

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
FACULTY SENATE MEETING
Tuesday, March 5, 2024
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 for approval of the February 6, 2024 minutes.

2. Approval of the Minutes

Dr. Iain Crump moved to approve the minutes seconded by Dr. Michael Hargather.

The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Introduction of NMT's next President, Dr. Mahyar Amouzegar

Interim President López began by reminding the campus community about some of the challenges they may face in the upcoming years. These include sociopolitical (that may affect higher education broadly), the use of technology, who our students are (and their expectations), and artificial intelligence (taking advantage of its benefits while helping people distinguish fact vs. based on/appearing as fact so that separate realities are not created). He then highlighted Dr. Amouzegar's career pathway and accomplishments and noted his excitement to read one of his novels. Dr. Amouzegar thanked members of the community for already participating in a listening tour that he will continue once he officially starts in April. He will then report to the campus what he has learned so that we can begin to chart a path forward. Along with welcoming Dr. Amouzegar, the Faculty Senate thanked Dr. López for returning as President during this interim period.

4. Reports of Standing Committees

a. Academic Standards and Admissions, Dr. Chelsey Hargather

Along with providing its yearly report, the committee proposed two sets of changes to the catalog language. The first set was related to appeals of academic suspension and incorporated the addition of the academic advisor on the email notification to the student, the ability for either the advisor or department chairperson to sign the necessary forms, and implementing a monthly deadline in which the AVPAA will be incorporated into the discussion so that there would be no need for an appeal process.

The committee made the motion and discussion included whether this also applied to appeals of admission decisions – which it does. The motion was approved unanimously.

The second set of changes permitted students on academic suspension to pursue opportunities at other institutions so they may improve. However, students would not be permitted to retake courses that have been taken at NMT at other institutions. Discussion included whether it made sense for someone who was suspended to have such an opportunity, if there was a limit on the number of credits that could be transferred into NMT during a suspension, and whether taking courses elsewhere would result in fewer students returning to the institution. A friendly amendment was offered to modify the proposed language (underlined text indicates the amendment): "Credit earned at any institution while a student is on academic suspension will be accepted following our standard transfer policy after a student serves the suspension, is re-

admitted to New Mexico Tech, and returns to good standing. Credit for courses previously attempted at New Mexico Tech will not be accepted.”

The committee made the motion, the friendly amendment was accepted, and the motion was approved.

b. Academic Freedom and Tenure *Dr. Bill Stone*

The committee brought forward the “Complaint Resolution Policy and Procedure for Complaints Directed at Instructional Staff (Faculty, including Instructors)” that was modeled closely after the existing policy and procedure for staff and would be used to deal with situations not covered by other policies, such as the Academic Freedom and Tenure Policy.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved.

The committee then brought forward the companion “Disciplinary Policy and Procedure for Complaints Directed at Instructional Staff (Faculty, including Instructors)” that was also modeled closely after the existing policy and procedure for staff.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved.

c. Curriculum Committee *Dr. Linda DeVeaux*

The committee had two Curriculum Proposals. They were addressed as follows:

1. 0064 AY 2024-2025

There was discussion that described situations where this would occur (e.g., students receiving a music scholarship but are already at the maximum number of enrolled credits in a semester).

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved.

2. 0069 AY 2024-2025

There was no discussion.

The committee made the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

d. Nominating Committee *Dr. Mark Samuels*

The committee is recommending the following individuals serve on the ad hoc Merit Pay Committee: Brian Borchers, Taffeta Elliott, Corey Leclerc, Sally Pias and Alex Rinehart.

The committee moved to close the nominations. The motion was approved unanimously.

The committee made the motion to approve the nominations. The motion was approved unanimously.

e. Student Faculty Conduct *Dr. Stewart Thompson*

Members of the committee met this year to receive their annual training. To date, the committee has not had to meet.

5. Grad Council Report-*Dr. Aly El-Osery*

a. Minutes of the February 13 Grad Council Meeting (Minutes were provided)

- Dr. El-Osery gave updates on applications. The number of graduate applications has been strong. He indicated that reviews are still needed and encouraged members to conduct them along with providing funding decisions.
- Dr. El-Osery announced a new STEM Scholarship for graduate students provided by the NM HED. This would be available for students attending this year and next year (full time in a STEM field and a NM high school graduate). He encouraged departments to consider using this to recruit for their programs. The scholarship would cover tuition and fees, up to a set amount (\$7,200).

- Mechanical Engineering raised the opportunity to modify some existing forms to track student progress through their respective degree programs. This issue will continue to be explored.
- Other topics from the last meeting include clarifying the terms used for research credits (once finalized, they will be brought forward for inclusion in the catalog), the proposed development of guidelines for reporting published work in theses and dissertations, expectations for part-time graduate students, and updates to non-degree student applications. Dr. El-Osery also discussed two new graduate student forms that will be developed through Dynamic Forms so that tracking will be easier.
- Discussion was held. There was a question about the number of NM HED STEM Scholarships available. Dr. El-Osery indicated that presently we have enough funding to cover all eligible students. He has already contacted students based on the information available in graduate studies. Students will need to make sure NMT has an official high school transcript on file in order to receive the scholarship (for auditing purposes).

