

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, February 1, 2022

4:00 p.m. Workman 101

Minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Mike Hargather called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Anwar Hossain move to approve the minutes from the previous meeting, seconded by Dr. Bill Stone. Motion carries.

Chair Mike Hargather has an update on the minutes from last time. When discussing learning outcomes, Dr. Borchers moved that we refer this to the Assessment Committee, seconded by Dr. Lorie Liebrock. We actually got rid of the Assessment Committee a few years ago so this needs to be adjusted. Dr. Brian Borchers states that they cannot assign a task to an administrative committee, but if they are willing to look into this, that would be good. Dr. Michael Jackson is the ranking member of the Assessment Taskforce and says they can discuss it at their next meeting in March. All are in favor for making this correction to the minutes. All in favor, no objections or abstentions. The motion carries.

3. President Wells Update

President Wells gave an update on this year's legislative session. This has been the most favorable legislative session for higher education that he has seen since he started his tenure at Tech. They have made progress with the LFC, HED, our legislators, and the governor.

The I&G for higher education institutions this year is up overall 3.3%, going from approximately \$636,000,000 to \$667,000,000. RPSPs are up but those are variable, some up, others not. There is a recommendation to increase the instruction and general fund, this is where most of our money comes from to operate your activities, and that is up a recommended 3.0%. In the formula, they are doing something different this year. They are going to hold back 1% if this goes through from that money until we provide an acceptable plan for dealing with enrollment decline. The VPAA and his staff have worked diligently reviewing this plan to ensure that we will get the 1% back. There will be a 2.2% contribution from ERB that will be paid for by the state. And this is the big one, compensation of 7%. This was my number one priority to get that compensation up. The challenge has always been that we start off with the word average. This means that we can distribute that based upon different levels of salary. We think they will put the

word “average” in and keep it in which gives us great flexibility. For the staff, I have been working with VP McDaniel too, to provide a stepped-amount of increase. It looks like 3% will come in at the end of this year, the last quarter. At 3%, we will distribute that if this comes through to everyone. The following year is where we will do the differential and once we get those models worked out I can come back to you. But the good news is we have the LFC and hopefully the senate and everybody on board with 7% compensation. And that’s good news.

There’s a significant effort to increase the Opportunity Scholarship for people and the Lottery Scholarship at full funding, so it will be a win-win for students if it goes through. Senator Soules from Las Cruces always had a closing fund, that’s matching funds that we face when we have to go for contracts and grants.

Chair Hargather gets a report from David Manzano through me that we provide to the Regents. Chair Hargather, you may always share that with the faculty. That gives a good update because un there, the latest one, number three, are a bunch of bills that have a direct impact. So you may want to take a look in there. Mike, if you want to share that feel free to do that, you’re always welcome to share that, it’s a public document.

I’ve invited Director Abby of the LFC and Executive Director Mark Saavedra to come to the Board of Regents meeting in Santa Fe so they can talk to us. Director Abby has been incredibly supportive and I again, thanked him because this is one of the best recommendations that we’ve seen.

It’s my pleasure to introduce our new Vice President for Student Life, Dr. David Greene, I think he’s in the audience. David, if you can stand up and wave. It’s great to have him on board and really appreciate his hard work. Thank you, David and another call out to Dr. Phaiiah for all his hard work as the acting. We really appreciate that.

4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

a. Honorary Degree and Awards Committee – *Caitano da Silva* action

The motion to award Mr. John Shipman an honorary doctorate award came from the Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee and needs no second. All in favor, no opposition, no abstentions, it Passes unanimously.

b. Curriculum Committee – *Linda DeVeaux* action

i. Seven Proposals –

- #2 Dr. Brian Borchers presents a change to the transdisciplinary Cybersecurity degree.-The proposed changes affect two aspects of the Transdisciplinary Cybersecurity graduate programs. For the PhD, the wording is clarified to show that research credits may be applied from a prior MS degree. For the CYBS 509 course, the description is updated and the cross listing with EMGT 509 is removed.

