

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

3:30 p.m. Workman 101

## Minutes

### 1. Call to order

Dr. Bill Stone called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm with a call for approval of the September 6, 2022 minutes.

### 2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Anwar Hossain moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Sally Pias. Motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Nominating Committee: Election of Officers – *Mark Samuels*

**Action**

Each candidate was allowed up to two minutes to discuss their views on how best to fulfil the position that they were running for. Voting was held via paper ballot where members from the nominating committee collected the votes. The results were:

Chair – Dr. Brian Borchers

Vice Chair – Dr. Sally Pias

Parliamentarian – Dr. Bill Stone

### 4. President Wells Update

President Wells provided an update on the current searches.

Dr. Steve Simpson is chairing the search for the Marketing and Communications position. They have brought two candidates for interviews on campus. The decision should be made soon. Matt Gallegos is chairing the search for the EMRTC Director. The position is not yet closed and the committee is targeting various contacts and they will be broadening the search to veterans, career workforce, and federal employees. Dr. Aly El-Osery is chairing the search for the Vice President for Research. This search is still ongoing. It will not move forward until they feel that there are strong and viable candidates. Dr. Nelia Dunbar will be chairing the search for the Hantush-Deju Hydrologic Innovation Center and the advisory committee has just been formed.

### 5. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

#### a. Curriculum Committee – *Linda DeVeaux*

**Action**

Dr. DeVeaux stated that the committee has been working on clearing up language at the beginning of the course catalog and the committee was asked to address this issue.

We have been operating under the assumption that students could use a general Education course for their program requirements as long as they were allowed in the program requirements but they couldn't use the same course twice within their own program to fulfill two different requirements. However, this was not in the catalog and this change shows the practice that we have been doing. Some courses do allow overlap but it is stated in their program requirements.

The committee accepted a friendly amendment to change the last sentence to "All bachelor degrees require at least 120 credit hours and some degrees require more than 120 credit hours".

Friendly amendment was made to add "the same" course(s) in the second sentence. Moved by Dr Steward Thompson, seconded by Dr. Brian Borchers. Motion passed unanimously.

This proposed language for paragraph 1 will state, "The same course may be used to fulfill requirements within both the General Education Core Curriculum and program, if applicable. The proposed language for paragraph 2 will state, "The same course may not be used to satisfy multiple requirements within a program unless specifically allowed by the program requirements."

Motion to accept these changes was moved and approved unanimously.

## **6. Council of Chairs Report – *Mike Jackson***

### **a. See Draft Minutes for full details**

#### **Major Announcements**

- i. Target date for Annual Assessment Reports – October 1.**
- ii. ABET 2022 site visit – November 6 – 8.**
- iii. 2023 New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Retention Conference – Feb. 16-17, 2023 (submission deadline is Nov. 21).**

#### **Discussion points**

- i. Exploration Day – Saturday, November 5.**
- ii. Degree Conferrals are planning to be moved from monthly to 3x/year (pending information from AFRL).**
- iii. Potential forthcoming policy change: Challenge Exam.**
- iv. Many ongoing activities within the university – e.g., NMT Strategic Plan.**

### **b. President Wells has signed off on the Sabbatical Policy approved by the Faculty Senate last year. It will be reviewed at the October BOR meeting. Contingent upon its approval, the next deadline for sabbaticals beginning in the Fall 2023 semester is November 15, 2022.**

### **c. Strategic Plan Listening Sessions will be held toward the end of October.**

**d. Summary of 2021-2022 Academic Honesty Violations**

Dr. Jackson reported that there were 24 cases of plagiarism for undergraduate students this past year, which is consistent with the past five years. 4 students were accused but not found in violation of the policy.

Dr. Aly El-Osery reported that there were 3 cases of plagiarism for graduate students this past year. He will provide a written report at the next meeting.

**e. Enrollment Trends**

Dr. Jackson announced regarding our total enrollment, we are down 2.5% or 44 students compared to last year. Graduate student enrollments are slightly up from the prior year. Other data shows:

- New undergraduate students are 344 for this year with 345 last year.
- Retention for first-time, full-time freshman is 75% which last year was 76% (-3).
- Persistence: 69.6% to 63% (-15)
- First to Seventh Semester: 63.6% to 61% (-8)
- Graduation rate:
  - 4 year: 31.4 (F17) to 32.1 (F18) (-2)
  - 6-year: 56.8 (F15) to 54.8 (F16) (up to -6)
- Decrease in Student Credit Hour (SCH) production is comparable to decrease in Student Headcount

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

**a. Special Student Status**

Dr. El-Osery proposed to change the number of credits that a special student can take and transfer toward a graduate degree to no more than 6 credit hours earned as a non-degree seeking graduate student.

Motion was moved and approved unanimously.

**8. Unfinished Business**

**9. New Business**

**10. Announcements**

**a. Faculty Development highlight series – Bill Stone**

The faculty development committee is planning a series of Friday afternoon get togethers from the career awardees regarding their projects. They will be held at the Deju house.

**b. SRS – David Cox**

Looking for another faculty to help with SRS since Dr. Hargather has left. Reach out to David Cox if you are interested.

**c. Calc II Parachute Course – *Bill Stone***

For students who are struggling, calc II appears to be a difficult course. For students who did poorly on their first test, they would be offered another four-credit course. This parachute course will cover half of the material from calc II along with a review of what they struggled with in calc II. Following this, there would be a two-credit calc II course in the next semester.

**d. Animal Protection Club**

A flyer was provided regarding an Animal Protection Club. They want to initiate a program between the GSA, APC, and the Socorro Animal Shelter to aim to match animals from the shelter to graduate students.

**e. NMT childcare for children under two – *Laura Waters***

There is a \$10 million grant with the governor to expand childcare under the age of two. Dr. Waters expressed an interesting in finding a way to make this work with NMT. She asked that faculty and staff help support this.

**11. Adjournment**

Dr. Bill Stone moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dr. Tom Kieft. By unanimous decision, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.