

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Tom Engler called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm with a call for approval of the May 7, 2020 Dr. Taffeta Elliott moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Sally Pias. Motion passed unanimously.

2. Introductions – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells discussed two mergers between four departments. Psychology is now with CLASS, and Business and Technology Management is now with Computer Science and Engineering.

Dr. Wells introduced new Deans, Department Chairs, and Directors.

Dr. Wells called upon department chairs to introduce new faculty in their department. We have 17 new faculty this year.

Dr. Wells congratulated the Distinguished Faculty Awards that were announced at Commencement and those faculty who received tenure and promotion this spring.

3. Resilient Reopening Plan Update & NMT's Future Examples of Progress - *President Wells*

President Wells first thanked the faculty for getting the campus prepared and open for our students along with the COVID-19 Task Force, Academic Affairs, and several other departments on campus.

President Wells discussed several highlights for our students including: out-of-state students quarantined, Office of Student Life required for the first time that all students check in before the semester/classes started, and the first virtual convocation was held.

President Wells discussed the status of the NMT Resilient, Reopening Plan. The plan was approved by the Governor's Office and NMED. It contains all of the reopening plans for NMT offices that are on and off campus. The COVID-19 Task Force continues to meet every week and a FAQ is also available online for general questions as well as an inquiry form. A supervisor check list with steps to follow in case of positive test with employees and students is near completion and will be online soon.

President Wells discussed the testing for NMT Protocols. The initial testing focused on front line employees and student workers. All faculty and staff that have interaction with students on a regular basis were encouraged to be tested. As of August 21, 2020, 95% of

faculty and staff under Academic Affairs were tested. Out of 1237 responses from the students, 405 indicated that they were tested. NMT has set a goal of testing at least 25% of students a month.

NMT is looking into using a tracing app. We will ensure that we have a secure system that is geofenced for our campus only. We are working to partner with NMSU who is building an app that we can then test on our two campuses. A survey was sent to faculty, staff, and students asking if they would be willing to install a free contact-tracing app on their phone. The survey results show that the majority was “yes”. This would have to have Government approval but we are hoping to use it soon.

President Well’s discussed NMT’s strategic planning for the year 2027, or *Vision 2027*.

- Creating an energy efficient campus reducing carbon footprint.
- Renovations of Jones Hall and Brown Hall to address deferred maintenance of NMT facilities.
- Ongoing enhancement of WIFI connectivity for NMT’s residence halls.
- Major upgrades to NMT’s Gym, completed in the summer of 2020.
- New facility for Kelly Hall on General Obligation Bond (Vote Yes on Nov. 2020)
- Launching of NMT’s Major Fundraising Campaign.

4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees action

a. Nominating Committee – *Raul Morales Juberias*

There are still a few faculty senate committees that need members. This will be voted on at the next meeting. It was noted that Counseling and Disabilities are now two different offices with the Disabilities Coordinator being ADA certified. This will need to be looked into.

Dr. Morales Juberias proposed to expand the description of the Benefits Committee. Dr. Sally Pias moved to approve this proposed change. Motion passed with one no.

Dr. Borchers stated that we don’t typically let non-voting members serve on a committee unless they are an ex-officio member. It was noted that this committee has a past history of having staff members serve on it.

5. Council of Chairs Report – *Doug Wells*

a. Hybrid Classes

Dr. Wells briefly discussed the hybrid classes and stated that we have made a great deal of progress. Academic Affairs will be sending out a survey to faculty to see how progress has been made in the past week. We will also be bringing three classes that we shut down back online in the next few days.

b. Enrollment Update

Dr. Wells gave an enrollment update. He stated that he is comparing census to August 24. For new graduate students and new undergraduate students, we are up in enrollment compared to last year. However, our returning student enrollment numbers are down. This is primarily driven by higher graduation rates than what we have done in the past. In terms of Community Ed, there has been less students signing up especially and including NMT employees. The current circumstances are most likely suppressing our enrollment.

6. Unfinished Business

action

7. New Business

a. ACT/SAT Test Scores – *Doug Wells*

Dr. Wells stated that last year, students met our admission requirement standards, but were unable to take an ACT or SAT test. We in turn, offered them a math placement test. This year, the tests will be offered, but it's dependent on their state requirements. Dr. Wells is suggesting that we admit students without test scores. It was noted that English placement tests may need to be offered as well. The Registrar would most likely have to process the test scores as they come in, which will be a challenge. However, details will be worked out later. It was also noted that GRE waivers are up to the department.

8. Announcements

a. Career Fair – *Michael Voegerl*

Michael Voegerl announced that the Career Fair will be completely online this year and hosted through Handshake. Students will need to register in advance. Workshops will be held on Zoom the week prior to the fair. Many employers will hold their own sessions later in the semester.

9. Adjournment

By unanimous decision, the faculty senate adjourned at 5:16 pm.