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Faculty Governance, Volume 1, Issue 1

UNM Faculty Senate

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THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Faculty Governance

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

AUGUST 2009

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Introduction

Douglas Fields,
Faculty Senate President

Thank you for taking the time to read the first Newsletter of Faculty Governance at UNM. Our goal with this publication is to inform the UNM faculty of the process, current issues and future directions of faculty governance.

One of the biggest complaints that we hear about how we are doing our jobs is that faculty feel left out of the loop, not just with the administration, but also with faculty governance bodies.

This is our attempt to remedy that situation. In this issue, you can find out more information about the [structure of faculty governance at UNM](#),

the [status of the I&G audit requested by the faculty in the February 25 general faculty meeting](#), the [recent HLC report and what it means to faculty governance at UNM](#) and the [discussions about a possible Early Retirement Process](#).

As always, we are committed to serving the institution of the University, and as one faculty member declared in a general faculty meeting, we believe that together with the students, the faculty ARE the University. We are the caretakers of the curriculum, the creators of new knowledge, the mentors of the children of New Mexico. The shared gov-

ernance between the faculty, the Regents and the administration of the University is the mechanism by which we fulfill our responsibility.

To that end, please take a few minutes to look over some of the faculty senate committees and their charges, to see where YOU could play a role in that mission.



Future meeting dates

Faculty Senate Meeting:

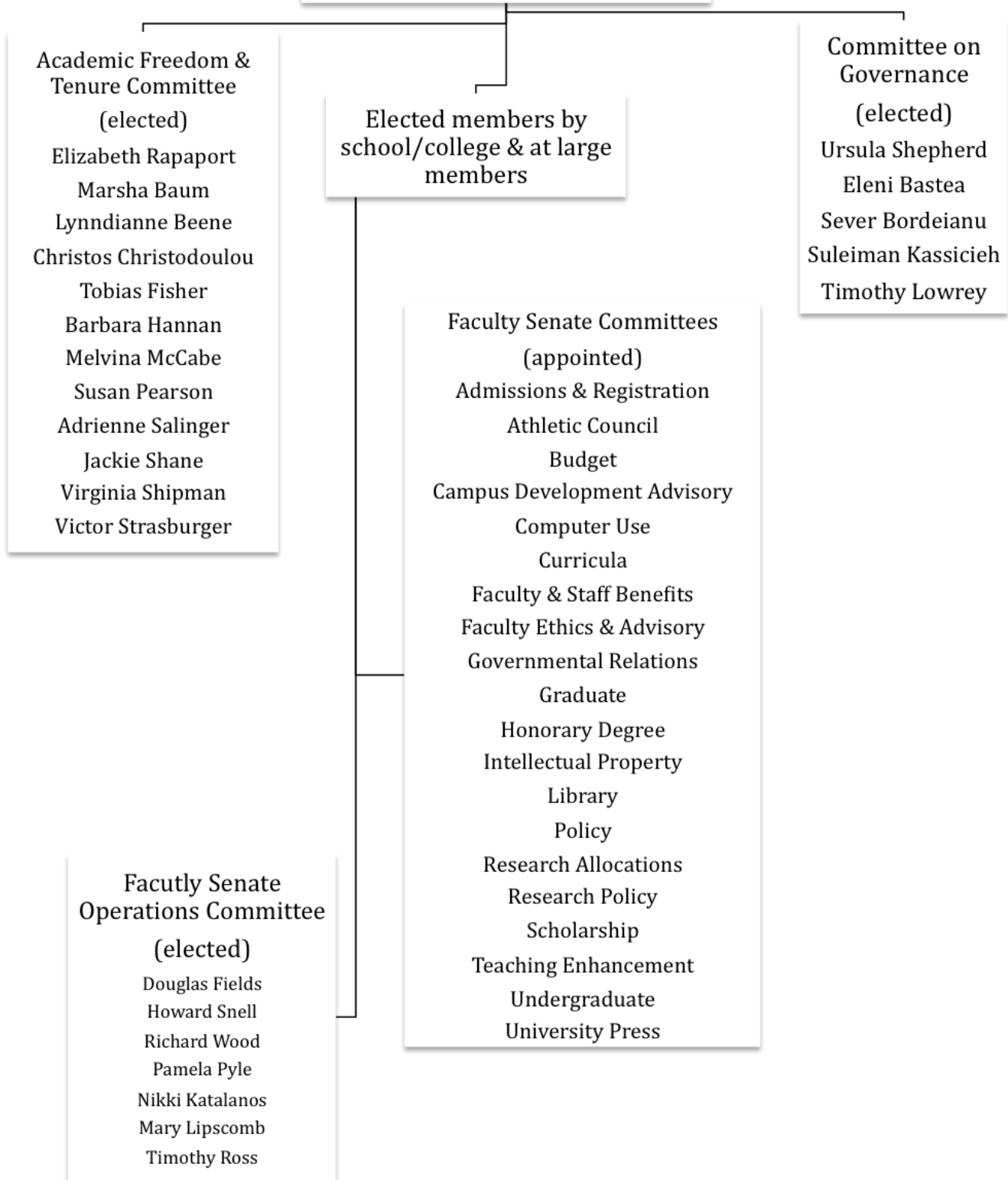
Tues, August 25, 2009, 3:00 p.m.
Lobo Room, Rm 3037, S.U.B.
(See page 7 for agenda)

