

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Mike Hargather called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a call for approval of the November 3, 2020 minutes.

2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Bill Stone moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Brian Borchers. Motion passed unanimously.

3. President Wells Update

President Wells thanked the faculty for all that they did this year and to get this semester wrapped up in good shape during the middle of a pandemic. He noted that we have had 23 positive COVID-19 cases on campus with 5 currently active and no spread on campus.

NMT will be part of the distribution center for the first round of distribution for a COVID-19 vaccine to first responders. We should have a better idea of how that will play out within the next few days.

4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

action

a. ASAC

Dr. Chelsey Hargather discussed the proposal related to updating the re-admission section of the catalog. The committee proposed to change the deadline for all readmission materials is the Wednesday at 5pm prior to the first day of classes to “July 1 for all fall semester, January 1 for spring semester, and June 1 for summer semester.”

The reasoning behind this change includes that the current deadlines give readmitted students only days to prepare for their return at NMT. The deadlines will allow students ample time to work with their advisors and build a suitable schedule that sets them up for academic success. The new deadliness will give students ample to time to understand the total cost on enrolling at NMT. The readmission deadlines are brought into alignment with admission appeal deadlines, allowing ASAC to evaluate applications and respond to students in a timely manner.

Dr. Borchers noted that administration should be firm with the deadlines. In the past, some faculty advisors let the students down without getting their recommendation letter in in time and other administration may have felt pressure to allow them to be readmitted. Dr. Liebrock stated that the deadlines should be put in the suspension letters and the Registrar agreed to this.

Dr. Chelsey Hargather moved to accept this change. Motion passed with the results showing 54 yes, 2 no, and 1 abstention.

5. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells*

a. BMS

Dr. Kaarin Goncz discussed the proposal to move the BMS program to the Biology program.

Dr. Stone stated that there was a lot of interest when this program was first put together and we lose something to put this under another department. It will no longer be transdisciplinary. We are also working in our strategic plan to build up our transdisciplinary plans and this is moving in the opposite direction.

Dr. Goncz stated that there has been some contribution with some classes but the Biology department will still solicit others to help. The spirit will still be there.

Dr. Wells stated that this was prompted by the participating departments not participating. As a matter of practice, the advisory body felt that those departments did not feel invested in it.

Dr. Pias stated that she has been involved with this program and the chemistry department did try to be involved but it was limited and the Biology has really been running this program. There is no central structure or ownership that extends beyond Biology. Additionally, the students need a home department.

Dr. Goncz stated that faculty are emailed on what is being offered so that they can help advise the students. The courses that are offered in the curriculum are not being changed.

Dr. Goncz moved to approve this change. Motion passed with results showing 33 yes, 15 no, and 10 abstentions.

b. Chemistry

Dr. Pias discussed the proposed Chemistry catalog changes.

Friendly amendments from the Chemistry department were also discussed. Eliminate Math 1230 for Gen Chem I and Change to Math 1220 for Gen Chem II. Eliminate recitation requirement for Gen Chem I which is consistent with UNM and NMSU.

It was noted that friendly amendments cannot come from the committee. Dr. Pias moved to withdraw the motion. This will go back to the Council of Chairs.

A blanket waiver will be handled offline with the Registrar to allow students to sign up for Chem II for the spring semester without taking calculus.

c. BA Degree

Dr. Wells stated that the Council of Chairs voted for continuing support for completing this task for the BA degree and is not being proposed at the Faculty Senate today.

6. Graduate Council Report – *Aly El Osery*

a. Engineering Management

Dr. Wang discussed the curriculum changes for engineering project management.

Friendly amendment was moved and approved to add after EMGT 504 “or Math 382 and Math 382L” as a prerequisite for EMGT 509.

Dr. Wang moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Unfinished Business

action

8. New Business

9. Announcements

a. Reminder to send FS Chair updates – *Mike Hargather*

Dr. Hargather stated that as the Faculty Senate Chair, he has the privilege to bring updates from the faculty to meetings that he attends such as the President’s Cabinet meetings and Board of Regent meetings. Send these updates to him so that he can bring them forward.

b. STEM 189D: Metalearning course – *Sharon Sessions*

Dr. Sessions stated that she will be teaching this as a one credit pilot course next semester. This course is based on the book, *Limitless: Upgrade your Brain, Learn Anything Faster, and Unlock your Exceptional Life* by Jim Kwik. This course will cover mindset, motivation, and specific methods (including focus, speed reading, improving memory, and critical thinking) that can be applied for success in college and in life.

10. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:59 pm.