

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Engler called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm with a call for approval of the February 4, 2020 minutes. Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Steve Simpson. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Reports of Senate Standing Committees

action

a. Computing on Campus – *Mark Person*

The Computing on Campus Committee has been working with the Communications Office on the website and there has been great progress. Dr. Person went over the changes on the landing page for NMT's website.

The committee will continue their efforts by putting out a survey to faculty and students. Dr. Person noted that there is also understaffing issues in ITC and ACT.

b. ASAC – *Lisa Young*

Dr. Young discussed the proposed catalog change in the catalog to add new text that states “students will not be readmitted after their third suspension except in very unusual circumstances.” This would affect roughly 13 students who were suspended 3 or more times. Out of 3,045 students for the semesters of fall 2006 – fall 2013, 465 students were suspended at least once and of these students, 10% graduate.

The intent of this change is to speak to students prior to getting suspended.

On behalf of ASAC, Dr. Young moved to approve these changes. Motion passed.

Dr. Young also discussed that there was a request to review the number of times a student can attempt to retake a course. They believe that most of those situations will be caught by the existing guidelines and do not want to review this further.

c. Faculty Development Committee – *Kip Carrico*

Dr. Carrico discussed an upcoming event, Beers (or your beverage of choice) with Grande Grantees. The event will be an informal discussion with a group of faculty members who have been successful at winning significant funded research.

d. Regents-Faculty Conference committee – *Ashok Ghosh*

Dr. Ghosh stated that on Monday the faculty survey will go out and will be open for three weeks. The committee is hoping to get more participation this year.

e. Honorary Degree and Awards Committee – *Bhasker Majumdar*

Dr. Engler stated that faculty should start working on nominations for the Langmuir and Founders awards.

**3. Reports of Senate Special Committees action
Health Center and Pandemic Adhoc Committee – *Peter Phaiiah***

Dr. Phaiiah stated that the health center is seeing students request fifteen to twenty sick notes each week on average. The health center has not seen the students but they are requesting notes as the faculty member is requiring them. He suggested to revisit and lighten up the policies on attendance due to sickness during this time of year and the current concerns with the coronavirus.

Discussion was held regarding forming an adhoc committee. There is currently an emergency response team that does not have faculty on the committee. The proposed committee would review the attendance policy on general illness and missing class.

Dr. Michael Hargather moved to form a committee to discuss academic attendance policies and health center services, seconded by Dr. Todd Wolford. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells* action

a. Verification of Student Identity Policy – *Aly El-Osery*

Dr. El-Osery stated that this is a revival of our old policy specifically with distance ed students. There needs to be a way to verify a student. ACT will be responsible for coordinating the proctored activity but they need to be told early on. We are required to do this as part of our federal compliance and this is similar to what other institutions do. It was noted that this policy will not change the current practice for most of the current MST teachers.

Dr. El-Osery moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously with friendly amendments to add under student responsibilities that there will be a fee for the proctoring and to add informing ACT of a proctored activity that does not require their additional support by the end of the week that it happens.

b. Physics

Dr. Lisa Young proposed to change the language requirement for the BS in Physics from six hours to three. This change reflects what has been the practice of the department for some time.

Dr. Young moved to approve. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Math Placement

Dr. Brian Borchers stated that we will be going to common course numbers this fall. When the state set these standardized course descriptions, placement, and credit numbers, they left each institution to decide their prerequisites. As a result, the math placement process will change due to the common course numbers.

Dr. Borchers moved to approve this change. Motion passed unanimously.

Academic Affairs will work on organizing training for new advisors of these updates that will interact with incoming freshman.

d. Enrollment Management Update

Dr. Wells gave an overview of enrollment management and discussed our enrollment projections. We are currently up by approximately 30 students mostly due to graduate students.

Some Good News – The freshman returning this spring is the highest on record (94%). Our freshman GPA this year is also the highest on record (3.1).

How do we make enrollment projections? – It is comprised of how many students are coming back from each existing class, plus new students, minus graduation.

The challenge- When looking at the steps in the enrollment process, all of them have been declining over the last few years. Our single biggest challenge is to get our enrollment numbers back up.

Paid and admitted students - We are doing good compared to prior years with our paid students. We are higher than the last three years with our admitted students. We are currently projecting 351 new undergraduate students in the Fall of 2020.

Immediate focus - Our top priority is to more effectively convert admitted students to paid students and paid students to enrolled students. We are currently working on a comprehensive, coherent, and integrated communication plan. The next priority is to more aggressively engage with students and parents on financial aid offers including need-based scholarships. Additionally, Dr. Warren Ostergren has been brought on to help look at the long-term picture and review our entire recruiting process.

Bad news - Our data with housing apps is lower than it has been in the last three years. Also, the need for need-based financial aid may factor into our enrollment in terms of the state funding for lottery scholarships. As that went down, so did our enrollment.

Dr. Wells stated that we have also contracted with a consultant company. EAB is an enrollment specialist company that can help us with our enrollment.

5. Unfinished Business

action

a. Change to Standing Rules – Tom Engler

Dr. Engler stated that this body recently discussed the role of ex-officio members for Faculty Senate committees do not hold voting privileges unless explicitly granted in the committee description.

Dr. Borchers moved to adopt this change, seconded by Dr. Liebrock. Motion passed.

6. New Business

7. Announcements

a. Elements of Success – *Mike Heagy*

Dr. Heagy announced a fundraiser for Chemistry “Elements of Success” periodic table. The concept behind the fundraiser is that you can buy an element on an annual basis. The average cost for Gold and Silver are running around \$500 for the year. This fundraiser will help to fund RA’s for the summer.

b. International Women’s Day/Women’s History Month – *Liz Lyons*

Liz announced upcoming events for Women’s History Month during March. These events will help celebrate women in history, STEM, and in our community. The motto this year is “Each for Equal”.

c. Student Research Symposium – *David Cox*

The Student Research Symposium will be held within six weeks. Get engaged with your students so that they can register.

8. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:26 pm.