

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 1, 2014
Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. **Call to order** – Faculty Senate Chair Richard Sonnenfeld called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.
2. **Approval of the minutes of March 4th, 2014** – Fred Phillips moved to approve the minutes. The minutes were unanimously approved.
3. **Brief Announcements :**
 - a. **Presidents Remarks**- Dr. Lopez – Three brand new tenure track positions have been approved for specific departments. Dr. Lopez is trying to get two more positions. These positions are in addition to replacements for those who have left/ are leaving/ are deceased. He is consulting with the VP of AA and the administration on how to allocate these positions using data, rationale, research, etc. Faculty needs to come together as a collective group, prioritize department needs, and make a decision as a group, then he and the VP will review it and make a decision based off of what the faculty have decided as well as what their data shows.
 - b. **Raises** – Dr. Lopez supported the plans of individual departments to handle the raises according to their needs but hoped it did not cause dissension within the departments. Dr. Lopez asked the Regents for permission to delay submittal of the contracts until the end of the month.
 - c. **Great Colleges to Work For Survey** – R. Sonnenfeld – Richard Sonnenfeld stated that individual faculty members had received this survey and stated that it was replacing the survey of Barbara Bonnekessen. Many present acknowledged they had received the survey. About 30 faculty had filled it out and returned it.
 - d. **Research Award** – W. Ostergren – Warren Ostergren reported that the nominations close the 18th of April and stated that he would like as many nominations as possible. He said to notify someone on the committee of your nomination.
4. **Other:**
 - a. Rose Baca asked for volunteers for the Science Fair coming up this week-end. She stated she needed judges. Colleagues or graduate students with good GPA's. The Fair is Saturday (4-5-14)
 - b. Michael Heagy spoke on the Honorary Degree Award Committee. He mentioned that the deadline to submit papers was April 30th for the Langmuir Award. Any NMT student or grad student can receive this award. Student's paper must have been submitted/published the previous year.
 - c. Mary Dezember mentioned that there would definitely be a meeting on May 9th. Dr. Sonnenfeld said that he was planning for a "regular" meeting the first

Tuesday of May as well as the Friday meeting regarding degrees and awards.

The Tuesday meeting will be cancelled if the agenda is sufficiently light.

5. Committee Reports :

- a. **Computing on Campus (new mail systems)** - J. Zheng – Jun Zheng presented two options on software for tech. Google Apps and MS365. Google Apps integrates with Canvas, which is what Distance Ed is switching to in the coming months. The committee produced a resolution recommending to use Google Apps. In discussion that followed, Dr. Zagrai thought the MS 365 might end up being cheaper because Microsoft 365 will give each faculty 5 free copies of MS Office for personal use that they might otherwise have to buy. Dr. Borchers reminded us that NM Tech has a site license for MS Office so that everyone can use it on their business computers at no charge, and questioned whether it was Tech's business to pay for personal copies of MS products. Dr. Zagrai raised a concern that Google cannot guarantee US based servers and that this might be an issue with using Google Apps for those needing federal security clearance. The CC Committee agreed that MS Office applications running locally provide more functionality than Google Apps running in the cloud. However, when comparing MS-365 in the cloud to Google Apps, Google Apps has better performance and more capability. Dr. Raymond stood and stated that he had reviewed the options and that Google was operating system agnostic, whereas Microsoft always tended to promote their own products, causing problems in particular for Macintosh and Linux users. Dr. Wilson supported Dr. Raymond's comments, pointing out that EES was heavily reliant on Apple computers. The CC Committee is trying to establish a single email/communication platform for the campus. They want to collect faculty input to make sure they have not overlooked something in their deciding which option to choose. The campus could retire the 23 mail servers used now and have just 1. This will remove blacklists, prevent hacking, and allow everyone to share calendars. It was suggested that the faculty senate vote on a decision at the May meeting. Meanwhile, faculty input should be sent to Joe Franklin jfranklin@admin.nmt.edu, with a copy to Dr. Zheng (zheng@cs.nmt.edu).
- b. **Benefits Committee** - J.B.. Harrison – Bruce Harrison gave a presentation on the update of Meritain, tech's health insurance program plan costs. The number of members, the number of medical claims, and the cost per member has decreased in the last year. Healthiest people made up the largest number of the sample. Healthy people will be rewarded with reduced cost. He mentioned that there will be webinars available on the website, monthly presentations at the library and e-mails to staff and faculty.
- c. **EREC** - G. Axen – Delayed to next meeting

- 6. Academic Freedom and Tenure** - T. Kieft – Tom Kieft proposed the procedure presented concerning Emeritus status be adopted. In order to institute a procedure, the policy on policies must be followed. The committee wants any faculty member to be able to nominate any other faculty member, not just within the departments. Dr. Wedeward from Electrical Engineering voiced concerns with this, stating that he could imagine an Emeritus faculty member meddling in department business and that if Emeriti had department rights they should be nominated by their home department,

with no alternative path. Dr. Lopez pointed out that only the board of Regents can remove the Emeritus status, once granted.

7. Substantive Announcements :

- a. **Academic Affairs Report** - M. Dezember - Mary Dezember mentioned that she appreciated everyone's patience. Academic Affairs is very busy at this time and stated that she would like to have more frequent department of chairs meetings. Right now she is busy working on Accreditation, budget, and the upcoming symposium.
- b. **Graduate Council Report** - L. Liebrock/M. Dezember - This subject was included with the catalog changes under new business.

8. Old Business:

9. **Other** : None

10. New Business:

- a. **Proposal to create level above Professor to be called "Exxon Distinguished Professor"** - Delayed until April 1, 2015.
- b. **Catalog changes** - Electrical Engineering: Wedeward made a motion to pass. Motion passed most in favor, 3 abstained.
Chemical Engineering: LeClerc made a motion to pass. Motion passed, all in favor.
ES 111 Class - removing it as a requirement: Dr. C. Hargarther and Dr. Ostergren both stated how important ES 111 was an experience for their courses and said that removing it as a prereq would lead to lower enrollment in this important class. Motion to refer - Motion passed.
Physics: Sonnenfeld made a motion to pass. Motion to refer back to committee.
Motion passed.
ERTH/GEOC: Axen made a motion to pass. Motion passed, all in favor.
Math Grad Course: Avramidi made a motion to pass. Motion passed, all in favor.
- c. **Resolution** - Emeritus Professor procedure - Delayed to next Meeting to allow time for revision and public posting (per procedure on procedures).
- d. **Mary Dezember** - SRS is still in need of reviewers. NMT has more 4-year graduates than in previous times. This is good because in comparison with other schools, we have many more engineers (about 75% of students are studying engineering). Students who graduate with a BS from Tech make a lot more money once they enter the workforce than students graduating with a Bachelor's from UNM or NMSU (Tech ranks #11). This is in part due to the nature of studies at Tech (ie: Engineering), but it is still quite a feat.

11. Adjournment - The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.