

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 5, 2019
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 February 5, 2019 minutes. Dr. Richard Sonnenfeld moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Anwar Hossain. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Engler announced that the structure of this meeting has changed so that we can get through the business first. Material has been requested prior to the meeting to also speed up the process.

2. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

a. Retention Committee Report – *Brian Borchers*

Action

Dr. Borchers stated that the Retention Committee was asked by Dr. Mozley last year to make recommendations for goals for retention and graduation rates for freshman. However, the Higher Learning Commission has asked that we make goals for retention, persistence, and graduation rates for transfer students. In its 2010-2015 strategic plan, NMT had goals of 80% for fall-to-fall retention of freshmen and 50% for the six-year graduation rate for freshmen. Those goals have also been incorporated into the current 2015-2020 strategic plan. In anticipation of submitting our 4-year assurance update to HLC in the summer of 2019, the committee is proposing added goals for freshmen persistence to the third year and for the persistence and graduation rates of transfer students.

For first-time full-time bachelor's degree-seeking freshman entering in the fall semester,

- Fall-to-fall retention: 80%
- Fall-to-fall-of-third year persistence: 67%
- Six-Year graduation 50%

For full-time bachelor's degree-seeking transfer students entering the fall semester,

- Fall to fall persistence: 80%
- Fall to fall third year persistence: 67%
- Six year graduation: 50%

On behalf of the Retention Committee, Dr. Borchers moved that we adopt these aspirational goals. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Reports of Senate Special Committees

4. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells*

Action

a. CLASS – Steve Simpson

Dr. Simpson discussed the CLASS catalog changes. There are some minor name and description changes in TC.

Motion moved and approved.

b. Education – Mark Samuels

Dr. Samuels stated that we received out provisional approval for the ALP. Most of the proposed changes are to have them in line with those requirements.

Motion moved and approved.

c. BMS – Linda DeVaux

Dr. DeVaux discussed the changes to the BMS courses. Dr. DeVaux stated that in making these changes, it allowed us to reduce the total number of credits from 130 to 120.

Motion moved and approved.

d. Chemical Engineering – Corey Leclerc

Dr. Leclerc discussed the chemical engineering changes.

Motion moved and approved.

e. Electrical Engineering – Aly El-Osery

Dr. El-Osery discussed the minor in EE course numbers have changed.

Friendly amendment was made to change six to four credit hours of upper-level EE courses. It was discussed that you must have six. This amendment was withdrawn.

Motion moved and approved.

Dr. El-Osery discussed the minor in Optical Science and Engineering.

Motion moved and approved.

f. Computer Science Engineering – Subhasish Mazumdar

Dr. Mazumdar discussed the computer science and engineering changes. The language C or better has been added in the catalog as needed. Additionally, ABET made some changes and these courses reflect that.

Motion moved and approved.

g. Mechanical Engineering – Bin Lim

Dr. Lim discussed the minor in aerospace engineering.

Motion moved and approved.

5. Unfinished Business

Policy update from Regents meeting – Doug Wells

Info

Dr. Wells stated that he met last week with the Regents regarding the revised policies for Appointment, Tenure, and Promotion and Research Faculty. In essence, the Regents would like an external legal review. Dr. Wells has sent these draft policies to our legal counsel to review.

Additionally, appeals of tenure and promotion need to be addressed so that there is transparency. The idea is that we need to put together either a separate or attached to the tenure & promotion policy, a specific appeals policy and procedure. We most likely will have an interim policy that Academic Affairs will draft and then be sent to the Academic Freedom & Tenure committee to review.

Dr. Wells stated that we also need to vet all policies that can be reasonably considered "personnel policies" with a legal review prior to going to the Regents. Dr. Mozley and Dr. Wells will revise the "Policy on Policies" to make that happen.

Also, since we are stepping back while legal review is underway, Dr. Wells stated that we should re-think the schedule of dates in the policy, and separate the schedule from the policy. The reasons are that as we add appeals processes, such processes will extend the schedule and we need to be able to accommodate that and, if we attach the schedule to the policy, we will always have to contend with the arduous process of the "Policy on Policies" to make a change to the schedule or procedure.

6. New Business

a. Proposed Changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws – Thomas Engler

Info

Dr. Engler stated that he has made some changes to our bylaws. One has to do with the student discipline committee will not be discussed today.