6. Council of Chairs-Dr. Michael Jackson

a. Draft Minutes of the February 20, Council of Chairs (Minutes were provided)

- VP Jackson reported the Assessment Task Force has met and their report will be presented at the April Faculty Senate meeting.
- Sabbatical applications (for Spring 2025+) are due to Department Chairpersons by March 15. Please use the forms found online.
- Registration for the Student Research Symposium closes March 15 while abstracts are due March 8.
- Program Reviews are being conducted this year for programs within the College of Arts and Sciences. To date, the reviews have been going well and VP Jackson thanked everyone for their participation and support in making this a successful activity.
- Next summer (late July/early August) there will be a research symposium with universities in Ghana. This is an excellent opportunity to showcase the research programs at NMT along with recruiting excellent students to your program. For more information, please contact Dr. William Ampomah and Dr. Bob Balch.
- Discussion regarding Time on Task will likely be occurring in departments and the guidance that is developed will be needed for our upcoming HLC reassurance argument.
- As a reminder, ACT provides training in our classroom technology. VP Jackson encouraged faculty to take advantage of this training prior to the start of the semester. At future faculty senate meetings, details will be provided to assist with planning for the fall semester.
- AA is coordinating 'fact sheets' to assist President Amouzegar as he transitions to NMT.
- VP Jackson reminded faculty to review the final exam schedule published by the Registrar (to review they are occurring or not occurring, their location, etc). Please contact the Registrar's Office ASAP if there are any issues. Additionally, a reminder was given that for team-taught courses, the first instructor should be the individual submitting grades and that if there are any questions, to please contact the Registrar's Office.
- A concern was raised at the last Student Government meeting regarding whether TAs had sufficient safety training. As a result, VP Jackson asked departments to outline whether TAs in their department or program have sufficient training and either what that training is or

what training they will have to address this concern. This will be something that is considered regarding the allocation of future TAs.

- VP Jackson also thanked student, staff, and faculty who volunteered at our last Research @ Tech Day. We received a lot of positive feedback about the event – both internal and external.
- b. NMT received HLC's approval for its Quality Improvement Initiative. VP Jackson thanked everyone on the Task Force for their time and effort in making this a successful endeavor. Individuals from across divisions and the entire university engaged in this initiative that has now been incorporated into our strategic plan. This is the same type of success we are looking for as we put together next year's reassurance argument for the HLC.

7. Old Business-None

8. New Business

- Dr. Michael Hargather raised the concerns expressed by Dr. Doug Wells (via a campus email) on the proposed *Research and Laboratory Safety Policy*. The deadline for comments is March 6. Dr. Hargather proposed 'creating an ad hoc Faculty Senate Committee to work with the research office on this policy with a request for the VP for Research to hold off on finalizing the policy's approval until the committee met to discuss this further'. Dr. Michelle Creech-Eakman seconded the motion. Discussion included the acknowledgement that the Policy approval process did not require faculty senate approval and that this could only be a request of the VP for Research. But since there are academic issues associated with this policy, it would be beneficial to engage in the conversation. **The motion was approved unanimously.** Individuals suggested to serve as members of this ad hoc committee were Drs. Dan Jones, Doug Wells, Joel Sharbrough, and Michael Hargather. **A motion to close the nominations was approved unanimously. A motion to approve the nominees, assuming they accept their nomination, was approved unanimously.**

9. Announcements

- a. Regents-Faculty Conference Committee Survey–*Dr. Sharon Sessions*
 - Survey will be administered to faculty to create a report for presentation to the Faculty Senate Chair (and eventually the Board of Regents). The survey will be ready after the meeting and will be active for about 2 weeks. March 19th will be the last day individuals can submit responses. It is an anonymous survey and questions are optional. No Personal Identifying information is being collected and there is an IRB exemption in place. The committee is requesting faculty perspectives on various topics for the new President (e.g., graduate and undergraduate student recruitment).
 - NMT has been invited to participate in the Holloman AFB Air Show on June 2. Set-up will begin on June 1, the Air Show and demonstrations will occur on June 2, and travel back to NMT will occur on June 3. An announcement will go out later this week detailing volunteer opportunities. Anyone interested in serving participating, or in serving on the review committee, is welcome to. They are looking for STEM related content, demonstration, exhibits for the Air Show to engage participants and students in local schools. This is a great opportunity to advertise what we do and the opportunities that exist for students at NMT.

- The next Faculty Senate meeting will be held on April 2. There will likely include the report from the Regents-Faculty Conference Committee along with a follow-up discussion on the *Research and Laboratory Safety Policy*.
- On Thursday, May 9 at 10 am there will be a special meeting of the Faculty Senate. Unlike prior years, it will not involve the conferral of degrees. Instead, it will focus on graduation awards given during Commencement. Then, Faculty Senate will meet again in September 2024.

10. Adjournment

The motion was made by Dr. Iain Crump at 5 pm to adjourn. Seconded by Dr. Sharon Sessions.