All in favor of these changes, no opposition, one abstention, the change passes.

- #10 Dr. Brian Borchers presents Information Technology Prerequisite Change. Minor changes to CSE/IT courses motivated by the needs of Information Technology majors -- mainly prerequisites that need to be adjusted. Also, a new Python course motivated by BMS and similar programs that need a path to upper-division CS courses that does not go through the year-long C programming sequence, CSE/IT 113+122. Also, a new course on video game design that happens to be co-coordinated with a videogame art & assets course taught by CLASS.

All in favor of the creation of CSE 117 and accompanying pre/co-req requirements, no objections or abstentions, passes unanimously

- #8 Removing prerequisites ME 420 or ME 560 for ME 540.
All in favor, no abstentions or objections, passes unanimously.
- #19 Replacing one of the required courses with a different required course. Delete ENVE 406 Unit Operations in Environmental Engineering as a required course for Environmental Engineering due to the faculty that teaches the class is retiring, but keep in the catalog as a possible future technical elective if the faculty replacement decides to offer the class; Replace ENVE 406 with ENVE 412 Geographic Information Systems (GIS) as a required course in the curriculum; Adding ENVE 412 GIS as a required class for Environmental Engineering comes as a recommendation from the Advisory Board.

No discussion, all in favor, no opposition, it carries.

- #5 Physics – 1. Expand the range of courses that will be accepted for the core physics graduate requirements. Every place we currently require Phys 521, we will now allow students to choose one of the following: Phys 521, 425, 526, or 527.
2. Clarify some catalog language regarding the fact that all of our MS students must write either a thesis or an Independent Study paper.

All in favor, no objections or abstentions, the motion carries.

- #16 Petroleum– changing upper-level senior design class title for PETR 471 from Reservoir Description to Capstone Design I and PETR 472 from Reservoir Management to Capstone Design II. Course descriptions were also updated to reflect the change in course title.

All in favor, no objections, motion carries.

- #9 Psychology - 1. Update NMT catalog entries to match NMHED catalog

2. Add a course that was taught as a PSYC 389 special course on music cognition to the psychology program, music minor, and humanities offerings in the catalog.

Dr. Pias asked if students could take this as a General Education course. No, it is a Psychology course.

All in favor, no objections, motion carries.

Dave Burleigh asks about MTLs curriculum change that didn't make it through this time. It should be on the agenda for the next meeting.

5. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells*

- New faculty member in Petroleum – Sajjad Esmailpour from Texas Tech
- Congratulations to everyone here, Spring enrollment is up across the board at the same time last year. This is a good start. We are up ~30% for paid admissions for Fall 2023.

6. Graduate Council Report – *Aly El-Osery*

- There is no written policy that 400 and 500-level courses may be taken for credit only once. Students trying to take a 400-level course and then the same course at the 500-level are normally not allowed to do so.
- The Registrar is trying to catch all of these instances manually as it is not automated.
- There is some discussion regarding the wording of the statement and that there are always exceptions. Dr. Borchers stated it should be amended to cross-listed courses may only be taken for credit once. Dr. Stone added to Dr. Borchers statement “with the exception or permission of the advisor and chair”. Dr. Liebrock states that the chair and advisor may not be in the department.
- Dr. Kimberley motions to refer this back to the Committee of Chairs. Dr. Stone seconded the motion. The motion passes with Dr. Liebrock voting against the motion and one abstention with a comment from GSA representative– he states that this is being overcomplicated and we should agree that undergraduate cross-listing is different than graduate cross-listing. Motion passes to send it back to the council of chairs.

7. Unfinished Business

8. New Business

a. Class Recordings – *Doug Wells*

We've had some complaints from students who are quarantining that all of the course materials are not available to them. There are some new options from ACT, where all classes can have a library of materials available for the class.

