

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
3:30 pm, Workman 101
Minutes

1. Call to Order.

Dr. Sally Pias called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm.

2. Approval of the Minutes.

- Dr. Lorie Liebrock moved to approve the May 7, 2024 minutes, followed by a second from Dr. Iain Crump. Motion passed.
- Dr. Joel Sharbrough moved to approve the May 9, 2024 minutes, followed by a second from Dr. Ryan Norris. Motion passed.

3. President Amouzegar Update.

President Amouzegar outlined several recent initiatives:

- NMT requested approximately \$130 million of non-recurring funding from the state (the state's budget is approximately \$700 million).
- Multiple legislative committees visited campus this summer, and into the semester, to hold their meetings on the NMT campus. During these visits, he has met with legislators and their staff providing them a consistent message: NMT is special but yet we are treated the same as other institutions. Therefore, it is useful for people to look at NMT, and support NMT, differently because we are different and do things differently.
- This past summer he traveled to India with the Governor and reinforced this message with her. People should have a 2-minute elevator pitch to individuals NMT faculty and staff meet because bigger campuses will always win when all institutions are lumped together.
- CUP presentation: during his presentation, he emphasized our role in training the next work force and our interest in teaching the next generation of STEM workers. Although teaching methods have not significantly changed over time, the way individuals are learning is rapidly changing and he is hoping we can engage in some targeted attempts to stay ahead of the curve. He is looking for individuals who could volunteer to think about teaching differently sometime during the next Spring or Fall semesters.
- The NMT Website will also be changing. However, because it is a complex issue, it will take time to revise/address. We will also be rebranding ourselves as well.
- He also explained his decision to include the title of Provost to the Vice President of Academic Affairs position. His intent was to signal to the campus that Academic Affairs is essential to what we do as an institution.

4. Introduction of New Senate Members.

The following individuals were introduced to members of the Faculty Senate by their department chairperson or another colleague:

- Dr. Sampurna Arya, Mineral Engineering,
- Dr. Omid Moradian, Mineral Engineering,
- Dr. Hassan Khaniani, Mineral Engineering and PRRC,
- Dr. Arjak Bhattacharjee, Materials and Metallurgical Engineering,
- Dr. Qingsong Cui, Electrical Engineering,
- Dr. Andrew Fierro, Electrical Engineering,

- Dr. John Kolen, Computer Science and Engineering,
- Dr. Xuanye Li, Computer Science and Engineering (Management),
- Dr. F. Austin Mier, Mechanical Engineering,
- Dr. Masoud Naghdi, Mechanical Engineering,
- Dr. Joel Leonard, Earth and Environmental Science (E&ES),
- Dr. Jaakko Putkonen, Earth and Environmental Science (Dept. Chair), and
- Dr. Enrico Zorzetto, E&ES and Hantush-Deju National Center for Hydrologic Innovation.

5. Reports of Standing Committees.

- a. **Benefits Committee, *Laura Waters*.** Dr. Waters' highlighted some of the details outlined in the committee's handout that includes the history of how NMT transitioned from being self-insured to NMPIA, the forthcoming increase in insurance premiums, and the need to contact Angie Gonzales in Human Resources if individuals have questions (as she is the authoritative source for such information). Dr. Waters also provided an overview of what they found regarding healthcare for graduate students and the need to talk with graduate students about realistic expectations for what health insurance covers (e.g., faculty and staff do not receive healthcare for free). VPAA Jackson noted that one of the non-recurring requests submitted to the state was for an endowment to provide graduate students with a stipend so they may purchase health insurance. Dr. Pias thanked the committee for their work and the materials they put together.
- b. **Curriculum Committee, *Linda DeVeaux*.** Individuals should use the same form as last year. The process is such that departments should contact a member of the committee to receive a blank copy of the form (this will allow the committee to track forthcoming proposals). To date, three proposals have been received for this year's cycle. While the committee would like to receive proposals as soon as possible, they would like to get them by the end of October (and may have the bandwidth to consider proposals received before Thanksgiving). It was noted that not having a finalized catalog makes tracking curricular changes challenging, particularly changes made to general education requirements.
- c. **Nominating Committee, *Mark Samuels*.** Nominations for the executive leadership positions were taken from the floor. Dr. Ken Minschwaner was nominated for the Faculty Senate Chair position. Nominations received prior to the Faculty Senate meeting included Dr. Linda DeVeaux (Chair), Dr. Curtis O'Malley (Vice Chair), and Dr. Brian Borchers (Parliamentarian). A motion to close the nominations was made by Dean Elaine DeBrine Howell followed by a second from Dr. Iain Crump. Motion passed. A vote will occur at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Dr. Samuels then proceeded through the nominations for committees. The only suggested replacement was to have Dr. Hassan Khanian serve on the Computing on Campus committee instead of Dr. Mehrdad Razavi. A motion to close the nominations and approve committee assignments was made by Dr. Bill Stone followed by a second from Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman. Motion passed. Committee may begin meeting and can decide on who will serve as their respective Chairperson.

- d. **Sabbatical Leave Committee, *Dan Cadol*.** Dr. Cadol reminded colleagues about the fall cycle for sabbatical applications. He asked individuals to work with their departments when preparing their application and to use the most up-to-date application and sabbatical information. Departments are free to set their own internal deadline on when to receive

sabbatical applications (as, for example, when the department reviews and votes on the application prior to submission).

