

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, November 7, 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 with a call for approval of the October 3, 2017 minutes. Dr. Lorie Liebrock moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain. Motion passed.

2. Announcements

a. Leadership Council and Retreat – *President Wells*

President Wells thanked the faculty for working diligently on improving our enrollment. There has been a trend in declining numbers across the state. The good news is that we are coming together and our numbers for student applications to date are ahead of last year at this time.

President Wells announced that a leadership council was formed. It represents all major leadership on campus. A retreat was recently held to develop a vision for what this campus might look like in 2027. An idea was given to have NMT become a doctoral granting institution. This is a movement in the Carnegie rank. We developed a Vision Statement to create a pre-eminent, welcoming, vibrant, rural STEM research university composed of an exceptionally diverse community of students, scholars and citizens. The key part is the community. It is vibrant and a community. This is what we are trying to do in terms of our vision. There are 10 committees that were formed including Town and Gown to improve the quality of town life. Other committees include Broaden Research Opportunities, Marketing NMT, Diversify Funding (Tuition Options), Culture of NMT, Program Growth, Entrepreneurial Campus, Alumni Association and Philanthropic Organization, Data-Driven Approach, and Carnegie Research University. These committees will come together, collect what they have been working on, and put that information into a report. President Wells is excited to get this all together for the faculty to see. This leadership council will meet quarterly to keep this moving forward.

President Wells briefly discussed the Loma Theater. The city came together with NMT to help get it going. It is being leased to NMT and running through Auxiliary Services. A new digital projector with a screen that allows 3D capability was bought prominently through unrestricted donations. The next project will be looking at the closed Smiths. Some ideas include having it turned into a maker's space with students and the local community such as the High School and Junior High. President Wells stated that they are also looking at ways of bringing food trucks to campus during dead times when Chartwells is closed.

President Wells stated that there has been a Presidents Club for donors and that will continue on. However, there is now a Founders Club for those who have given profoundly in a variety of ways. A dinner was held where the first president's medal was given to thank those who have gone above and beyond and given generously. The first recipient was Frank Etscorn. His endeavors have led to roughly \$14 million in scholarships for students.

b. Update on NM STEM Standards for K-12 Education – *Tom Kieft*

The NM Public Education Department has decided to adopt the Next Generation Science Standards "in their entirety" with the addition of only six New-Mexico-specific standards. According to the Albuquerque Journal (October 26, 2017), state senator Mimi Stewart (D-District 17), who chairs the Legislative Education Study Committee, "applauded 'the huge outcry from the science and business community' for demanding the state adopt the NGSS standards as written."

Ken Minschwaner would like to thank everyone who participated in drafting the NMT Faculty Senate's position statement. In particular, Benjamin Duval, Steve Simpson, and Tom Kieft provided critically important contributions.

c. Dan Howard's Visit – *Steve Simpson*

Dr. Simpson stated that Dan Howard is leading the charge on the statewide Gen Ed overall. He is coming this Thursday to meet with the faculty from 3:00 – 5:00 pm in Workman 101.

d. Guest Speaker – *Ronni Grapenthin*

Dr. Grapenthin announced that Emma Locatelli is coming November 20 in Workman 101. She will be giving a talk on the Science-Policy interface and her experience as 2016-2017 AGI William L. Fischer Congressional Geoscience Fellow working in Tom Udall's office.

e. Web of Science vs. Scopus – *David Cox*

David Cox stated that presently, we have kept 5 types of group library landing sites. Now we have Scopus available. It is a product through Elsevier. David asked faculty to look at it and see if the changes that this website provides are appreciated. He was able to get it for free for 5 weeks. Scopus covers all but 1.3 percent of the web science collection, but holds more subject material coverage. He would like faculty to fill out the survey.

f. Undergraduate Academic Honesty Cases – *Peter Mozley*

Dr. Peter Mozley stated that this fall, we have only handled five undergraduate academic honesty cases to date. The principle violations that are detected remain the same and are typically copying homework or laboratory assignments and online resources such as CHEGG. A pattern has developed in the fall semester where most of the cases start coming in towards the end of the semester. Dr. Mozley will send an email to encourage students to keep up the good behavior.