Concerns are expressed regarding whose decision it is to record class or even hold class if the professor has tested positive for COVID - at what level are these decisions made? Class recordings are up to the discretion of the professor and whether or not to hold class over Zoom, ask a colleague to cover the class, or simply cancel the class. Dr. Mike Hargather says these decisions are made at the department level between the professor and their department chair.

b. Faculty Parental Leave Updates – *Doug Wells*

In conversations with the council of deans and others, some requests for parental leave are not making it to AA. 100% of the parental leave requests that make it to AA have been approved. If there are comments about the current guideline –email Mike Hargather directly.

There are questions over the guideline becoming policy. It would have to start at the policy on policies web page and go through the President's cabinet and to the Regents.

Dr. Chelsey Hargather states that new faculty may need direction as to where the policy is.

9. Announcements

a. Teaching Tea Time – *Elizabeth Kramer-Simpson*

2/9, and 2/23 Teaching Tea Time in Speare 113, this will be recorded.

b. HLC Approvals/Quality Initiative – *Mike Jackson*

o As part of the University's Open Pathway Accreditation with the HLC, we are required to undertake a Quality Initiative. We have prepared a proposal focusing on the retention of first-year students to their third semester (fall to fall retention).

o We hope to submit the proposal in early March. I have distributed the proposal to a number of groups, but I may not have reached everyone. If anyone is interested in reviewing the proposal, please let me know and I would be happy to provide you a copy.

o Presently it outlines the framework of the proposal – so we can continue to make changes even after it is submitted to the HLC.

o This report also ties into the Strategic Plan, that is being restarted with Dr. Phaiyah leading its development. If anyone is interested in participating in the Strategic Planning process, please let me know. We want to involve students, staff, and faculty from across the university on this initiative.

o HLC approved our proposals for a BA in Biology, BA in Business Management, and an MS in Public Engagement in Science, Design, and Communication. However, we had to write an institutional response for the Business Management request because it was not originally recommended for approval! We addressed the questions they had, which included questions about our assessment and program review processes.

- I mention this so you know the assessment reports you write are items these external groups inquire about – along with our internal use of these documents.

c. Assessment Reports – *Mike Jackson*

- o Thank you to everyone who has submitted your reports to date. We are still looking for a few reports: Chemistry, Hydrology, Mineral Engineering, and the Library.
- We hope to have a draft institutional-level report by the next faculty senate meeting.

d. NMHEAR Conference – *Mike Jackson*

- Just a reminder about this conference, which is scheduled for Feb. 24 and 25 in Albuquerque.

e. Advisor Evaluations Update – *Mike Jackson*

- o Evaluations of faculty advising (by their undergraduate student advisees) is scheduled to take place between March 1 – March 11).
- o Tomorrow, we hope to send out the respective list of advisees to each faculty member. Please verify this list when you receive it – it should only contain your advisees who are enrolled in the Spring 2022 semester. If there are any problems with the list, please let Heather Juarez know.
- o The advising survey will only be sent to students whose faculty advisor has 4 or more students.

f. SRS Registration – *Mike Hargather*

SRS registration is open – have your students apply now for the SRS which will run 4-20 through 4-22.

- g. Dr. Brian Borchers states the Canvas shells for evaluation are already up but are not yet published.
- h. Dr. Lorie Liebrock states the NM Cybersecurity Center of Excellence has funding available for proposal development incentives. Lorie will send the information to everyone by email. That is for proposals submitted through the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence. There may also be funding for experiments that need to be done prior to asking for funding and also for student support to help with those experiments.
- i. Dr. Mike Hargather states that there have been discussions to move this meeting to 3:30 so we don't stay so long after 5:00. We have cleared the path to hold this meeting starting at 3:30 pm. The plan for March is to start at 3:30.

10. Adjournment

Dr. Bruce Harrison moves to adjourn, Dr. Lorie Liebrock seconds, the meeting is adjourned.