

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order

Chair Mike Hargather called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm with a call for approval of the February 2, 2021 minutes.

2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Anwar Hossain moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Henry Prager. Motion passed unanimously.

3. President Wells Update

President Wells gave an update on where we are at with the activities in Santa Fe during the Legislative Session.

The House Appropriation and Finance Committee adopted the LFC budget recommendation for Higher Education. The budget restores a federal CARES ACT swap (\$20 million), and adds 0.5% in the funding formula with base redistribution of 2%. President Wells noted that this could still change. It does currently include a compensation increase of 1.5%. Additional efforts are being made for the Opportunity Scholarship to include not only the two years, but the four years.

President Wells stated that we have been working on capital projects including the Severance Tax Bond which would cover a new fiber loop around the campus and energy upgrades. We have requests for 3.7 million to help cover Kelly Hall. There is some money for PLAYAS upgrades and vehicles. We were successful in getting language to help with the state mine inspector. Additionally, we are requesting equal treatment of State agencies that are RPSP funded.

President Wells noted that there is some concern with HP 25 which removes language from the Legislative Education Study Committee that limits their jurisdiction to higher education teacher training programs and it would expand it to cover all of higher education. This would require a new committee to report to in the Legislator to provide reports and address concerns to. Parallel to this is SB 169 which would replace the Higher Education Advisory Board with a 15-member Higher Ed Coordinating Council that would be staffed with the Higher Ed department.

Lastly, SB 44 creates a non-reverting Research Grants Closing Fund in the state treasury to provide researchers at NM public Higher Ed institutions with funds needed to receive

research grants. HED would administer the fund and develop a competitive application process. Appropriates \$10M to create the fund.

President Wells provided a quick update on COVID-19. We are doing ok in terms of minimal number of cases. He stated that there are still people on campus not wearing masks and they are using campus police to regulate this. The state has also added a new level, turquoise, under the Red to Green map which determines how strict each county's restrictions will be. President Wells announced that the NMT MinersSafe contact tracing app is available to use with Apple now and Android to follow soon. This app will help us to more readily assess who may have been exposed to COVID-19 and who wasn't.

4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees information

a. Honorary Degrees and Awards Committee – *David Meier*

Dr. Meier reminded the faculty of the Langmuir, Founders, and Brown awards that will be presented at Commencement. The deadline for submitting nominating letters and copies of the paper for this year's Langmuir award is Friday, April 23, 2021, and should be submitted to Lyndsey Lewis. The awards will be discussed at the last Faculty Senate meeting in May.

b. Retention Committee – *Brian Borchers*

Dr. Borchers provided an update from the Retention Committee. He announced that through May and September, we have continued to have good numbers. The six weeks at the end of our spring semester didn't adversely affect our graduation rates. When it came to the fall semester, at the close of registration our retention and persistence rates were still on track.

For freshmen who entered in the fall of 2014, the 6-year graduation rate was 56.3%. For freshmen who entered in the fall of 2018, the persistence to the fall of 2020 was 68.2%. For freshmen who entered in the fall of 2019, the retention to the fall of 2020 was 80.2%.

For transfer students who entered in the fall of 2014, the 6-year graduation rate was 50.5%. For transfer students who entered in the fall of 2018, the persistence to the fall of 2020 was 66.7%. For transfer students who entered in the fall of 2019, the retention to the fall of 2020 was 78.6%.

David Medcalf prepared a graduation rate benchmarking comparison of retention and graduation rates at NMT in comparison with graduation rates at other STEM-focused institutions and with UNM and NMSU. NMT falls towards the bottom when you look at 6-year graduation rates and 4-year graduation rates.

Dr. Borchers stated that our retention, persistence, and graduation goals need to be updated. However, with what is happening with the current COVID climate, they feel that they should wait until there is further progress on the BP27 goals.

c. Institutional Review Board for Human Subject Research – *Troylyn Zimmerly*

Item moved to next meeting.

