NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, November 5th

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Engler called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm with a call for approval of the October 1, 2019 minutes. Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Sally Pias. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Introduction – *Dr. Tom Engler*

Dr. Navid Mojtabai introduced Dr. David Siang as an Associate Professor in the Mineral Engineering Department.

Science Fair/Science Olympiad – Doug/Melissa

Dr. Wells stated that the Science Fair and Science Olympiad are important to NMT for recruiting. This is a state wide effort that could be housed elsewhere but it is here and we need to change the way we have been approaching these events.

Ms. Jaramillo stated that Student and University Relations will need supervisors for Science Olympiad in February and for Science Fair in April. She encouraged faculty to help support these events and efforts.

2. Reports of Senate Standing Committees **action**

a. Distance Education Committee – *Dr. Mahinda Ranasinghe*

Dr. Ranasinghe stated that the Distance Education Committee has not been active for some time. At their last meet the main objective was to discuss the need of this committee since the formation of the DEAB committee. It was noted that any policies from DEAB will go to Graduate Council and then to the Faculty Senate to be voted on.

Dr. Ranasinghe moved to disband the Faculty Senate Distance Education Committee and move all faculty members to the DEAB committee. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Honorary Degrees Committee – *Dr. Bhasker Majumdar*

Dr. Majumdar announced that the Honorary Degree and Awards committee is currently working with two nominations for the 2019-2020 academic year. The committee requested that the nomination process for one of the candidates be expedited due to heath concerns.

Dr. Rodolfo Tello-Aburto briefly discussed the nomination for Paul W. Cooper. Dr. Hargather and Dr. Mojtabai also provided their support for this nomination in

addition to other support letters and approval from the Mechanical Engineering Department.

Dr. Majumdar moved to approve this Honorary Doctorate Degree for Mr. Paul Cooper from the Mechanical Engineering Department in Intelligent Energetic System. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Student Discipline Committee – *Dr. Jamie Kimberly*
Dr. Kimberly discussed several proposed changes to the Student Discipline Committee's standing rules.

The committee proposed to change the name from Student Discipline Committee to Student Conduct Committee. Discussion was held that this change will also have to change in several other policies including the student handbook. A comment was made that this should happen simultaneously with these changes.

Dr. Kimberly stated that the second proposed change is dealing with the committee's process and the members of the committee. The last change is essentially dealing with our assurance.

Dr. Kimberly stated that student representation is important and related to that we currently have four students listed on the committee. The intention of the committee is to have the student members to be full voting members. Dr. Engler clarified there was a clerical error in the Faculty Senate Standing Committee list and the students will be listed as regular members.

Dr. Kimberly moved to accept these changes. Friendly amendment was made to add a period after the word members in the first sentence with proposed changes as it is a run on sentence.

Discussion was held on the proposed change to have the committee be made up of seven members, with a quorum of five. Three of these members include faculty. A comment was made that practically this will not work to have a fixed number of faculty members that is sufficient and will allow them to be recused and then still have a hearing. This change is also in disagreement to what is in the handbook now.

Dr. Stone moved to refer back to the committee, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Council of Chairs Report – *Dr. Doug Wells* **action**

a. CSE Curricular Changes
Dr. Mazumdar briefly discussed the CSE curricular changes and introduced a new course, CSE 363 Computer Security, to address the ABET concerns.

Dr. Mazumdar moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Biology Curricular Changes

Dr. DeVeaux discussed several minor curricular changes and one major change. Dr. DeVeaux proposed to remove a corequisite from BIOL 301, changing a senior seminar from a prerequisite of upper class standing to senior standing, and to increase the level of Molecular Biology and lab from a 300 level to a 400 level course. This would then be cross-listed and have a prerequisite added.

