley proposed to approve the policy with the note that the procedures would be worked out by the advising committee and then come back for approval. Motion passed with one nay.

## **5. Graduate Council Report – Dr. Aly El Osery**

**action**

### **a. Accelerated Master's Program**

The graduate council voted to change the name from a five-year bachelor/master's option to an accelerated master's program. The change is applicable to all five current bachelor/master's programs. There has been some confusion to what the expectations are, but it is really an accelerated master's. Dr. El-Osery stated that there were a few key changes. (1) We will no longer require the one-year application before students graduate, but they are encouraged to apply in their junior year. (2) there was a sentence that stated having a 3.0 GPA or higher. Added was "or recommendation from the department chair" in case of an exception.

Dr. El-Osery noted that departments will review their section and make changes accordingly. However, some departments have already made changes.

Accelerated Master's Electrical Engineering - their five-year program was only specific to independent study, but now has expanded it to include thesis option as well as independent study. be 3 credits In addition, the number of credits of 500-level or above that would apply to both degrees has increased from 3 to 8.

Accelerated Master's Biology – increased the number of credits from 3 to 6 that would apply to both degrees and also included independent study. Also, the language was cleaned up in terms of description expectations. Students in the program have to take a directed study and get a B or better to remain in the program.

Accelerated Master's Mathematics - now accepting 12 credits to apply to both degrees and a milestone where students can apply once they finish MATH 352.

Friendly amendment was made to change the accelerated master's statement where it reads "on average" to "potentially finish both degrees within five years."

Dr. El-Osery moved to approve these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

### **b. Biology Curricular Changes**

Dr. DeVaux discussed the proposed Biology curricular changes. Previously, Biology changed at the undergraduate level, Molecular Biology from a 3 to a 4 credit hour course and thus are proposing to now add a 500-level section. They also proposed adding an independent study option to the Master's in Biology.

Dr. DeVaux moved to approve these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

### **c. Materials Engineering Curricular Changes**

Dr. Burleigh discussed three changes. The first proposed change is a Masters of Engineering in Materials. The second proposed change was to add MTLs to the minimum of 12 credits in the Master of Science. Lastly, in MTLs 540 they proposed to remove "in Materials Engineering" for the prerequisite of graduate standing.

Dr. Burleigh moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**d. Mathematics Curricular Changes**

Dr. Borchers proposed to add MATH 5XX and a prerequisite change for MATH 483 in MATH 520.

Friendly amendment was made to add “and graduate standing or consent of an instructor” for MATH 5XX.

Dr. Borchers moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**e. Mineral Engineering Curricular Changes**

Dr. El-Osery to change the title of MS in Mineral Engineering with Geotechnical Engineering option to MS in Mineral Engineering with Geotechnical and Geomechanical Engineering option.

Dr. El-Osery moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**f. Mechanical Engineering Curricular Changes**

Dr. Bin Lim discussed several changes in the prerequisites for the mechanical engineering department. Proposal was made to add graduate standing or consent of instructor for MENG 556, MENG 567, and MENG 568.

Dr. Lim moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

**g. Chemical Engineering Curricular Changes**

Dr. Leclerc discussed the proposal of a Master of Science Degree and a Master of Engineering Degree with Specialization in Surface Engineering, and a Doctor of Philosophy Degree with Dissertation in Surface Engineering. This would distinguish us from what UNM and NMSU offers.

Dr. Leclerc moved to approve the curriculum at this point and the proposal would then move forward to HED for approval. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. Unfinished Business**

**a. Response to Faculty Feedback Survey – Engler**

Dr. Engler announced that the response from administration on the faculty feedback survey has been sent out. Dr. Engler conveyed that President Wells has said that he is very interested in working together to improve any deficiencies. Dr. Engler announced that in February, the committee will present to discuss the next step.

**7. New Business**

**action**

**a. Clarification of Ex Officio for FS standing rules – Engler**

Dr. Engler stated that the term ex-officio, which many of our committees have ex-officio members. Roberts rules state that these members have the right to vote. Our practice has been that these members don't vote. A comment was made that we should change this to non-voting ex-officio in our standing rules.

Dr. Borchers asked the executive committee to go back and review and propose

changes to the by-laws, seconded by Dr. Harrison. Motion passed.

**8. Announcements**

**Info**

**a. Health Center Processes for Medical Excuses – *Hannah Quigg***

Hannah Quigg is a nurse practitioner at the Student Health Center. She announced that the volume of patients dramatically increased and as a result she went to an appointment only basis unless it is a medical emergency. However, students are used to getting class excuses from her. With this change, there have been frustrations from both students and faculty. Students are asking for excuses for past illnesses without being seen. Hannah will provide an excused absence if students make an appointment and it is medically related.

**9. Adjournment**

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:22 pm.