General Faculty Meeting:

The Committee on Governance is still deliberating on when a general faculty meeting for this fall will be held.



General (Voting) Faculty



Committee on Governance

This committee consists of five members of the general faculty who serve three-year terms.

A committee of five voting members of the general faculty to be known as the Committee on Governance who are not members of the Faculty Senate shall be nominated and elected by mail ballot for

overlapping

three-year terms.

Duties of this committee are to prepare, in conjunction with the Secretary of the University, the agenda of faculty



meetings; to oversee elections, including referenda; to recommend adjustments, improvements and refinements in the faculty organizational structure; to represent the general faculty to the Senate; and to call meetings of the general faculty when necessary. The committee shall annually elect a chair.

Ursula Shepherd is the current chair of the Committee on Governance. She is an Associate Professor in the University Honors department. She is also Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology. Recently named the 2009-2011 UNM Presidential Teaching Fellow, she has served on several UNM Task Forces and depart-

mental committees, and has focused heavily on international education issues. She received her PhD in Biology from the University of New Mexico in 1994, and held a Postdoctoral fellowship for three years following that. She holds both an M.A. and a B.A. in Social Sciences from the University of the Pacific.

Other members include: Eleni Bastea, Professor—School of Architecture; Sever Bordeianu, Professor—University Libraries General Administration; Suleiman Kassiech, Professor—ASM Finance Intl Tech Management and Timothy Lowrey, Professor—Biology Department.

Academic Freedom & Tenure Committee

Thirteen members of the voting faculty make up this committee.

The principal functions of this committee are: discharging the functions assigned to it under the provisions of the Policy on Academic Freedom and Tenure, reviewing the policy and recommending appropriate changes in it, hearing appeals regarding sabbatical leave

applications and making recommendations for appropriate changes in the sabbatical leave policy of the University.

Elizabeth Rapaport is the current com-



mittee chair. She has been a faculty member at the University of New Mexico since 1995. She is Professor of Law and Philosophy. Rapaport has served twice on the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee and began her second term as chair in 2009. Rapaport began her career at Boston University as a member of the Department of Philosophy. She then taught at the University of Southern California and Duke University. In the course of her academic career, Rapaport has served on a number of college and university level governance and adjudication committees.

Other members include: Marsha Baum, Professor—Intellectual Prop-

erty Law; Lynndianne Beene, Professor—English Department; Christos Christodoulou, Professor—Electrical and Computer Engineering; Charles Cunningham, Associate Professor—Biology Faculty; Tobias Fischer, Associate Professor—Earth and Planetary Science; Barbara Hannan, Associate Professor—Philosophy Department; Melvina McCabe, Professor—Family Community Medicine; Susan Pearson, Professor—Theatre and Dance; Adrienne Salinger, Professor—Art and Art History; Jackie Shane, Associate Professor—University Libraries Science Eng; Virginia Shipman, Professor—Individual Family Comm Education and Victor Strasburger, Professor—Pediatrics.

