

# NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING**  
**Tuesday, December 1, 2015**  
**Workman 101 - 4:00 p.m.**

## MINUTES

### 1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Dave Raymond called the meeting to order at 4:04 pm with a call for approval of the November 3, 2015 minutes.

**Dr. Brian Borchers moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Michael Hargather. Motion passed unanimously.**

### 2. Short announcements

#### 1. Honesty Update – Peter Mozley

Dr. Peter Mozley announced that there has been a dramatic upsurge in traffic regarding cheating and plagiarism cases. It has been a record setting year for 2015 with the most violations in the history of our institution. This is part of our core values for our strategic plan. Dr. Mozley has been working with the Academic Standards and Admission Committee on brainstorming ideas to reduce the number of cases. One idea was to create a fact sheet for students to make them realize our serious the consequence of cheating are. The second idea was to create a best practices handout for faculty. Homework assignments are the number one issue that he sees. There is uncertainty in the eyes of the students, so faculty need to set the rules in the classroom and let students know. Also, all sections of classes need to be uniformed. In terms of catching students, we now have a subscription to Chegg. If faculty would like to see the Chegg solutions to a homework assignment, send an email with to Dr. Mozley.

One of the products of our HLC accreditation efforts in the spring was to come up with a more uniformly and organized manner to handle student issues that go to Academic Affairs. We now have a new policy where, periodically Dr. Mozley will report these numbers to Faculty Senate. A handout was provided that listed the concerns and complaints from spring 2015 to fall 2015. These fell into two broad categories relative to complaints about faculty and TA's. These issues are usually resolved as most often it is a miscommunication issue. The other relates to various policy appeals.

#### 2. Graduate Education Day – Peter Mozley

Dr. Mozley reported on the Graduate Education Day for Dr. Lorie Liebrock. Dr. Liebrock needs nominations of students to participate in this event. Students will meet with the legislators and have the opportunity to give a short presentation on their research projects on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Highlights of Regents Meeting – Dave Raymond**

Dr. Dave Raymond reported on the recent Board of Regents meeting. His main concern was to transmit to the Regents the concern of the faculty that the 120 hours is a slippery slope. The reaction from the Regents was good. They are not in favor of reducing all programs to 120 hours. Student Regent Weiss has talked to students and they feel strongly about not reducing the number of credit hours. Dr. Ostergren presented an update on our efforts to streamline our programs without making changes. The PhD programs in Biotechnology and Mechanical Engineering were approved by the Regents. The contractors have been selected for the Chemistry building and the architect for the Jones Hall initiative. The Regents have been discussing building a new Presidential residence. The decision is to keep the same house and build another next to it with a target for one million. They are trying to arrange a loan from the Tech foundation for funding. Lastly, regarding the Presidential Search Committee, they have roughly 35 applications which have been classified into three categories (A, B & C). Phone interviews will be held with the “A” applicants.

### **4. HED Meeting – Warren Ostergren**

Dr. Warren Ostergren reported that he along with Regent Peacock, Regent Gonzales, and President Lopez reported to an HED meeting with Cabinet Secretary Barbara Damron, Deputy Secretary Andrew Jacobson, and Trevor Crombie who is the Governors Deputy. The meeting provided an opportunity to talk about our initiatives for accelerating graduation and improving retention. We have taken more of a deliberate approach and have talked a lot about the 120 credit hours. We have done a lot of data analysis as a result of a six sigma team. We have received input from faculty, staff, alumni, and students. We didn’t move out too quickly in terms of making any changes, because we wanted our changes to be data driven rather than arbitrary. Dr. Ostergren reported that the meeting went extremely well. Our Regents have gotten pressure due to NMT taking longer. However, they appreciate the time we have spent on studying this. We will continue to move forward with our initiatives. We have decided to focus on five or six key initiatives right now because it will be a lot of work to just implement them. We will be discussing those with you as we try to implement them.

### **3. Senate Committee Reports**

#### **1. Space Committee - Oliver Wingenter/Paul Arendt**

Dr. Oliver Wingenter reported on behalf of the Space Committee which is a new hybrid committee. The committee’s main focus is to try to find new faculty members offices along with having a space crunch, which they are trying to alleviate. Dr. Wingenter discussed recent and ongoing actions. ITC will consolidate into Gold. ACT plans to move near OSL in Speare. They would like to give the chemical engineering department its own identity. The Space Committee also needs help. Despite having space created by construction of the new Bureau building, much of the vacated space is unavailable until the old building is demolished, and the new Chemistry building is built in its place. Then when Chemistry is finally out of Jones, Jones will be receiving a new roof. We need to know how to use this space. We need one or more large department to move into there. The committee would like the faculty here to talk to their department chairs regarding this. Architects need to start drafting plans for the remodel. A new questionnaire will be sent out in January. Also, please consider

loaning out any space which can be shared. Talk to Dr. Dale Henneke if interested in a shared campus clean room or a shared a hazardous vapors lab.

## **2. Computing on Campus Committee – Brian Borchers**

Dr. Brian Borchers reported on the computing on campus committee. Estimated conversion to Google email is now set for Spring Break 2016. Degree Works will be functional by the end of this semester for faculty. ITC advises to hold off with update to Windows 10 until software and functions have been tested under Windows 10. We are working with ITC and ACT to see if we can get it to where there is only one number that you have to call that will deal with a problem and correctly route the problem to who can help fix it. They are working on a single sign-on so you won't have to have multiple usernames and passwords. A potential move of the TCC to Gold from Speare has not been fully approved due to budget for all of the remodeling. Work is ongoing with Workflow and plagiarism detection software. We are doing that now for Master's Thesis and PhD dissertations. The goal is to also make it available for checking student term papers and study papers.

## **3. Retention Committee – Brian Borchers**

Dr. Brian Borchers reported that the retention rate dropped last year to this year. We did try to investigate to see if there were causes that we could determine. The only factor that seemed significant was the change in the lottery scholarship requirements. We identified 13 students who did not receive lottery scholarship in fall 2014 who would have under the old rule. Out of the 13 students, 4 were not retained. We believe these counts for 1% of the drop in retention rate but certainly not all of it. When you start to look at the numbers 1% drop of the retention rate responds to 3 students. All kinds of minor influences could result in changes in the retention rate.

The graduation rate was 49%. This is back up from 44% in the previous year and is the highest in the last nine years.

Suspensions basically have continued in the same pattern since we implemented the academic warning procedure. The suspension rate was 3.6% for students in the spring semester of 2015.

Dr. Borchers noted that we should see better data once Argos is implemented.

## **1. Report of Council of Chairs – Warren Ostergren**

### **a. CLASS Department Changes – Steve Simpson**

Dr. Steve Simpson moved to accept the changes for the CLASS department. Motion passed.

### **b. EES Department Changes – Fred Phillips**

Dr. Fred Phillips moved to accept the EES department changes. Friendly amendment made to remove “electives to complete 130 credit hours”. Motion passed.

### **c. Math Department Changes – Ivan Avramidi**

Dr. Ivan Avramidi moved to accept the Math department catalog changes from 130 minimum credit hours to 120. 1 abstention. Motion passed.

**d. Mechanical Engineering Department Changes – Andrei Zagrai**

Dr. Andrei Zagrai moved to accept the Mechanical Engineering department changes. Motion passed.

**2. Report of Graduate Council – Peter Mozley**

Dr. Peter Mozley moved to accept changing option to specialization for the MS Specialization Nomenclature. Motion passed.

**3. Old Business**

**4. New Business**

**5. Discussion**

**6. Adjournment.**

**The meeting adjourned at 5:06 pm by unanimous decision.**