Dr. DeVeaux moved to accept these changes. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Space Audits for Campus Planning

Dr. Wells stated that President Wells asked Dr. Cleve McDaniel to start the beginning of a long term plan to categorize space and identify needs for space. Dr. Wells reassured faculty that space is not being taken away.

d. DFW Reports and Advising Weeks

Dr. Wells stated that the DFW reports were sent to all departments. He asked that faculty review these carefully to see if we can discover why students are failing courses and how we can do better.

e. Update on Registrar Search

Dr. Wells stated that candidates were brought on campus for interviews for the Registrar position and we are ready to make an offer.

f. Curricular Committee

Dr. Wells stated that creating a Curricular Committee was recently discussed. The reason for this committee is that the curriculum changes come to the floor and we spend a great deal of time discussing these matters. This committee would serve the Graduate Council and Council of Chairs. The committee would also be responsible do the leg work for the changes to curriculum. Dr. Wells announced that a proposal will be coming.

g. BA Degrees & Institute Requirements

Dr. Wells stated that this body did away with Bachelor of Arts degrees quite some time ago. Dr. Wells indicated that a BA degree may help with our retention, attract a more diverse clientele, and in other ways. A proposal will also be coming.

4. Graduate Council Report – *Dr. Aly El Osery* **action**

a. Computer Science Curricular Changes

Dr. Mazumdar discussed the Computer Science Accelerated M.S. Option. The catalog will read:

"Students who want to obtain both the *B.S. in Computer Science* and *M.S. in Computer* Science degrees may pursue an *Accelerated M.S. Degree* option. Students must apply by Midsemester of their second semester in their junior year in Computer Science to be admitted for their senior year. Accepted students may apply nine credits of CSE courses numbered above 500 to both degrees."

Dr. Mazumdar noted that the accelerated name is not yet approved and would not be applicable, so it would change to a five year program.

A comment was made to have a clear and unambiguous way to write "junior year" due to students coming in with more transfer credits. Dr. El-Osery stated that rewording for the graduate section is coming so that departments can decide when a student can apply. He also explained how each program can differ from another.

Dr. Hargather moved to refer back to committee to see the full changes, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion failed.

Dr. Borchers made a friendly amendment to require students to be admitted to the accelerated program before taking any courses that would be double dipped, seconded by Dr. Stone. Motion failed.

A comment was made on why you would put a restriction of when your student has to graduate by. Every five year program is different and each department should have control.

Dr. Mazumdar moved to approve. Motion passed with several nays.

b. Proposed Graduate Degree in Mineral Engineering

Dr. El-Osery stated that the main course requirement that will go into the catalog was what they proposed be approved at the Graduate Council.

Dr. Mojtabai discussed the requirements and noted that these are similar to other programs at NMT and other schools with similar degrees. He stated that there are only nine mining programs that offer PhD's. Mining companies are offering financial support to these PhD programs. He noted that the Mineral Engineering Department also now has enough faculty here to support this program.

Dr. Mojtbai moved to accept program. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Unfinished Business

a. Academic Calendar – *Dr. Doug Wells* **Info**

Dr. Wells stated that this body passed a revised academic calendar not too long ago. There was an oversight and this change was not implemented into the upcoming academic year. While looking into this, to change the spring semester dates, we were not able to do this as the paperwork for housing and meal plans were already complete. Dr. Wells stated that we will implement the following years that were approved from this committee. However, there are a few errors that need to be fixed. For example, the commencement date was on a Sunday.

Dr. Wells went on to say that the question of having a day off just before Thanksgiving still remains. By having this day off, it gives the students, particularly those who are out of state, a travel day to get home for Thanksgiving. The spring semester dates are consistent with our HLC requirements and the fall semester is one week longer than needed.

Dr. Borchers moved to refer back to the calendar committee to review Thanksgiving break for next semester, seconded by Dr. Cadol. Motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business **Info**

7. Announcements **Info**

a. OSL move to Skeen Library – *David Cox*

Dr. Cox announced that the OSL will be moving to the Library after the fall semester. It will be located on the main floor on the south end.

b. Election Day – *Dr. Michael Hargather*

Dr. Hargather announced that today is Election Day. Polls will be open until 7:00 pm. Voting is at the Teen Center and the County Annex.

c. New Travel Policy – *Dr. Michael Hargather*

Dr. Hargather announced that there is a new travel policy document that is currently posted online and open for comment as part of the Policy of Policies. Faculty are encouraged to review and comment.

8. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:25 pm.