

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, October 5, 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 September 7, 2021 minutes.

2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman. Motion passed unanimously.

3. President Wells Update

President Wells announced that the student vaccination rate has now surpassed the employee vaccination rate.

4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

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

Dr. Samuels stated that for the Curriculum Committee, there were nominations for Dan Jones, Linda DeVeaux, Stewart Thompson, Isabel Morris, Jamie Kimberly, and Brian Borchers.

Motion to pass this slate of nominees were moved and passed unanimously.

Dr. Samuels noted that we need to add student members to the committees. The SGA representative stated that the Student Conduct Committee has been filled. Students would like more information of their responsibilities before committing to serving on the Campus Planning and Computing committees.

b. ASAC – *Chelsey Hargather* **action**

Dr. Hargather stated that ASAC is bringing two catalog changes forward for proposal. The first proposal is to reduce a student's 3-semester probationary period after readmission to NMT from academic probation. Currently, students readmitted to NMT (who left on academic probation) continue on probation with a registration hold on their account for three semesters. ASAC believes that most students either succeed or they fail and they are put on suspension and move on from NMT. Therefore, the committee believes that the probation designation should be lifted after one semester.

Motion moved and approved unanimously.

The second proposal is a name change to the “Special Students” designation in the course catalog. “Special students” refer to students who are admitted on a part-time basis and are not pursuing a degree program. These students are non-degree seeking (NDS), and should be referred to as such.

The language is only being changed and other procedures will remain the same. This will eliminate the word “special” and students would be referred to NDS whether they are undergraduate or graduate.

Dr. El-Osery noted that changes like this also affect how we report and will lead to more inconsistencies in the catalog. He recommends that we hold off on this until it is vetted with the Curriculum Committee, Catalog Committee, and Registrar. Dr. Khandelwal also noted that non-degree seeking and pre-degree seeking students are different bodies.

Dr. Khandelwal moved to send back to ASAC to figure out pre-degree and how it is handled in the catalog, seconded by Dr. Borchers with a reference to include the Graduate Dean. Motion was moved and approved with several nays.

5. Council of Chairs Report

a. Update on enrollment and Regent’s report – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells discussed the Census data on our enrollment as well as student success metrics. We are currently up about 4% in total student headcount. NMT is up and our other research institutes are down. In terms of credit hours, we are higher than the last two years. However, we have not yet returned to the amount of community ed credit hours. Factors that declined are enrollment are doubling of our four-year graduation rate, declining new-student head count, and significant state reductions in the lottery scholarships starting in 2015. Last year we had the highest retention, persistence, and graduation rate. However, COVID impacted us this year. Our freshmen retention dropped with sophomore persistence going up. Our freshman graduation rates are down from previous years and well above where we were 10 years ago. Student transfer rates went up. Graduate student headcounts are up. Professional Masters and Graduate Certificate enrollment is up and growing.

6. Unfinished Business

7. New Business

a. Capital Projects – *President Wells*

President Wells stated that this Deju house is being build behind the current President’s house and should be done in December. This will be a facility for seminars, workshops, and entertainment such as courting donors. However, President Wells stated that he would like this to be reserved in part once a week for a faculty club. This will be a place where faculty can enjoy the facility as a faculty club and spend time with each other. President Wells also noted that Tech

required the Bursum Estate that will become the new President's house after some updates. This will be a great opportunity for large venues.

8. Announcements

a. Student Affairs/Career Services – *Michael Voegerl*

Mike invited faculty to visit Student Affairs and Career Services. They are having a faculty tea starting Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday of this week from 3:00 – 4:00 pm.

b. Info on Mental Health and BIT Team – *Mike Hargather*

Dr. Hargather announced that there has been some discussion on mental health on campus. There will be an upcoming mental health discussion on Friday, October 22 at 3:00 pm with the BIT team and the Counseling Office. He also noted that we are interested in how we find ways to hold forums for other hot topic items. This may be helpful to do in the faculty club.

c. Mental Health Resources - *Yulia Mikhailova*

Dr. Mikhailova provided information on mental health and some resources that are available.

d. Assessment reports - *Mike Jackson*

Dr. Jackson announced that assessment reports are due.

e. Faculty Development Committee- *Mike Jackson*

Dr. Jackson announced that the Faculty Development Committee sent out a survey this week asking for input, and encouraged faculty to fill it out.

9. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:42 pm.