

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, April 6, 2021

4:00 p.m.

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to order

Chair Mike Hargather called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm with a call for approval of the March 2, 2021 minutes.

#### 2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Anwar Hossain moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Chelsey Hargather. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 3. President Wells Update

President Wells stated that this was a good year for higher education and our students. He provided an update on the Legislative Session.

- \$5 million for the lottery scholarships which covers almost 90% of the tuition.
- \$100,000 for Higher Education Department to buy student clearing house data.
- \$1 million for Higher Education Department to support student mental health and suicide prevention.
- \$5 million for higher education endowment fund that requires 50% institutional matching.
- \$100,000 for College Hunger pilot program that helps students in need of food.
- 1.5% compensation increase.
- The Opportunity Scholarship will now include the four years.
- The budget also restores a federal CARES Act swap.

President Wells stated that for NMT, we ended up with a 4.2% increase in our budget. Part of this was due to having NM MESA moved into our industry. President Wells noted that these are still waiting approval from the Governor.

President Wells provided a brief update on the graduation plans for NMT. He stated that HED has given permission to have face-to face commencements with restrictions. On May 8 there will be two commencement sessions, with one in the morning and one in the afternoon at the Socorro Sports Complex. We are currently planning for A&S in the morning and Engineering in the afternoon. More details will follow shortly. Banners will also be on campus for students to visit with their families and take pictures.

#### 4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

**action**

- a. Institutional Review Board for Human Subject Research – *Brian Borchers*

Dr. Hargather stated that the committee revised the policy to update it to reflect a revision of the federal regulations. Dr. Borchers stated that the new policy will be available to review and comment on soon. This is informational only.

**b. Undergraduate Academic Advising Committee – *Taffeta Elliott***

Dr. Elliott stated that the committee was tasked with proposing the questions for advising to be used annually. This has been narrowed down as much as possible to serve as a merit purpose. This information would be anonymously collected.

An initial concern for procedures under bullet 3 should be changed from how many advised to the number of advisees that respond (threshold of the response rate). Dr. Elliott stated that with course evaluations, the threshold is the number enrolled, rather than the number of responses. Also, there was concern that the last bullet is too vague and needs to be better defined.

A discussion was held regarding what the purpose of advising is as not all faculty have the same definition. It was noted that the responsibilities have not yet been identified. It was stated that we can't measure if we are meeting expectations if we don't know what those expectations are. It was also noted that this is a starting point and the first step to start assessing advising.

*Dr. Brian Borchers moved for an amendment in the first year of this survey, the results would not be used for merit (PARs & DARs) or T&P but instead referred back to the committee to see that it serves a purpose, seconded by Dr. Engler. Motion passed with several no's and abstentions.*

*Friendly amendment was made and accepted to add email to question #2 and to add the URL advising link.*

*Motion was made to approve the list with the approved amendments. Motion passed with several no's and abstentions.*

**c. ASAC – *Chelsey Hargather***

Dr. Hargather discussed the proposed change in current wording in the catalog to make it clearer regarding non-degree seeking students' course load.

*A friendly amendment was made to add that a course with a lab would also count as one course for this rule. "6 credit hours, two classes plus associated labs, recitations, or whichever is greater."*

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed unanimously.*

**d. Student Discipline Committee – *Jamie Kimberley***

Dr. Kimberley discussed the proposed revision of the Faculty Senate Student Discipline Committee. The current description references the student handbook and conflates the student conduct committee and the panels that are called upon to

adjudicate hearings. The proposed description more clearly articulates the membership composition and more clearly defines the role of the committee. The name change also reflects the shared governance, and also adopts language that better represents the impartial nature of the committee.

A discussion was held regarding if we change the name of this committee, the policy needs to be updated as well. It was noted that it is best to do these changes in tandem. Dr. Kimberly decided that there will be no change to the committee name, it will be the Student & Faculty Conduct Committee.

*Friendly amendment was made for an editorial change to the policy to match committee names in the student handbook.*

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with two abstentions.*

#### **5. Council of Chairs Report – Doug Wells**

#### **action**

Dr. Wells stated that teaching will be held face to face this fall with provisions for those with health concerns. The Registrar is currently working towards converting the fall schedule from DE to face to face. These changes should be reflected soon.

##### **a. Biology**

Dr. DeVaux discussed the Biology curriculum changes.

