

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 3, 2012

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

Having reached a quorum, Dr. Borchers called the meeting to order at approximately 4:04p.m. by asking for approval of the minutes of the March 6, 2012 meeting. Dr. Raymond so moved with Dr. Gerity seconding the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Announcements.

a. Academic Affairs

Dr. Gerity began by thanking the Department Chairs for getting the PARS and DARS in to Academic Affairs' office in order for evaluations to be completed on time. Again, the contracts will reflect a straight two percent raise as approved. This is in addition to the one point seven five percent reduction of retirement withholding.

He went on to acknowledge the promotion and tenure faculty as approved by the Board of Regents in the March 30 meeting. They are:

Promotion to Full Professor,

Dr. Mary Dezember, English Professor, Dr. Lorie Liebrock, Computer Science Professor, and Dr. Peter Hofner, Physics Professor.

Achieving Tenure we congratulate Dr. Rene Arechiga, Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering.

Achieving Tenure and Promotion are: Dr. Barbara Bonnekesen, Associate Professor of Social Science, Dr. Julianne Newmark, Associate Professor of English, Dr. Corey Leclerc, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, Dr. Michaelann Tartis, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering, Dr. Mohammad Razavai, Associate Professor of Mineral Engineering, and Dr. Nadir Yilmaz, Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering

On behalf of Graduate Dean Liebrock, Dr. Gerity announced the Graduate Community Picnic is being planned for the week of April 30 – May 4, details to follow. The faculty involvement at the fall picnic was a great success and all are encouraged to help by participating in the spring event.

Dr. Dezember announced the Student Research Symposium will be April 13. The poster presentations will take place from 9 to 11:30 a.m. The oral presentations will take place from noon to 4:30 p.m. Ninety students will be presenting. These enthusiastic students need an audience of faculty and students, community, and family and friends. A reception following the presentations will take place on the patio at the President's residence. The Keynote speaker, Dr. Terry Wallace, Principal Associate Director of Los Alamos National Lab will address the participants, reviewers and audience members.

Sara Grijalva reminded the faculty, anyone bringing the largest number of students to attend the symposium will get priority on classroom assignments for fall.

b. **Langmuir Award** - Dr. Morales-Juberias

The Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee is receiving nominations for the 2012 Langmuir Award for Excellence in Research. This award is given for an outstanding scientific research paper by any student or graduate of New Mexico Tech. The paper must have been submitted to or published by a recognized journal during the preceding year. A person wishing to make a nomination should prepare and submit an email with a statement supporting the nomination to the chairperson of the HD&A Committee before ***April 15***. A "pdf" version of the paper should be attached to this nomination email.

This award is named in honor of Irving Langmuir (Nobel Laureate, 1932) who conducted extensive research with NM Tech staff. The award consists of a plaque and a \$200 cash prize.

For more details visit: <http://physics.nmt.edu/~raul/HDA/>

c. Ms. Grijalva announced continued difficulties with room assignments for Fall 2012. It could come down to a lottery for classrooms. Five classroom slots can not be accommodated by the available rooms. If you are willing to move your classroom or meeting time, you are asked to contact the Registrar. Issues affecting the problem include, predominately morning lectures, schedule conflicts across disciplines, classes scheduled during the lunch hour.

She was asked about the final schedule. A program to resolve conflicts is being developed by the Computer Science department. If this can not be utilized in time, a Final Schedule will be posted by using the usual manual method.

d. Dr. Lopez wanted to bring the Senate up to date. He began by acknowledging the Student Research Symposium. This is an important experience for the students but it will also be an important component of the accreditation review in 2014. It is important to the institution to support this effort.

He turned his focus to the legislative session saying that in terms of how the numbers broke down, of the two hundred million for the state, higher education will get forty million. NM Tech's portion is about six hundred thousand. Of that, over three hundred thousand will go to pay for the 1.75% retirement contribution giving relief to employees. This increase did not make up the the cuts of the last few years. HED fought to take 5% of the base and sequester it in the event we can not meet threshold funding rates such as, graduation rates and number of completions. This paradigm would have left NM Tech at 95% budgets. Fortunately, that effort was defeated in the Legislature. Being a STEM institution our funding is a little better than the other institution in the state. A number of bills were put forth to micro-manage higher education. A lot of time is spent fighting these frivolous bills.

Dr. Lopez went on to report that NM Tech was able to secure the majority of funding for the new GEO building. The final funding from the state was eighteen million. Additional funding for the building is pending. Additionally, the legislature budgeted a little bit of money for MRO.

He pointed out that next year will be a long session with a lot more legislation. Salary compression and non-competitive salary both state wide and nationally add pressure to the institution. The two percent raise plus recovery of withholding of 1.75% in retirement reflects the effort of administration to address the economic pressures felt by the NM Tech community.

Dr. Lopez brought up the Student Forum taking place after the Faculty Senate meeting. They will announce the increase to budget through the tuition raise. The support of the students is highly valued in these economic difficulties.

Addressing the Insurance Benefits committee, Dr. Lopez thanked Dr. Harrison and the rest of the committee for the time and effort looking at a variety of options. After all was said and done, there were no good options that would improve our situation. The state pool requires a four year commitment. One plan was a good plan but anecdotally the service is not welcomed by the employees and there wasn't going to be any savings. It was decided to put everything on hold to see if the deficit can stay steady. Holding off any final decision until after the Supreme Court decision on the Health Care bill seems the most prudent decision. After that time, Dr. Lopez will ask for an analysis of the cost containment of the current plan, then look at maintaining current services. That analysis can be the basis for bids from outside providers in the future.

Addressing questions, Dr. Lopez said the capitol project being funded is the Bureau building whose existing building desperately needs remedy. A five year plan in Facilities Management includes the chemistry building and NM Tech can't lobby for the chemistry building unless the Bureau project goes forward with the bond issue. Looking at distribution of classrooms, we have a shortage of small size classrooms and any new buildings that addresses this could relieve the classroom schedule problem the registrar spoke to. Discussions of future building including the chemistry building will include input from multiple users on campus.

- e. Dr. Bonnekesen announced the CLASS speaker series will bring Teri Schulz on campus April 4 and 5. Her lecture will be April 5th, in MSEC 103 where she will be speaking to her experience in Afghanistan.
- f. GSA announcement – Alisa Shtromberg, Public Information Officer for the Graduate Student Association, (GSA) announced the GSA offers free services including up to 3 copies of thesis and dissertation. They can lend computers, electronics and projectors to graduate students. The policy for utilizing these and other resources is available on line at <http://infohost.nmt.edu/~gsa>. Travel grants are available and they are getting competitive. In order to distribute grants fairly the GSA developed a point system. Graduate Students can earn points by

volunteering and the group needs volunteers for a number of upcoming events. Faculty are asked to help make graduate students aware of these resources.

- g. Dr. Borchers, director of the HSI-STEM grant asked chairs to please nominate faculty for advisor training.

4. Committee Reports.

- a. Benefits Committee Report – Dr. Harrison deferred to Dr. Lopez’s announcement regarding health care. He announced the committee will continue to work with the administration to look at options regarding health insurance. The committee is actively researching options pertaining to parental leave and spousal hiring.

5. Old Business. None

6. New Business. None

Dr. Borchers asked for a motion to adjourn and by general consent the meeting ended at 4:43p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathi VanFleet