

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 07, 2017

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Kieft called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm.

Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld moved to approve the February 07, 2017 minutes, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain. Motion passed.

2. Short announcements

a. April 2017 Student Research Symposium – *Lisa Majkowski*

Lisa announced the annual SRS will be held April 19, 2017. This year, they have separated the oral presentations from the poster presentations. Eight oral presentations will be held the night before and those who attend will be treated to a dinner. On Thursday, April 20, the 3 minute speech competition will be held in Macy Center. This year the NM Tech competition will serve as the qualifier for next year's WAGS entry from NM Tech. Also new this year, the OSL will reprint students' posters after they incorporate feedback and make edits.

b. Inter Library Loan – *Bill Stone*

Dr. Stone announced there has been some trouble with receiving inter library books back on time. He stated that it is important to have these returned on time so that NM Tech is not black listed with the lending libraries. At the third warning, you will be cut off. After that fines will be charged. Charges will include the replacement cost plus a \$15 replacing fee.

c. Faculty canvas Site – *Tom Kieft*

Dr. Kieft announced that he had asked for a Canvas site to be set up for the Faculty Senate. We can use this to post papers that are nominated for the Langmuir award. This could also serve as another opportunity for communication.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Budget and Research Committee – *Ken Minschwaner*

Dr. Minschwaner stated that the committee is looking into the overhead budget, the revenue streams coming in by unit and the expenditures going out. They are working on this with Emma Aafloy but it is complicated. The committee is also looking at the I&G budget. At the end of the semester, they would like to have this information posted with some explanation to it.

There have also been several requests for the committee to look into the benefits for research staff. They seem to vary month to month and they seem to be high. Most likely, the committee will be working on this on a parallel track. The hope is to come up with recommendations on where resources could be applied to different areas. The purpose isn't to nitpick but to get an overall picture and then possibly make broad recommendations.

b. Honorary Degrees & Awards Committee – *Tom Engler*

Dr. Engler reminded faculty there are two commencement awards, the Founders Award and the Langmuir Award that are chosen by faculty nomination and the Faculty Senate election. March 15 is the deadline for nominations for the Langmuir Award and the information must be posted by April 1st.

Dr. Kieft announced that President Wells has asked this senate to come up with criteria for selecting honorary degree recipients. This was tasked to Dr. Engler and the Honorary Degree & Awards Committee.

c. Faculty Development Committee – *Claudia Wilson*

Dr. Wilson announced that the committee held a Research Opportunities and Grant Preparation workshop this past Saturday at Sevilleta sponsored by R&ED. There were thirty-four participants. During the workshop, a panel of experienced faculty members shared their experience and gave valuable advice. Mike Stanley discussed possible collaborations between professors and EMRTC. There were representatives from Sandia and Los Alamos National Labs. Also, Elmira Israilova and Lindsay Candelaria came and discussed budget preparations and export control.

4. Report of Council of Chairs – *Douglas Wells*

a. CLASS – *Steve Simpson*

Dr. Steve Simpson discussed the CLASS catalog changes. CLASS has created two new minors, a Minor in Science, Technology, and Society and a Minor in Music. Also, proposed changing the course name and description for ENGL 120.

Dr. Simpson moved to accept these changes. Motion passed. Friendly amendment to edit “addition” to “additional” under minor in music.

b. Basic Sciences – *Bill Stone*

Dr. Stone discussed the Basic Sciences two changes:

Change “of the minimum 130 credit hours required for this degree” to “of the minimum 120 credit hours required for this degree”.

Eliminate “The Foreign language requirement is six credit hours in a single language.”

Dr. Bill Stone moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

c. Course Evaluations – *Tom Kieft*

Dr. Kieft stated that an ad hoc senate committee has been initiated with Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman as Chair. The committee will revisit the paper versus online course evaluations. The committee was also be evaluating the wording.

5. Report of Graduate Council – *Lorie Liebrock*

a. Computer Science & Engineering – *Dr. Dongwan Shin*

Dr. Shin discussed one change in the computer science and engineering PhD degree requirement. Before the degree is approved and granted, at least one paper on the subject matter from the dissertation must be accepted for publication to a reputable journal or conference proceedings acceptable to the doctoral committee of the student.

Dr. Shin moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

b. Earth & Environmental Science – *Glenn Spinelli*

Dr. Spinelli discussed the catalog changes for Earth and Environmental PhD degree requirements. There is a PhD in Earth and Environmental Science with a Dissertation in Geology, Geobiology, Geochemistry, Geophysics, and Hydrology. They were seeking to get some consistency with the number of graded credits required between these different dissertation options. He proposed to adopt the language that is currently in the Hydrology Dissertation.

Dr. Spinelli moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

c. Readmission application - *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock stated that currently there is no specific time frame for a readmission application. They propose to clarify how long before a department chair has to approve readmissions and when that period is up and they have to submit a new application.

Dr. Liebrock moved for approval of the addition of this to the catalog to clarify readmission process for graduate students. Motion passed.

d. Degree Works – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock stated that they have been working on the Degree Works, scribing for Graduate catalogs. However, they found that some of the general requirements are inscribable. In the Graduate Council meeting, the agreement was that students need to take the courses only and not the labs and recitations. This is a clarification of what was already in there.

A discussion was held on if this is really needed. It was stated that other institutions do not have this as a requirement across the board and leave it up to each department to say what they feel the minimum requirements for students entering should be. Other issues were stated.

Dr. Liebrock moved that this clarification be put into the catalog. Dr. Tom Engler moved to table this discussion, seconded by Dr. Steve Simpson. Motion passed with several nays.

6. Old Business

a. B.S. Credit Hour Requirements – *Douglas Wells*

Dr. Wells has asked each Dean to go to each department to address the issue of 120 credit hours in the context of free electives. Dr. Wells has received some questions and would like to try to address them.

There is a state-wide, over-arching effort to enable more students to complete their degree in four years. They would like to reduce the number of years to complete their BS degree by reducing credits to 120 and reduce the costs. These seem to be the driving factors. There are currently 8 programs with free electives from 1 to 28 credits. There are 10 programs with credit minimums that are greater than 130 credits. This institution has recently reduced our institutional credit requirements for a BS degree from 130 to 120. Academic Affairs is focusing on asking programs with more than 1 credit of “free electives” to review their programs for credit reduction. Dr. Wells posed the question, should we be looking at curricular and asking do we have the right number of credits?

Dr. Wells presented this to the Regents yesterday and a question that came up was how our programs compare to our peer institutions. Average Schools 130.9 with NMT 131.9. If you ask how this affects our graduation rate, on average NMT students take approximately 23% more credits than are required for their degree. Reasons may vary but they include, needing lighter classes, not calculus ready, or changing their programs.

Regents are asking us to reach 120 credits. The Deans will be working with departments again to discuss this especially if there are free electives. Our strongest argument is that our students are leaving better prepared than other institutions.

7. New Business

8. Discussion

9. Adjournment.

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:14 pm.