6. Grad Council Report, *Aly El-Osery*.

a. Policy for Academic Advisor for Graduate Students. Dr. El-Osery provided an overview of the proposed language that is coming forward from Grad Council so that teaching faculty can serve as an advisor. An amendment was proposed by Dr. Lorie Liebrock, and seconded by Dr. Clint Jeffery that (a) the term ‘interdisciplinary’ be removed, and (b) the language consistently cite ‘department chairperson or program director’. The motion, with its amendment, was approved.

b. Other Updates.

- Dr. El Osery asked for departments and programs to submit graduate student contracts as early as possible – as they are still receiving them even though the semester has started.
- Dr. El Osery informed the Faculty Senate that they will now begin recruiting for the next academic year. So please make sure that websites are up to date and current. Currently, departments have the ability to put deadlines for response to their funding offers but to ensure they are not missed the following defaults will be used April 15 (Fall), October 15 (Spring), and February 15 (Summer), or two weeks from date of releasing the offer if after those dates. Departments can change those dates as they see fit.
- The Office of Graduate Studies submitted a proposal to the President that spouses of students supported by a TA/RA/GA and in good standing would be eligible to receive in-state tuition.
- He also asked for departments to engage the library while they are looking at managing their journal subscription costs.
- The International Office asked Grad Council (and ASAC) to consider expanding opportunities for international students to meet language requirements. Specifically, it included an expansion of the number of tests that students could take. Dr. El Osery will be working with Dr. Steve Simpson on the specific scores to recommend and that they be in general similar for both undergraduate and graduate student populations but higher if graduate students will be on a teaching assistantship. He recommended that departments consider having interviews with prospective students – particularly those they are considering for a TA. There were no objections.
- GSA officers will be reaching out to departments shortly about the organization. He encouraged department faculty to talk with their students about being engaged in the GSA.
- Finally, Dr. El Osery summarized the institution’s path to R2 status. This past year was the first time NMT graduated 20+ PhD students – now the biggest challenge is maintaining that number over the next several years. So far this year, 4 students have graduated with their PhD and members of the Faculty Senate who were present identified an additional 12 that should graduate this year.

7. Council of Chairs, *Michael Jackson*.

- a.** Draft Minutes of the August 20 Council of Chairs meeting. VPAA Jackson highlighted several items found in the draft minutes from the last Council of Chairs meeting.
- Instructor Promotion Guidelines: Similar guidance was summarized in two prior emails to the campus community. Also found in these emails were the September 16 deadline for nominations to serve on the campus-wide promotion committee while September 30 is the deadline for individuals to be nominated for promotion from Associate Professor to the rank of Professor.
 - Updates on the process for how transfer courses are reviewed and approved.
 - Updates on the Strategic Plan.
- b.** The Fall Regents Budget Forum is scheduled for September 25, from 3 – 5 pm in the Deju House.

8. Policy on Policies, *Michael Jackson*.

- a. Feedback on the draft revision to the Policy on Policies was outlined via track changes in the document distributed to the Faculty Senate. The proposed changes were reviewed with the leadership of the Faculty Senate. There were questions asked about the current draft policy:
- While feedback can be given during the public comment period, and it is to be considered for proposed revisions to the policy, there is no requirement that such suggestions be incorporated. Is there a way to address this?
 - This is consistent with current policy. VPAA Jackson will look into whether could be added to the policy to address this and/or a summary of the feedback and how it was used could be developed. For Regents policies, a summary of the feedback received, and how it was incorporated into the document, has been presented.
 - For something as important as policies, is there a reason why the time for the public comment period is being reduced from 15 to 10 days?
 - The goal for shortening the review period is to allow things to progress in a timely manner. However, '10 days' was replaced with '10 business days' which is the equivalent to 14 calendar days – nearly the same period of time as the current policy. The new language also prevents dates when the university is shut down (e.g., between December 25 to January 1) to be counted as part of the review period.
 - The policy appears to remove the Faculty Senate from the review process.
 - That was not the intent of the revision. Consequently, language was added to specifically address the need to go through the Faculty Senate regarding academic policies, catalog issues, and other policies affecting academic issues. We will also look into modifying Figure 1 to address this (but editing the figure is not currently possible).

9. FERPA Reminders, *Michael Jackson*.

VPAA Jackson shared a handout on FERPA for members of the Faculty Senate as part of NMT's annual reminder to the campus community. Earlier in the week, the Registrar's Office sent a similar reminder to students. If individuals have any questions related to FERPA, they were encouraged to reach out to the Registrar, Heather Juarez.

10. Old Business. None.

11. New Business. None.

12. Announcements.

- a. **Research Ethics Series, *Chris ChoGlueck*.** Dr. ChoGlueck highlighted the upcoming training that was scheduled for September 6 and other events that will be occurring monthly throughout the rest of the academic year.
- b. **Scopus, *David Cox*.** Director Cox briefly discussed SCOPUS and its collection of subscriptions that will eventually replace Web of Science. Presently, the campus community have access to both due to overlapping subscriptions. He has created a Subscription Advisory Committee to look at NMT's subscriptions to make recommendations on our holdings and whether we are spending our available funding in the most effective manner (given that the Library is currently over budget). The committee's next meeting is September 5.

- c. **Yearly Cybersecurity Training, *Daniel Lunceford*.** Director Lunceford summarized the cybersecurity training they acquired for the campus (that was targeted to be about 15 minutes in duration). Because of the increased number of attacks, he is asking the university community to be vigilant and mindful of suspicious emails. Presently, there are a limited number of trainings that have been purchased, but he will look into whether it can be expanded to include student workers. Director Lunceford also commented that the company (KnowBe4) was co-owned by a known hacker (Kevin Mitnick, even though the individual is recently deceased) but that it was a recognized security training program.

13. Adjournment.

Dr. Crump made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 pm. Dr. Stone seconded the motion. Motion passed.