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## Minutes\_05\_01\_25

UNM Faculty Senate

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# FACULTY SENATE SUMMARIZED MINUTES

## 2004-2005 Faculty Senate

January 25, 2005

The Faculty Senate meeting for January 25, 2005 was called to order at 3:05 p.m. in the Lobo Room, Student Union Building, Room 3037. Senate President Ed De Santis presided.

### 1. ATTENDANCE

**Guests Present:** Professor John Geissman (Earth and Planetary Sciences)

### 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

### 3. APPROVAL OF SUMMARIZED MINUTES FOR NOVEMBER 23, 2004 MEETING

The minutes for the November 23, 2004 meeting were approved as written.

### 4. POSTHUMOUS DEGREE FOR JONATHAN MICHAEL SUAREZ

Department Administrator Carol Brown from Political Science read the following posthumous degree request for Jonathan Michael Suarez.

*The Political Science Department of the University of New Mexico requests that a posthumous Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science be awarded to Jonathan Michael Suarez. Jonathan was a student in good standing until his untimely death on September 14, 2004.*

*At the time of his death, Jonathan had completed the coursework for his major in Political Science and was enrolled in and passing Spanish 101, fulfilling the last three credit hours required for his degree from the College of Arts and Sciences. He was scheduled to graduate with his class in December 2004.*

*The faculty members of the Department of Political Science want to recognize Jonathan's academic achievement and are honored to unanimously make this request that the University award Jonathan Michael Suarez a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science posthumously.*

*Please feel free to contact Kenneth Roberts, Chair, Political Science, at 277-5104 if you have any questions or need additional information.*

The posthumous degree was approved by the Faculty Senate and will be presented to the family of the deceased.

### 5. RESOLUTION ON KNME TELEVISION'S DECISION NOT TO AIR RECENT PROGRAM ABOUT INTELLIGENT DESIGN

The following resolution was presented to the Faculty Senate by Professor John Geissman (Earth and Planetary Sciences).

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the principal missions of the University of New Mexico are education, as the dissemination of knowledge, truth and the arts; scholarly and scientific research, as the incessant pursuit of knowledge, truth, and artistic expression; and, service to the State of New Mexico in fostering ready access by its citizens to knowledge, truth, and the arts;

*AND WHEREAS those most responsible for these principal missions of the University are the collective faculty of the University;*

*AND WHEREAS New Mexico's Public Broadcast Service television station, KNME-Channel 5, established in 1958, is a service of the University of New Mexico and Albuquerque Public Schools;*

*BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we the Faculty Senate of the University of New Mexico, representing the faculty of the University, emphatically approve of the recent decision by KNME to not air "Unlocking the Mysteries of Life", a program funded by several evangelical Christian groups, including the Crowell Trust and Center for Science and Culture, that promotes an explanation for the origin of life and evolution involving "intelligent design", an explanation that requires supernatural explanations for life origins and evolution. Contrary to the definition of science by some, it is important to emphasize that science, by repeated experiments of testable hypotheses, seeks to learn truthful, natural explanations for natural phenomena. Science has provided us with nearly endless ways in which our lives have been improved. By implication, science never invokes any form of supernatural intervention to explain the natural world, as such explanations cannot be tested. Science can never be represented by any form of special interest group, other than a very precious one that merely seeks a truthful explanation to the natural world. A copy of this resolution is to be presented to all appropriate representatives of KMNE-Channel 5.*

After much discussion, the following friendly amendment was made. The last paragraph was replaced with the text below:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, we the Faculty Senate of the University of New Mexico, representing the Faculty of the University, emphatically approve of the recent decision by KNME not to air "Unlocking the Mysteries of Life." A program funded by several evangelical Christian groups, "Unlocking the Mysteries of Life: purports to be a scientific explanation of the origins of life, but it is in fact profoundly unscientific. Science, be repeated experiments of testable hypotheses, seeks to earn truthful, natural explanations for natural phenomena. By implication science never invokes any form of supernatural intervention to explain the natural world because such explanations cannot be tested. A copy of this resolution is to be presented to all appropriate representatives of KNME-Channel 5.

The resolution was defeated with 23 votes against, 15 votes for, and six abstentions.

## **6. FACULY SENATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

The Faculty Senate President reported on the following:

- The Ad Hoc Committee on Mentoring Junior Faculty has been formed. The members are: Professor Gloria Birkholz (Nursing), Professor Robert Glew (Biochemistry), Professor Gary Harrison (English), Professor Antoinette Sedillo Lopez (Law), Associate Professor Ann Nihlen (Education), Professor Jan Scheutz (Communication and Journalism), and Professor Jane Slaughter (History). A chairperson has not yet been selected. The committee received its charge and it reads as follows: *The committee will conduct an inquiry into the mentoring and support of junior faculty in all academic units of the university. If there are concerns, it will identify them and assess the extent of the problem. If there is good practice, it will also so indicate. It will make recommendations on practice and policy and deliver a report on all findings to the faculty senate.*
- The faculty club will open officially by mid-February 2005. The furniture is on order. There will not be any dues initially. There will be an advisory committee or governing board that will oversee the operation. The building will be a university building so the cost of heating, cooling, and janitorial services will be provided as with any other

university building. The liquor license has not yet been approved.

