

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, October 03, 2023
3:30 p.m. Workman 101
Minutes

1. Call to order

Dr. Brian Borchers called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with a call to approve the September 5, 2023 minutes.

2. Approval of the minutes

Dr. Dan Cadol moved to approve the minutes seconded by Dr. Bill Stone

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Academic Freedom and Tenure-Dr. Bill Stone

The committee was asked to review some proposed changes to the Policy and Procedure for Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure. Most of the changes were editorial, some changes were to clarify the Policy/Procedure, and some language was added to address confidentiality issues. The Vice President for Academic Affairs will work with new tenure-track faculty when they have an issue with a proposed member of their tenure committee. Dr. Lorie Liebrock indicated that the section on hiring with tenure does not list the VP of Research as reviewing the candidate's case which is inconsistent with other policies about promotion and tenure. Dr. Lorie Liebrock proposed an amendment to this section on Page 6.

A motion was made by Dr. Lorie Liebrock to add VP for Research in Section A & Section D. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jaime Kimberly.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Further discussion was held as to the original motion.

Motion was made to adopt the proposed changes to the policy of Promotion and Tenure, as amended by the previous motion.

The motion was approved unanimously.

b. Nominating Committee- Dr. Mark Samuels

Regents-Faculty Conference Committee has one opening. Dr. Hamdy Soliman has agreed to serve on this committee.

The motion was made to have Dr. Hamdy Soliman appointed to the Regents Faculty Conference Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Assessment Taskforce-Dr. Rick Thompson

This taskforce helps with the annual program assessments. The committee would meet at the end of each semester.

Discussions were held as to whether the people on the current task force would be dismissed. There is no specific number of people needed, just need volunteers. Will leave it to the Nominating Committee to seek volunteers. Further discussion as to how much time would be required to serve: 4- 5 hours per year.

Accreditation Taskforce-Dr. Rick Thompson

The time has come to get the reaccreditation working groups going. Working groups are needed for each of the five criteria as well as the Federal Compliance section of the self-study. Faculty representation is needed for the working groups assigned to criteria 1 (Mission), 3 (Teaching and Learning: Quality, Resources, and Support), and 5 (Resources, Planning, and Institutional Effectiveness); faculty representation already exists for criteria 2 (Integrity) and 4 (Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement). The nomination committee is being asked to help populate these working groups. If you are interested please let the nominating committee know. Committees will probably meet once a month. At least one faculty member is needed for each criterion but we could take more if there is interest.

Discussion was held as to duties. The Nominating Committee will reach out to potential nominees.

c. Sabbatical Leave Committee- Dr. Dan Cadol

Reminder to faculty that the deadline to submit an application to your Dept. Chair for Sabbatical Leave is November 15th for next year. Coordinate with the Dept. Chair before you turn it in. The latest policy is on the Academic Affairs policy page. Make sure it is the Sabbatical Leave for Faculty. For next Fall 2024 and Spring 2025.

4. Grad Council Report-Dr. Aly-El-Osery

a. Pre-degree Application Requirement

Dr. El-Osery proposed an update to the current application that informs those applying as Non-degree or Pre-degree graduate students that admission as such does not guarantee registration in all courses. No change in application requirements is being made. The point of the additional language is to empower departments to make sure students do not register for courses that they are not ready to take.

Discussion was held.

A motion in regard to Special applications was moved to approve the proposed changes.

The motion was approved unanimously.

5. Council of Chairs- Dr. Rick Thompson

a. Assessment Report Deadline

The deadline has passed. Departments need to get their assessment reports in.

b. NMHEAR Conference

Registration is taking place for the New Mexico Higher Education Assessment and Research Conference. The conference will be held in Albuquerque at the end of February - beginning of March 2024.

c. Barry Goldwater Scholarship

The deadline is this Friday. This is for students with one or two years remaining as an undergraduate. They should have a GPA of at least 3.7. Research experience is strongly suggested. As part of the application, they need to discuss what their future research plans are.

d. Strategic Planning

Let Academic Affairs know if you are interested in helping with a strategic planning working group. Action plans have been developed and the working groups help to monitor that they are being carried out.

e. Program Reviews

Let the Deans and AA know when you have an idea of the expected completion date. One of the biggest issues at the moment is finding external reviewers. Reviewers should be identified by the 20th of this month. The target date for completion of the program reviews is December 22.

f. Draft Enrollment Summary

The numbers shared in the spreadsheet are now official. Incoming freshman enrollment is down. We are trying to find other ways to recruit. Transfers are up. Out-of-state transfers are up. Graduate Student numbers are up.

g. Catalog

The decision was made that last year's Catalog will be extended to 2022 - 2024 with an addendum being added that contains all the previously approved curriculum changes for 2023-2024. There is language that explains the transitioning into the on-line catalog and that students may elect to go with the information that is in the addendum or what it says in the full catalog. Curriculum changes for 2023-2024 are part of Degree Works. Discussion took place about bringing back a catalog committee.

6. Proposed Changes to Degree Conferral-Dr. Rick Thompson

Presently the Board of Regents approves Degree Conferrals in May immediately prior to the commencement ceremony. As previously discussed in various venues VPAA Jackson would like to propose to the Regents that conferrals take place after the ceremony, thus allowing graduating seniors to be treated the same as all other students as far as deadlines for final exams, final grades, etc. Dr. Jackson is looking for the endorsement of the faculty on this issue.

Discussion was held.

The motion was made by Dr. Rick Thompson to seek the faculty's endorsement of the proposed change to the Degree Conferral process; seconded by Dr. Jamie Kimberley. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Review of Academic Honesty Violation-Dr. Rick Thompson

This is an annual report from the VPAA. Academic Honesty Violations have been dropping over recent years. AA has information on the website regarding procedures for reporting violations, online reporting forms, and links to plagiarism-checking software. Students have a right to appeal, though no appeals were made last year. Faculty should set clear expectations and policies and then follow them. Additional resources were shared in the presentation.

8. New Business

The Registrar is seeking volunteers to serve on the Calendar Committee. The committee will be working on the next five-year calendar. We are in the last 2 years of the current calendar. After discussion was held a motion was made to appoint an ad hoc committee with four members: Dr. Dan Cadol, Dr. Megha Khandelwal, Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman, and Dr. Bill Stone.

9. Announcements

a. H2O Program- Dr. Rene Arechiga

A one-credit-hour class is being created as part of the H2O NASA Program. The first course will be offered in the Fall of 2024. Information was sent out to the faculty.

b. Research Ethics 10-19-2023- Dr. Chris ChoGlueck

Conflict of Interest Seminar is being held October 19, 2023. Encourage all faculty and students to come.

c. NMT High-Performance Computing Center- Dr. John Naliboff

An MRI Proposal to develop a centralized HPC center on campus was recently awarded by NSF. If you have any need for HPC hardware please contact Dr. Naliboff immediately. An open house is being held October 20, 2023.

d. Interim Director for Marketing and Communications –Katie Bauer

She introduced herself to the faculty. She will be serving as Interim Director. Is ready to serve the University.

10. Adjournment

The motion to adjourn was made by Dr. Iain Crump and seconded by Dr. Sharon Sessions. The motion passed unanimously.