g. Graduate Academic Honesty Cases – *Lorie Liebrock*

Dr. Liebrock stated that currently there are no graduate academic honesty cases this semester. Fall 2016 to Summer 2017 there were a total of 4 cases of faculty reported plagiarism. Ithenticate has gone from major cases to only one moderate

case and two minor cases. Additionally, the total number of cases is down from 2015-2016.

h. NMT Intellectual Property (IP) Policy – *Peter Anselmo*

Dr. Anselmo stated that there is a draft IP Policy. It will be posted online for comment. It is something that we have needed for a while and will now have it. Starting in January, graduate students will be asked, as part of their contract, to sign over any IP they create in advance to NMT.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Retention Committee – *Michelle Creech-Eakman*

Dr. Creech-Eakman gave an update from the Retention Committee. We have had a drop in the number of incoming students. One main reason is the Lottery Scholarship support was decreased from 90% to 60%. The retention rate for first-time student from 2016 to 2017 was not a large drop compared to previous years. If we look back at the 4-year rate, we will see that we are going up. The 2013 cohort data for 4-year graduation rate is significantly higher than past years and strongly suggests an upward trend in 6-year graduation rates can be anticipated.

Both our accreditors and the strategic plan have suggested that we make recommendations for both retention and graduation rates. We should be able to attain higher percentages based on performance at other schools in the State (who have fewer high-performing students based on ACTs) and sister schools (with similar student ACT performance) across the Nation. Goals adopted that we should strive to achieve within the next 5 years are: 80% retention rate, 4-year graduation rate should be above 22%, and 6-year graduation rate above 50%.

There were many suggestions given but one in particular was the Retention and Graduation Committee officially voted to recommend to the Academic Standards Committee to raise the ACT Math score to 21. There is presently no ACT Math requirement, just a requirement on the Composite ACT of 21. This will on average result in 30 fewer students entering NMT each year, however currently only 3 of those 30 students graduate after 6 years. The net affect will be to raise graduation rates for NMT and allow students who do not typically complete a degree at NMT to pursue a degree elsewhere with less harm to GPA and thus eligibility for financial aid.

The Retention and Graduation Committee is recommending that the Academic Standards and Admission Committee examine this suggestion and come back with a recommendation in the future. One suggestion was to look into dual credit students as this is a population that might be affected.

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

a. Tenure & Promotion Policy

Dr. Wells stated that the suggested changes for the Tenure & Promotion Policy were passed on to the Senate Committee after being discussed at the council of chairs.

b. Civil & Environmental Engineering – *Clint Richardson*

Dr. Richardson discussed a course that they have had as special topics has been well received. They would like to add ENVE 491 now as a permanent course. It will be cross listed as a 500 level course and will be presented to the Grad council next week.

Additionally, CEE would like to offer a new class that will be special topics course Green Building that we would like listed as both a CE and ENVE class, the latter cross-listed for graduate class, that is CE 491 Green Building cross-listed as ENVE 491 Green Building cross-listed as ENVE 571 Green Building.

Dr. Richardson moved to accept these. Motion passed.

5. Report of Graduate Council – *Lorie Liebrock*

a. Earth & Environmental Science

Dr. Mark Person discussed the Professional Master of Hydrology degree. This is a coursework-only degree that requires no independent study or thesis. It is intended to provide on-campus and distance education (DE) students with much of the coursework that our thesis-based MS students take. This would replace the hydrology program's Independent Study Option. Dr. Wells stated that the Distance Ed fee is under negotiation to reduce the cost.

Dr. Person moved to accept this degree. Motion passed.

b. Program Admission Requirements

Dr. Lorie Liebrock discussed that last month a number of prerequisite courses were discussed. These are replacing the prerequisites that we voted out generically with what the departments want.

Dr. Lorie Liebrock moved to accept these. Motion passed.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

8. Discussion

9. Adjournment

By unanimous decision the faculty senate adjourned at 5:04 pm.