

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 1, 2022

3:30 p.m. Workman 101

## Minutes

### 1. Call to order

Chair Mike Hargather called the meeting to order at 3:36 pm with a call for approval of the February 1, 2022 minutes.

### 2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Sally Pias moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman. Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. President Wells Update

President Wells thanked Dr. Van Romero for his service as the Vice President for Research and introduced Dr. Nelia Dunbar as the Interim Vice President for Research.

President Wells gave a summary on the State Legislative report. He noted that they passed the biggest budget in the history of New Mexico, \$8.5 billion. Funding bills that passed were the HB2 (General Appropriations Act of 2022), SB48 (General Appropriations and Authorizing expenditures, otherwise known as HB Junior), HB 153 (General Obligation Bond Projects, GOB Bill) and the SB 212 (Capital Outlay Projects, STB Bill).

Major Higher Ed highlights includes the passage of SB140, the Opportunity Scholarship. There is also \$230.5 million for financial aid in both appropriations bill and transfers to financial aid related funds.

Increase of \$21.6 million or 3.4% above the FY22 in new recurring funds for Instruction and General for all higher education institutions. There is a model that if the word “average” for the 7% compensation increase will be used to help lower paid staff at NMT. Funding for \$15.00 minimum wage (after 7% compensation increase).

President Wells also provided an update on the Raul and Shari Deju University House. This will be the newest facility on the NMT campus. It will hold around 80 people inside and 100 people outside. This will be dedicated to workshops, conferences, and internal faculty and staff events with a minimal fee.

### 4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

#### a. Advisor Evaluations/Advising Committee – *Mike Jackson*

Dr. Jackson announced that the survey for advisor evaluations will close on Friday March 11. The results should become available to individual faculty on March 12. Curtis will be reviewing and prepare a summary of how things went and will then point out any technical issues at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Cook announced that the thought process from the committee is that we need to keep anonymity of the faculty. The logic is that as a committee, they would not see individual comments unless they are soliciting for them. Dr. Jackson clarified that we can provide the committee high level use university wide data that would not have comments or faculty identifiers. Dr. Hargather stated that this is the first time we have done this and we want to make sure that we are getting accurate data out of this for future use. We passed it through this body previously that this data cannot feed into this year's academic merit review or the next year's review. We would like to look at the data university wide with no faculty identifiers in the data that the committee sees. The comments would be removed as well and only the numerical data would be used. However, the committee would appreciate faculty submitting their own data to the committee as well so that further review could be done.

Dr. Jackson also stated that Academic Affairs has provided incentives for the students with fifteen \$100 scholarships for the students to take this survey.

**b. Regents-Faculty Committee – *Subhashish Mazumdar***

Dr. Mazumdar announced that the committee is charged with reporting the status of the institute. A survey will be sent out to all faculty by email this week. It asks that you sign in with your NMT email address but it will not be recorded.

March 14 will be the last day to take the survey and the committee will review the data and present it next month.

**c. Curriculum Committee – *Linda DeVeaux***

**action**

**i. Fourteen Proposals**

[https://www.nmt.edu/academicaffairs/administrative\\_committees/curriculum.php](https://www.nmt.edu/academicaffairs/administrative_committees/curriculum.php) under "Proposals ready for Faculty Senate approval"

Dr. DeVeaux stated that submitting curriculum changes is closed for this academic year and this will be the last approvals that will go in the catalog. The committee will be asking for feedback and they will hopefully be going online within two years. Dr. DeVeaux thanked the committee along with Heather Juarez and Elaine DeBrine Howell for all their work and noted that they met weekly.

**Proposal 0004 - Dr. DeVeaux**  
**Department: Chemistry**

Changing CHEM 1120 from 3 credits to 4 credits. (Note that this is not for CHEM 1215, required by the BS Inst. requirements, but is an option for B.A. institute requirements.)

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0015 – Dr. DeVeaux**

**Department: Biology**

Changes to the BMS program, intended to make the program more uniform with regards to the course requirements in each concentration, and provide more flexibility with courses so that students have more options when courses are not offered. Also, a change to BMS 300 from letter grade to S/U.

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0024 - Dr. DeVeaux**

**Department: Biology**

Update the course listing in the Geobiology Minor to reflect current course offerings and remove hidden prerequisites. List the minor in only one place in the catalog.

