

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, September 7, 2021

4:00 p.m. Workman 101

Minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Mike Hargather called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a call for approval of the May 4, 2021 and May 6, 2021 minutes

2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Bill Stone moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Brian Borchers. Motion passed unanimously.

3. President Wells Update

President Wells thanked everyone for their diligence in getting the campus opened. The biggest challenge will be to keep it open now. We currently have several cases of individuals that are vaccinated and unvaccinated. We need to be diligent about how we are doing things as these cases are not going away just yet.

4. New Faculty Introductions & Kudos – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Doug Wells and others introduced new faculty and staff.

5. New Business

a. Faculty Senate Standing Rules – *Mike Hargather* **action**

Dr. Hargather stated that he is bring forward a change to the Curriculum Committee. When we created this committee last year, we identified that we should have one representative from every academic department and transdisciplinary program. When thinking about practicality, we have identified that this is quite difficult to get everyone together.

Dr. Hargather proposed that we change from one member from every department to “6 faculty members with two-year terms and a 3/3 rotation”

Dr. Hargather moved to approve on behalf of the committee. Motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that we envision balancing the committee between engineering and science. Additionally, each of the six members will be assigned to particular departments with a point person.

6. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

a. Nominating Committee – Raúl Morales-Juberías **action**

Dr. Samuels moved to approve the slate of nominees. He noted that officers with two-year terms will be voted on next year. Motion passed unanimously.

It was noted that the ADA offices have been separated. Director of Disability Services should remain on the committee list and remove Director of Counseling.

Dr. Linda DeVeaux, Dr. Dan Jones, Dr. Isabel Morris, and Dr. Stewart Thompson, were nominated to serve on the Curriculum Committee.

Additionally, the ombudsperson for the staff was discussed. The nominating committee didn't feel that this was appropriate that this position is on the responsibility of the faculty. They recommended that this is under the University as an independent position and not the Faculty Senate. They also recommend that this is under the compliance office and training should be done. President Wells stated that he will discuss this with Human Resources and at the Cabinet meeting.

Dr. Hargather will work with President Wells and his cabinet and will report back.

b. Curriculum Committee – Mike Hargather **information**

Dr. Hargather stated that the individuals who were working over the summer have drafted a form that can be used for curricular proposals. The idea is that every department, as they go through and review curricular changes, will complete this form and then submit it to the Curriculum Committee. This is a uniform template that the committee will use to evaluate the curriculum changes. It covers basic details to identify if other parts of the university will be impacted by these changes. The curriculum committee will review the proposals and then bring them forward to Faculty Senate as a recommendation. Program changes may have course changes and these would go into each form.

Comment was made that they would like to see the form reduced and a timeframe for those who need to sign off. It was noted that there is a two-week timeframe for the signature to come back that will be in the directions. This would be posted in a google doc and those who need to respond have that timeframe. Additionally, this puts the burden on the proposer rather than on the Council of Chairs or Faculty Senate to find the information.

It was announced that the catalog changes should be done this semester so that the Registrar's office can have enough time to put out a clean catalog. Graduate changes will go to Graduate Council and then the Curriculum Committee and undergraduate changes will go straight to the Curricular Committee. The committee will be meeting approximately monthly. A last suggestion was made to keep the burden to a minimum and provide a sample that could be used.

7. Unfinished Business

8. Announcements

a. COVID Decision Making Resources – *Steph Plant*

Steph Plant discussed COVID resources that are available. She reviewed flowcharts that reflect both the current CDC and NMDOH guidance. She encouraged all to use this information as a starting point as well as our NMT website as the COVID FAQ page as some great information available.

Seating charts in classrooms are currently being discussed as a way to help minimize positive cases. Students not wearing masks can be reported to the Dean of Students or Campus Police for disciplinary action. Faculty are encouraged to contact ACT if Zoom support is needed for those who have to quarantine. Registrar can be brought into this if needed to move classrooms.

Steph stated that in theory, if 1% of students or around 17 students had positive COVID cases, it would trigger NMT potentially going online, with consultation of health providers to determine their recommendation.

Dr. Wells stated that students have been harmed socially and academically this past year during COVID. They suffered lower G.P.A.'s and lower graduation rates. We need to try to maintain face to face to the extent that we can.

b. Admissions Programs – *Greg Stringer*

Greg Stringer stated that Exploration Day is on November 6. This is the biggest recruitment of the term. The Admission's recruiting staff are currently on the road as of this week. They are visiting all four corners of the state including El Paso, Tucson, and Colorado Springs. We are currently up with new enrollment at roughly a 4% increase. Additionally, they are working with College Board for name buying and Marketing has launched their campaign for November 6.

c. Enrollment

Dr. Wells stated that we are up 4.5% in total student headcount and 4% in total student hours. In total enrollment, we have dropped about 100 per year over the past five years. We believe that we have turned this around are hoping to be up another 100 next year.

d. Scheduling (back to regular schedule) – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that we want to get the schedule out earlier than we have in the past. There will be an email from the Registrar to start the process and will include the Winterim, Spring, and the interim after Spring.

e. Classroom Utilization – *Doug Well*

Dr. Wells stated that by scheduling most lecture classes between 9am and 2pm we have cut our classroom capacity in half and this is causing a space crunch. We will be scheduling lecture classes from 8am to 5pm in the future.

We also began class schedule standardization for 100-200 level classes roughly three years ago with the goal of minimizing conflicts and making it easier to plan. The Registrar will work with the Charis to complete this task.

f. Faculty Policies – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that at the NMT Regents retreat, we presented a list of policies, procedures, and guidelines under development or revision with a priority for those that should help boost enrollment.

g. Catalog – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that we plan to publish the academic catalog in May to better enable student and faculty planning, advising, and registration. This will require that all curricular changes be done by the first Faculty Senate meeting of the Spring semester.

h. AA Newsletter – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that we don't always give out enough kudos. He plans to send out a monthly newsletter that will highlight faculty and staff accomplishments.

i. Raises – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that faculty salaries on this campus compared to our peer institutions is lower. This academic year many faculty, but not all, experience raises above the state allocation of 1.5%.

j. Vaccination and Testing Reporting – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that per the President's Interim Policy directive, supervisors must document the voluntary vaccine status of each employee under their supervision, or their weekly test results. President Wells noted that he can set up special meetings with faculty to discuss COVID.

k. Drone Night – *Mike Hargather*

Dr. Hargather announced that there is an open house at the Library on Thursday from 2:00 - 4:30 pm to check out the new Drone and VR Center.

l. Advisor evals – *Mike Jackson*

Dr. Jackson stated that the committee is working on advisor evals. Students will be contacted soon to verify information. Evals will be done in March. Additionally, department assessment reports are due October 1.

9. Adjournment

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