An agreement was made that 2000 level courses and above includes 300 and 400 level courses and does not need to be specified.

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed unanimously.*

##### **b. Business Management**

Dr. Reinow discussed the BA Business Management degree proposal. This is a program that can draw quite a bit of students and help our enrollment. The idea is to have this be available starting this fall.

Dr. Reinow discussed that the technical electives would come from courses that we teach ourselves or are closely aligned with what we teach. Courses students can take are based on their interests that do not have to be directly related towards their program. There was some concern to specify and provide further guidance on this.

There was also some concern with the statement of “Relatively few courses in science and engineering.” This statement should be reworded. Additionally, listing only Math 2420 is misleading when students have to take calculus first.

*Dr. Borchers moved to refer this back to the committee, seconded by Dr. Creech-Eakman. Motion passed with several no's and abstentions.*

**c. Chemistry**

Dr. Pias discussed the Chemistry catalog changes.

*Friendly amendment was made to correct CHEM 1225 as a prerequisite under CHEM 343.*

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed*

**d. CLASS**

Dr. Dotson discussed a curricular course number change.

*Motion moved and approved. Motion passed unanimously.*

Dr. Dotson discussed the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree. There are 15 – 20 electives. This degree is more focused on statistics in the math requirements than the Bachelor of Science degree.

*Motion for a friendly amendment to change language to “a statistics class is required (Math 2350, 383\*, or 483\*) which may be used as an Area 2 general education requirement. \*note pre-requisites of MATH classes must be satisfied.”*

*Motion was moved and approved with several no’s and abstentions.*

*Motion for the Bachelor of Arts in Psychology degree was moved and approved. Motion passed with several no’s and abstentions.*

**e. Earth & Environmental Science**

Dr. Laura Waters discussed the EES catalog changes.

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with one no.*

**f. Math**

Dr. Anwar Hossain discussed the Math catalog changes.

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with one no.*

**g. Petroleum**

Dr. Corey Leclerc discussed the Petroleum catalog changes.

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with one abstention.*

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

**action**

**a. Graduate Certificate Requirement**

**b. Mechanical Engineering**

- c. **Cybersecurity**
- d. **Accelerated Master's Language**

Dr. El-Osery briefly discussed all proposed changes. Dr. El-Osery moved to vote on all items as a whole, seconded by Dr. Liebrock.

Friendly amendment was made to add “potentially” within 5 years for the Accelerated Master's language.

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with one no and two abstentions.*

## **7. Unfinished Business**

### **8. New Business**

**action**

#### **a. Faculty Senate meeting schedule for May – *Michael Hargather***

We will need another business Faculty Senate meeting in May. Dr. Hargather proposed to hold two meetings in May with the meetings being held on Tuesday, May 4 at 4:00 pm and Thursday, May 6 at 3:00 pm.

*Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with several no's and abstentions.*

#### **b. Spring Exam Schedule – *Doug Wells***

Dr. Wells stated that he sent an email out regarding the draft final exam schedule. We have a shortened semester due to the elimination of Spring Break and the additional two day of “mini Spring Breaks” pushed the semester back.

The proposed final exam schedule will be Saturday through Wednesday morning. Grades for graduating seniors will be due on Wednesday at noon.

## **9. Announcements**

#### **a. Science Fair – *Sharon Sessions***

The NM Science and Engineering Fair will be held on April 17. Dr. Sessions stated that they still need about 20 more people to help with this.

#### **b. Faculty Kudos – *Mike Hargather***

Dr. Hargather announced that as we continue to do well, we should continue to congratulate each other. Recognition in front of peers is a good thing. Dr. Hargather would like to use this as a forum to take to the Regents to show what we are doing. The announcement section can also be dedicated to this.

Dr. Hargather also announced that we have two NSF CAREER award winners. Dr. Chelsey Hargather and Dr. Caitano da Silva received these awards for their research.

**c. Title IX training for faculty – *Peter Phaiah***

Dr. Phaiah announced that April is sexual assault awareness month. He stated that NMT and the VPs have made a commitment to do a Title IX review and require that all employees (faculty and staff) receive one-hour training. There will be around 11 face to face meetings and 8 zoom meetings. There will also be an online training model with a quiz available for those who cannot attend.

**10. Adjournment**

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 6:12 pm.