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0023 – Linda DeVeaux**

**Department: Biotechnology**

Cross list GEOB 515 (Geomicrobiology) with BIOT; has been offered twice as BIOT 589.

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0027 – Linda DeVeaux**

**Department: All BS/BA/BGS Programs**

Change to Area 7 if the Institute Reqs for BS and BGS degrees to include Creative and Fine Arts as an option (in addition to Social Science and Humanities.) Additionally, EES has an 1190 course that was added last year. They would like these to be added to the Biology options in the BA.

Allow courses with an FDMA prefix to count for Area 6.

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0011 – Stewart Thompson**

**Department: CLASS**

New courses in Art History, Film, and Digital Media Arts, History, Humanities, Social Science and Technical Communication

- ARTH 2110: History of Art I
  - ARTH 2120: History of Art II
- (These two courses replace ARTH 2210: Art History)
- FDMA 1XXX: Digital Techniques in Visual Art
  - HUMN 1XXX: History of Sci-Fi Dystopia
  - TCOM 406/506: Big Data, Culture, and Society

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0013 – Dan Jones**

**Department: Earth Science**

Addition of four new courses (two of which are cross listings of an existing course)

- HYD 556 Natural Complexity
- HYD 555 Fracture in Geologic Settings
- GEOC 515 Geomicrobiology (new cross listing)
- HYD 515, 515D Geomicrobiology (new cross listing)
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Modification of prerequisites to include “or graduate standing” for four 500/400 level courses. Minor modification to the description of the seminar course (GEOL 593 and associated sections). Formatting of the Geobiology Minor to match that in the Biology listing.

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0029 – Dan Jones**

**Department: Earth Science**

Replace GEOL 1110+L with either GEOL 1110+L or GEOL 1190+L in several course prerequisites, to correct an oversight when GEOL 1190 was added to the catalog.

GEOL 593 is a seminar presentation by faculty, students, and outside speakers. Graded on S/U basis. Satisfactory performance consists of regular attendance at approved seminars. A question was asked if this can be removed from the catalog and instead put in the syllabus or in the student’s contract. It was noted that this isn’t a mandate but the original language wasn’t “forceful” enough. The comment was made that this does not fit as an academic requirement.

*Friendly amendment was made that in the course description “departmental recruiting events, and other department informational sessions” be stricken from the requirement. Moved by Dr. Sharon Sessions, seconded by Dr. Pias. Motion was moved and approved with three nay’s and two abstentions.*

*Motion was moved and approved with the friendly amendment.*

**Proposal 0014 – Jamie Kimberley**

**Department: Mechanical Engineering**

Change MENG 210 (3crs) and MENG 210L (0cr) to MENG 210 (2crs) and MENG 210L (1cr).

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0025 – Jamie Kimberley**

**Department: Mechanical Engineering**

Revision in pre-requisite description in one MENG graduate course (MENG 524). Addition of new graduate courses and related undergraduate cross-listings.

- MENG 435/535 and AE 435: Drones
- MENG 463/563 and AE 463: Bioinspiration and Biomimetics
- MENG 469/569: AI Concepts and Applications
- MENG 543: Control System Design
- MENG 584: Smart Materials and Structures

Revisions in the MENG graduate program, including the addition of an accelerated masters and adjustments to the PhD curriculum.

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0026 – Jamie Kimberley**

**Department: Mechanical Engineering**

Remove MATH 337 from the MENG curriculum (replace MENG 305 as the prerequisite for MENG 421). Add a 3 (cr) Technical Elective to the MENG curriculum.

There was some concern with this change. It was noted that this course was created to fill specific weaknesses in the MENG curriculum. It had significant improvements in MENG 405, 441. Comment was made that we have to allow departments the flexibility to adapt and change their curriculum.

*Motion was moved and approved with 7 nay's.*

**Proposal 0020 – Jamie Kimberley**

**Department: Materials Engineering**

Modify prerequisites for 1 course (MTLS 311) and update the language in the BS program description to clarify “advanced basic science”. (Advanced basic science (3): upper-level chemistry and physics and other natural sciences including life, earth, and space sciences.)

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0021 – Isabel Morris**

**Department: Mineral Engineering**

Changes to ME undergraduate course prerequisites to reflect restructured prerequisites (like ME 380 and 381) and allow transfer and out of dept students to take courses.