- The Dean's Evaluation is proceeding. President De Santis and chair of the Dean's Evaluation Committee Edl Schamiloglu (Electrical and Computer Engineering) met with Health Sciences Center Vice President Phil Eaton. The three colleges at the Health Sciences Center will participate in this year's evaluation of deans. The evaluation instrument for this year will be out before the next Faculty Senate meeting on February 22, 2005. Large faculty participation will aid in the credibility of the results. There will be a separate effort to create an instrument for the Dean of Graduate Studies. A question was asked about whether faculty could see the results of the evaluation, and the answer is that it is not known at this time.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 7. APPROVAL OF FORMS C FROM THE CURRICULA COMMITTEE

The following Forms C were approved by unanimous voice vote of the Faculty Senate:

- New Department of Undergraduate Seminar (USP) in University College, *University College*
- Name Change of Degree, Major, and Certificate in Computer Aided Drafting and Design, *Valencia*
- Revision of Concentration in International Management, *Anderson Schools of Management*

## AGENDA TOPICS

### 8. FACULTY ROLE DURING LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Faculty Senate President Ed De Santis led a discussion regarding the faculty role during the current legislative session.

- Director of Governmental Affairs Carlos Rey Romero held an orientation for faculty and approximately 35 people attended. A guide to the legislature was distributed. President De Santis will make the materials available to those who did not attend the orientation.
- President De Santis is planning on attending the legislative session in Santa Fe on Thursday, January 27, 2005.
- Any faculty attending the legislative session should contact Carlos Rey Romero to get a University of New Mexico (UNM) name tag.
- The administration is well prepared. They have a structured and coordinated effort. The university has five lobbyists.
- The faculty have not had an opportunity to prepare as well as the administration which was the purpose of the letter President De Santis sent out on January 24, 2005. The faculty can take some initial steps in projecting themselves as a very important constituency of the university. The faculty role is not uniform throughout the entire university. The School of Medicine has to deal with their own way of getting faculty involved. The School of Medicine has a caucus of faculty senators addressing issues.
- Volunteers are needed to track bills, analyze information, and recommend support and changes.
- On the UNM website there is a section dedicated to the legislative session. It contains the names, addresses, and phone numbers of all state senators and state representatives. There is a considerable amount of information on the bills that have been introduced.
- The Research Office will be posting the bills to the website along with tracking information. Comments and any analysis will be forwarded to Cenissa Martinez at [cenissa@unm.edu](mailto:cenissa@unm.edu).
- Any faculty willing to aid in analysis and tracking should notify President De Santis as soon as possible. President De Santis will then notify Ms. Martinez and Mr. Romero.
- When speaking with legislators, faculty should focus on topics critical to the state of New Mexico. Legislators may not have more than five minutes to speak with faculty. Faculty can also help by addressing the university's official priorities.
- President De Santis would ideally prefer that all 42 senators and 70 representatives be contacted by a faculty member, especially the legislators from the far reaches of the state.
- Dolores Gonzales from the Research Office will try to connect any legislator with a specific need to a faculty member with expertise in the area.
- A senator inquired about whether the administration was lobbying for faculty compensation increases. President De Santis responded that the governor wants a minimum of a four percent increase, but it could go higher depending on the amount of the tuition increase. There could be a seven to eight percent tuition increase which

is a realistic objective for the administration.

- A senator asked if the compensation increase percentage differential between faculty and administrators is known. President De Santis responded that he does not know and he will try to determine the differential.
- The governor has put together a task force to inquire about the status and viability of the Educational Retirement Act (ERA).
- UNM day at the legislature will be in early February. Faculty need to go in significant numbers. President De Santis will send an email to coordinate faculty going in the next couple of weeks.

## 10. NEW BUSINESS

- Senator Melvin Yazawa (History) asked why University of New Mexico President Louis Caldera and Provost Brian Foster no longer address the senate. President De Santis replied that they were taking up too much of the senate's time. The plan is to have them meet with the Operations Committee once a semester and possibly address the full senate once an academic year. Another suggestion was to have three questions answered in person by each the President and Provost at alternating meetings.
- Senator Yazawa commented that the senate should inquire into the Albuquerque Journal article that reported that there is a "basketball" class offered for credit to mostly athletes. The response was that the Athletics Council will begin the review for National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA) accreditation and this issue falls within the purview of that.
- Senator Yazawa also commented on an Albuquerque Tribune article about the recent bowl appearance and Athletic Director Rudy Davalos and Football Coach Rocky Long receiving five figure bonuses each. He asked why should they get bonuses if it is part of their job. Other Professors do not get bonuses when they publish books. Professor Yazawa was not sure if the bowl appearance cost the university money.

## 11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Holmes  
Office of the Secretary