

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, October 04, 2016

Workman 101 4:00 p.m.

Minutes

1. Call to order and approval of minutes 4:04pm

Dr. Steve Simpson called for approval of the September 1, 2016 minutes after a quorum was met. Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman.

2. Short announcements

a. Online Resources for Faculty – Lisa Majkowski

Lisa Majkowski announced the faculty development committee worked with Dr. Elizabeth Kramer-Simpson to develop some information sheets for new faculty. These handouts were provided with contact information for the Office for Student Learning.

b. MOU with Socorro Schools – Sharon Sessions

Dr. Sharon Sessions explained that a number of faculty have been concerned with the state of our public schools. NMT has been working carefully with some of the administrators in the schools and recently the school board approved to sign the memorandum of understanding between NMT, the schools, and a mentoring program.

c. General Education Reforms – Peter Mozley

Dr. Peter Mozley announced that there have been efforts to reform the Gen Ed Core for the State. The idea is to have a uniform Gen Ed Core for each of the institutions of higher learning in New Mexico. The motivation behind this is to make them more transferrable. Another aspect is to make it easier to assess. What's different about what is being proposed is rather than just our standard content areas, it is geared toward skills, learning outcomes, and content areas. Dr. Mozley stated that it is complex and controversial. Dan Howard, the NMSU provost, contacted Dr. Mozley to let faculty know that they have a website where faculty can enter comments by October 20th. A forum will also be held in the CITL during lunch where this topic will be discussed on October 13th.

d. International Student Chile Roast - Steve Simpson

Dr. Steve Simpson announced on Tuesday, October 11 from 4:00 – 6:00 pm, the 6th annual international green chile roast will be held at the Epiphany Episcopal Church. There will be involvement from the Chamber of Commerce and a local farmer will come and roast the chile. The entire tech community is invited to attend.

e. Graduate Academic Honesty Violations – Lorie Liebrock

Dr. Lorie Liebrock reported on the graduate academic dishonesty cases from fall 2015 through summer 2016. The number of faculty reported cases have increased. In 2013 – 2014 there were 3 cases and in 2015 – 2016 there were 9 cases. Further details regarding the cases were provided on a handout. Dr. Liebrock asked faculty to also be aware of what is on Chegg for homework.

3. Senate Committee Reports

a. Nominating committee – Mark Samuels

Eligible faculty senate members filled out paper ballots. The Nominating Committee counted the ballots with the results showing:

Tom Kieft, Chair

Steve Simpson, Vice-Chair

Brian Borchers, Parliamentarian

4. Report of Council of Chairs – Peter Mozley

Dr. Mozley announced that we had a very productive meeting and approved a number of catalog changes.

a. Biology – Snezna Rogelj

Dr. Snezna Rogelj discussed the Biology department catalog changes and moved to accept them. Motion passed.

b. CLASS – Elizabeth Kramer-Simpson

Dr. Elizabeth Kramer-Simpson discussed the CLASS department catalog changes and moved to accept them. Motion passed.

c. Earth and Environmental Sciences – Glenn Spinelli

Dr. Glenn Spinelli discussed the Earth and Environmental department catalog changes and moved to accept them. Motion passed.

d. Withdrawal Policy – Dr. Lisa Young

Dr. Lisa Young reported that the intention of this policy is for cases such as a death in the family, the student can then request for Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming to issue a Withdrawal without Prejudice (WO). However, students are staying in the class even up to the point of taking the final exam and then requesting a WO. The catalog wording for the deadline is vague. The committee has proposed to add the Friday before the start of final exams to the catalog. If the student is doing fine up until the very end, the student can do a grade extension.

Dr. Lisa Young noted that Melissa was looking for guidance from the faculty. After a spirited discussion, faculty thought it would be best to have Melissa come to the next meeting to provide more information.

Dr. Brian Borchers moved to table to a time certain, the next meeting and have Melissa Jaramillo-Fleming invited to give statistics, seconded by Dr. Hamdy Soliman. Motion passed with two no's.

e. Academic Honesty Policy – Lorie Liebrock

Dr. Lorie Liebrock noted that the academic honesty policy is no longer in the student handbook as this is a merged catalog. A handout was provided that showed the changes made to the academic honesty policy.

Dr. Elizabeth Kramer-Simpson moved to approve these changes. Motion passed.

5. Report of Graduate Council – Lorie Liebrock

Dr. Lorie Liebrock announced that Graduate Education Day has been scheduled. She has asked department chairs to recommend students.

NM Tech Day with the legislator on will be held on January 26. This will be coordinated with the advancement office for the alumni reception.

Dr. Liebrock asked faculty to encourage their students to use LaTeX for their thesis/dissertation.

Electrical Engineering is working on a PhD proposal on Cyber Electronic Systems.

a. Biology Catalog – Lorie Liebrock

Dr. Liebrock noted that the Biology catalog changes were already approved by the Faculty Senate.

b. Earth and Environmental Sciences – Glenn Spinelli

Dr. Spinelli discussed the Earth and Environmental catalog changes and moved to accept these changes. Motion passed.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

a. Faculty Forum on proposed Community Honor Code – Lorie Liebrock

Members of the committee discussed feedback from students, staff, and faculty. The comments were mostly positive with only a few negative reported.

Dr. Liebrock noted that there are questions at the beginning that have set the frame work of embracing this to reduce cheating. Overwhelmingly, 70% have said they will embrace this due to those changes. Similar results on enhancing the reputation of the Institution. Staff and students who have witnessed a violation in the last year are at 40% with faculty and administration being significantly higher.

President Wells reported that when an institution takes something like this on, it speaks volumes. For us to come together as a community and recognize that are integrity is one of the most important aspects. President Wells stated that there is zero tolerance for activities that in any way intimidate, make people feel harmed, or oppressed in any fashion. Those changes will occur and are occurring. There is an opportunity to move in some new directions that strengthens and enhances NM Tech. It is his intent to help us do that. President Wells is very positive about this campus and touched by people's sincerity who wants to be involved with this change. We will take this seriously and we will continue to make changes.

Dr. Liebrock asked the question, what do you see as the barriers to making this positive culture shift and how can we address these barriers?

A spirited discussion followed. Some comments included not requiring a signature and separating the attestation into two lines. Dr. Lorie Liebrock encouraged faculty to take the honor code survey if they had not already done so.

8. Discussion

9. Adjournment. By unanimous decision, the meeting adjourned at 5:32 pm.