- ME 340: *Corequisite: ME 320 or ES 316.*
- ME 410: *Prerequisites: ME 380 Corequisite: ME 413*
- ME 435: *Prerequisite: ME 422 Prerequisite: ES 201*
- ME 440: *Prerequisite: ME 380; ES 216; ME 381*

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**Proposal 0022 – Brian Borchers**

**Department: CSE and Math**

Create an interdisciplinary minor in Data Science offered jointly by CSE and Math. Add new CSE courses:

- CSE 207: Python for Data Science
- CSE 411: Introduction to Data Science
- CSE 465: Neural Networks
- CSE 466: Machine Learning

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously.*

**5. Council of Chairs Report – Doug Wells**

**a. BS in Basic Sciences – Steve Simpson**

Dr. Simpson stated that there are no curriculum changes at the moment but instead to move the BS in Basic Sciences under the CLASS department. They eventually want the name to be more attractive.

*Motion was moved and approved unanimously to move the BS in Basic Sciences to the CLASS department.*

**b. Enrollment Report – Doug Wells**

Dr. Wells stated that this report was focused on looking more into our trends to determine what is right and what we need to work on. Our enrollment headcount is slightly up overall. In terms of demographics, enrollment with white males have decreased and Hispanic males have increased as well as Hispanic females. Dr. Wells noted that we need to continue to look into and understand these trends for both undergraduate and graduate students.

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

Dr. El-Osery announced if faculty have any students that we would like to highlight for the graduate newsletter, let him know. There will be a workshop for graduate students as well as faculty with what the requirements are for a Thesis etc.

**7. Unfinished Business**

**8. New Business**

**a. Standardize Final Schedule – Doug Wells**

Dr. Wells stated that this is the beginning of a conversation. We may want to standardize a final schedule. We struggle with this every spring semester a common final exam schedule is typically done at most schools.

Heather stated that conflicts happen with special requests that conflict with the common schedules. Faculty requests do sometimes cause a break in the system with how we currently operate.

**b. IP Policy and Invention Disclosure – Myrriah Tomar**

Dr. Tomar stated that they are currently in the process of revising the IP policy. Send comments to her and if there are any major concerns, it can be addressed at the next meeting. Additionally, submit any inventions disclosures to her. The form has also been updated so that they know the current status of research or ideas.

**9. Announcements**

**a. Science Olympiad and NM Science and Engineering Fair/Outreach Coordination – Sharon Sessions**

Dr. Sessions thanked those who participated in Science Olympiad this past weekend. The Science and Engineering Fair will be held on April 2. Dr. Sessions announced that SHS got 3<sup>rd</sup> place at State and CVCS got 1<sup>st</sup> place.

Additionally, Dr. Sessions introduced Ann Dunklee as the STEM Outreach and MST Coordinator.

**b. Distinguished Service Award – Brian Borchers**

Dr. Borchers announced that it is that time of year to nominate faculty for the Distinguished Faculty Service award. Send your nominations to him.

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

Dr. Kramer-Simpson announced upcoming Teaching Tea Times on March 9 and April 6 at noon in the CITL.

**d. Big Event – *Michael Voegerl***

Dr. Voegerl announced that the Big Event will be held on Saturday, April 9 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm and the plan is to do 500 hours of community service in one day. There will be around 100 – 125 students, faculty, and staff volunteering to help clean among other things within Socorro and Magdalena.

**e. Strategic Plan – *Mike Jackson***

Dr. Jackson announced that tomorrow the QI2 will be submitted. He will then reach out to BP/Vision 2027 to generate interest in the Strategic Plan.

**f. SRS – *David Cox/Anne Marie Pearson***

Dr. Cox announced that SRS is coming April 22 – 24. Faculty are needed to encourage students. Dr. Pearson announced that the Abstract Workshop will be Thursday night. These events will be in person but there will be some Zoom options.

**g. Introduction – *Mike Hargather***

Dr. Katie Bauer in the Communications Office. She will be helping to make articles for us.

**h. HLC Peer Reviewers – *Doug Wells***

Dr. Wells announced that both Dr. Mike Jackson and Shari Montazeri are peer reviewers with HLC.

**10. Adjournment**

By unanimous consent, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:29 pm.