The other change is when we discuss student awards or GPAs, students are not allowed in the room to allow for confidentiality, but there is nothing in our bylaws that state that.

Dr. Engler moved to approve this amendment, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion approved.

b. Faculty Service Award – *Doug Wells*

Info

Dr. Wells stated in essence, we have other awards but not a Faculty Service Award. Dr. Wells is hoping to put this in place for this upcoming commencement.

Discussion was held regarding service to local community versus tech community and that it was hard to distinguish with what was written. Dr. Wells stated that he believes that both are important and worthy of being recognized and will add language to make this clear.

Discussion was held on how distinguished researcher and distinguished teaching award is awarded and the process for these other awards.

c. Policy regarding summer graduate student enrollment requirements – *Doug Wells*

Info

Dr. Wells proposed to change the summer required graduate credits for progressing students from six credits to three credits. By doing this, there will be some financial issues. This is a financial hardship for those students who do not have an assistantship over the summer. For student with a summer assistantship, the six credit requirement effectively means that their take-home in the summer is substantially less than during the academic year. There are also those students (and their advisors) who “break the rules” because of the high cost and work in their labs while violating policy. Dr. Wells stated that this culture of students who are paid while not technically enrolled, such as while working on their thesis, should stop.

Collectively, these issues work against our aspiration of Carnegie Research status. However, by changing the policy we would be encouraging students to work on their research in the summer, complete their degrees more quickly, and advance our Carnegie aspiration. The President has also asked that we make a conservative effort to get more students enrolled.

Discussion was held and Dr. Wells stated that he believes an assistantship is during the fall to support tuition and research is done in the summer.

7. Announcements

a. GSA Symposium – *Kyle Stark*

Kyle Stark, GSA President, announced that they will be holding the GSA Symposium from 1:00 pm – 5:30 pm on April 4. The theme this year is on Renewable Energy and Sustainability. He asked faculty to encourage students to attend.

b. Advancement Miscellaneous: donations to departments, news for Gold Pan, news for Facebook – *Lisa Majkowski/Rebecca Clemens*

Dr. Majkowski announced that the Winter 2019 Gold Pan alumni magazine featured a donation ad for the academic departments. They have reached out to all of the academic departments to add their general department gift or donation fund

to the drop-down list on NMT's donation page. If you haven't sent your departments fund number for general donations yet, please contact Lisa Majkowski.

For the summer Gold Pan, send your department news by May 30.

Tech's Alumni Interaction Facebook page has almost 900 followers. If you have some exciting news from your department that you would like to share, contact Rebecca Clemens.

c. International Women's Day/Month Events – *Steve Simpson*

Dr. Simpson announced that March is Women's History month. On March 8 there is a free lunch with a group of panelists. There will also be a costume contest at the Loma for Captain Marvel.

d. Regents-Faculty Conference Committee – *Michelle Creech-Eakman*

Dr. Wedeward announced that there is a committee required to give a report the Regents every year. An email with some quick questions will be sent out to the faculty soon to provide anonymous feedback.

e. Instructional Design services for the MST program – *Dean Hammond*

Dr. Hammond will be asking for access to your courses in Canvas so he can provide recommendations on how to optimize the Canvas learning experience from a student perspective. Essentially, Dr. Hammond will be functioning as a course architect. He will be focused on the foundation/structure of Canvas courses to ensure everything works as it should.

Dr. Hammond will be focused on the following in particular:

- Optimizing your Canvas course to make it as intuitive to navigate as possible
- Ensuring all links to separate sites/files are viable
- Updating syllabi, etc.
- Creating a FAQ customized to each course

Dr. Hammond invited all faculty to join his course on canvas and provide feedback to him for improvements.

f. Research items – *Van Romero*

Dr. Romero stated that there will be a call for nominations for distinguished researcher of the year. Dr. Mike Heagy is the chair. This year, the "winner" will also give a campus wide lecture around 49ers.

Dr. Romero stated that we are again eligible for EPSCoR. The chemistry department has asked for some support the Elsevier subscription. If you have ideas, let Dr. Romero know. Also, the Research office will soon be open during the lunch hour.

8. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the faculty senate adjourned at 5:10 pm.