5. Council of Chairs Report – Doug Wells

Dr. Wells gave a brief update on the COVID-19 extension of the tenure clock. President Wells approved offering a one-year extension to faculty on tenure track who were affected by COVID-19. This will be discussed at the upcoming Board of Regents meeting. Dr. Wells noted that faculty who are approaching towards seven years and request the extension, would need Regents approval.

Dr. Wells also introduced Greg Stringer as the new Director of Admissions.

a. CLASS

Dr. Dotson discussed curricular changes for CLASS. These do have to be submitted to the state for common course numbers and they should have the four digit prefix before being submitted to the catalog.

Motion was moved and approved with one no.

b. Computer Science

Dr. Jeffery discussed the curricular changes for CSE.

The Cybersecurity minor was discussed first. It was observed that some of these courses have prerequisites that are other CS courses. CSE 221 and 222 have CS 101 prerequisite. Students would need to work with faculty to see if they can remove that. Otherwise this would have to be handled by a waiver for a non CS major.

It was noted that CSE 461 does not exist.

Friendly amendment was made to remove CSE 461 for now and add it when they get the course description next month.

It was noted that the number of credits is high for a minor. The goal is to make this acceptable for other majors and this is common with other minors on campus. Dr. Wells also noted the hidden prerequisite.

Dr. Pias moved to table so that it can come back clean next time, seconded by Dr. Borchers. Motion passed with several no's and abstentions.

Dr. Jeffery discussed the removal of the CSE 101 from the CSE 241 prerequisite. This change is to help address the hidden prerequisite.

Motion was moved approved with some abstentions.

Dr. Jeffery discussed the change to MGT 201 to ECON 201.

The intention for this change was honesty in advertising. They are also some slight updates to the corequisites to handle the mathematics that is used for that class. This change would now have the course be assessed as a GEN Ed. (BTM would need to update course label).

Friendly amendment was made to change to ECON 201 to ECON 2XX with the numbering to be figured out.

Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with several abstentions and one no.

c. Earth & Environmental Science

Dr. Harrison gave an update on the environmental science curriculum. Most changes were due to new course numbering system, reducing the number of required courses, and increasing the number of electives.

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

d. Electrical Engineering

Dr. Arechiga discussed the engineering electives change.

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

6. Graduate Council Report – Aly El-Osery

a. Chemistry

Dr. Pias discussed the Chemistry curricular change. The major change is the modified description of the Accelerated Master's program to simplify it.

It was noted that CHEM 441 and CHEM 442 do not have the same lectures.

Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with several abstentions and one no.

b. Cybersecurity

Dr. Liebrock discussed the transdisciplinary curricular change. There are some corrections in wording to make things more explicit among other minor changes.

Friendly amendment was made under the Accelerated Master's to use 500-level instead of graduate.

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

c. Earth & Environmental Science

Dr. Harrison discussed the Geology graduate curriculum. There are some changes due to the personnel in the Geobiology group, rewording in the description to the Geochemistry Master's and additional clarifications.

It was noted that the without thesis option for the Master of Science in Geology is an independent study option.

A friendly amendment was made to formally state independent study and apply it to page 9 as well to be consistent.

Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with 2 no's and 3 abstentions.

d. Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Lim discussed the changes of prerequisites for MENG 577 Advanced Fluid Mechanics.

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

e. MST

Dr. Megha Khandelwal discussed the MST changes. The proposed changes are mainly to the language to make it easier for students. These are the standards that NM State uses in the middle school or high school curriculum.

Friendly amendment was made for a minor change to remove a space between comprehensive/concentration areas and to adjust and double check all concentration areas.

Motion was moved and approved. Motion passed with one no and several abstentions.

7. Unfinished Business

8. New Business

9. Announcements

a. SRS deadline – David Cox

The SRS deadline has been extended to March 10.

10. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:19 pm.