

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

## FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

3:30 p.m. Workman 101

### Minutes

#### 1. Call to order

Dr. Brian Borchers called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm with a call for approval of the November 1, 2022 minutes.

#### 2. Approval of minutes

Dr. Harrison moved to approved seconded by Dr. Hossain. Motion passed unanimously.

#### 3. NCHEMS Budget Presentation – *Dennis Jones (25 minutes)*

Dr. Dennis Jones, of the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), presented “Designing a Sustainable Funding Model for New Mexico Tech.” The presentation outlined the parameters used in the model, the subsequent inequity of funding that was identified for NMT (in part due to its STEM focus – and high-cost programs), and potential ways to bridge the \$7+ million inequity (much of which is outside the control of the institution).

The presentation was followed by a Q&A. Some key takeaways:

- During this discussion, Dr. Jones indicated Faculty Salaries appear to be 10% lower than peer institutions and less than 10% when compared to UNM and NMSU. Dr. Doug Wells later commented that this disparity may be higher than reported (prior studies indicated numbers to be \$20k to \$30k lower) – this may be due to the model using overall averages rather than only comparing similar disciplines.
- Could we make a case that, due to the research centers, additional funding is needed? Likely no – while it is true NMT is different, it is also different in that we operate, almost exclusively, in offering high-cost education programs. This is where a large financial disparity comes in.
- What suggestions do you have to address this without relying on an increase in state funding? Increased enrollments will certainly help and should be pursued; consider how to offer paid internships – attractive selling point for prospective students. Requesting an increase in the base though will still be pursued.
- The model doesn’t include other revenue streams such as endowments, renovation & repair funds, etc. Why? They were not included because they did not fund basic educational activities of the institution (e.g., used for special projects, scholarships rather than supporting base educational operations). Things like indirect cost recovery actually cover expenditures that have often already been made. What this presentation doesn’t cover is how funding is allocated once the institution receives it – it focuses on identifying what it should have to support base operations.

- The presentation indicated NMT had \$600 million in capital assets (facilities) – does that include the research centers? Yes – it includes everything except Auxiliary Services. The rest of the budget though, which is I&G, doesn't fund research centers though – and some of the factors affecting this are not included in the budget model being used.

#### **4. Reports of Senate Standing Committees**

##### **a. Curriculum Committee – *Linda DeVeaux (15 minutes)***

All seven curriculum change proposals put forward by the Curriculum Committee (31, 32, 34, 41, 47, 50, 51) were approved without amendments.

#### **5. Council of Chairs Report – *Mike Jackson (5 minutes)***

##### **a. Challenge Exam Procedures**

The challenge exam procedures motion, put forward by the Council of Chairs, was approved without amendment.

#### **6. Graduate Council Report – *Aly El-Osery (5 minutes)***

Dean El-Osery provided an update on the curricular and catalog changes that will eventually come forward to faculty senate for approval. He outlined the new graduate application system using SLATE and training that was done for department chairs and program directors – and encouraged everyone to review applications that have been received. He also thanked everyone who assisted with yesterday's online recruiting event – about 70 students attended.

#### **7. Old Business**

##### **a. Hybrid Faculty Senate Meetings – *Snezna Rogelj (10 minutes)***

Dr. Rogelj's proposal (attached in agenda) on whether Faculty Senate meetings should be held in a hybrid format was briefly discussed. It was clarified that the zoom meeting would be available for everyone and that someone would monitor the chat. A motion to on the proposal to hold Faculty Senate meetings in a hybrid format was approved without amendment.

##### **b. NMT's Strategic Plan – *Mike Jackson (20 minutes)***

An overview of the draft 2027 Five-year Strategic Plan was presented. The draft covers the first component of the plan – its themes, goals, key objectives, and potential tasks. The development of the remaining strategic plan will continue throughout the spring semester, focusing on potential actions, metrics, responsibilities, and timelines. A motion was made (Dr. Michael Jackson), seconded (Dr. Sharon Sessions): "The Faculty Senate endorses the proposed 2027 Five-year Strategic Plan to the NMT Administration, Regents, our campus, and community."

The motion was approved without amendment.

##### **c. Mental Health & Wellness Committee – *Yulia Mikhailova (10 minutes)***

Dr. Mikhailova proposal (attached in agenda) on whether Faculty Senate should have a Mental Health & Wellness committee was briefly discussed. A motion was approved with two amendments.

1. Added "factors affecting ..." to the first sentence. (See below in **Bold**)
2. Added Associate Dean for Student Success to the list of ex officio members. (See below in **Bold**)

The approved language is:

A. Standing Committees

19. Mental Health and Wellness Committee

This committee reviews and reports on **factors affecting** student mental health, mental health policies, and initiatives. The committee works with the administration and the student Mental Health Committee to make recommendations to improve support for students struggling with mental health issues, and to help inform and educate faculty on these issues. The committee consists of four faculty senate members. Ex officio members include an undergraduate student representative, a graduate student representative, the VP for Student Life or their designee, the Director of the Counseling Center or their designee, **and the Associate Dean for Student Success**. (2 year terms, 2/2 rotation)

Dr. Borchers will follow-up with the nominating committee to nominate members for the new Mental Health Committee in the Spring 2023 semester.

**8. New Business**

There was no new business.

**9. Announcements**

There were no announcements.

**10. Adjournment**

Dr. Liebrock made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Harrison. The motion passed unanimously.