Faculty Operations Committee

Douglas Fields, Faculty Senate President



Douglas Fields is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy. He has studied or done research at Tennessee Technological University (BS), Florida State University, Indiana University (PhD) and Michigan State University. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1992, Dr. Fields worked as a Postdoctoral Fellow at

Los Alamos National Laboratory conducting research at CERN. Dr. Fields became a tenure track faculty at UNM in 2001. Dr. Fields has served on the Faculty Senate for 2 years.

Howard Snell, Past Faculty Senate President



Howard Snell is a Professor of Biology and Curator of the Division of Amphibians and Reptiles in the Museum of Southwestern Biology. He's been active in the Faculty Senate since 2004. Prior to that his research program concentrated on the evolutionary and conservation ecology of the Galapagos Islands where he led a collaborative program

involving the University of New Mexico and the Charles Darwin Foundation. Stern was president of the Faculty Senate last year and looks forward to working with the new leadership involved in shared governance at UNM.

Richard Wood, Faculty Senate President Elect



Richard Wood is Associate Professor of Sociology. Dr. Wood earned his Ph.D. from the University of California in 1995. He has taught at both the undergraduate and graduate level, and was awarded the 2004 Gunter Starkey Teaching Award for outstanding teaching by the College of Arts and Science. He has served on the UNM faculty's Committee on Governance, the Faculty Senate

and various committees and task forces within the College of Arts & Sciences, the Latin American and Iberian Institute and the Department of Sociology.

Pamela Viktoria Pyle, Past Associate President



Pamela Viktoria Pyle is a Professor of Piano and Collaborative Piano at the University of New Mexico. She has studied at the New England conservatory, Aspen and the Juilliard School. Pamela has served on the Faculty Senate for five years. She has completed two years on the Operations Committee and

served as the Associate Senate President for the fall of 2008.

Timothy Ross, Voting Member



Timothy Ross is a registered professional engineer with over 30 years experience in the fields of computational mechanics, hazard survivability, structural dynamics, structural safety, stochastic processes, risk assessment and fuzzy systems. He has B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in civil engineering from Washington State, Rice

and Stanford Universities, respectively. He has been an engineering educator at the University of New Mexico since 1987.

Nikki Katalanos, Voting Member



Nikki Katalanos is the Director of the UNM Physician Assistant Program. She graduated from the University of Florida Physician Assistant Program and earned her Doctorate in Health Education/Intercultural Communication from the University of New Mexico. She has practiced primary care in NM for nearly 30 years.

She has served on the UNM Faculty Senate for a total of 6 years and this will be her fourth term of office on the Operations Committee.

Mary Lipscomb, Voting Member



Mary Lipscomb is a professor in the School of Medicine. She was on the faculty of the Department of Pathology at UT Southwestern Health Sciences Center for 20 years before coming to the University of New Mexico. She has served for 12 years as the chair of the Department of Pathology. She is involved in graduate student and post doc-

toral education. She has served for one year on the Faculty Senate and operations committee

Higher Learning Commission Report

Richard Wood

During Spring 2009, UNM engaged in its ten-year re-accreditation under the Higher Learning Commission, our accreditation body. The final report must still be approved, but the draft report has been accepted by the UNM Administration as the basis for proceeding forward. It is publicly available [here](#) (be sure to download both the "Assurance" and the "Advancement" sections). The elected faculty leadership **strongly urge** all UNM faculty, administrators, staff, and students to read the report – we think it gets the picture largely right, offers excellent insight into dynamics at the University, and carries very real weight as UNM moves forward.

Essentially, the Assurance section is the "evaluative" section, which provides the record of the visit and the team's recommendations for reporting requirements.

The team recommends two "reporting requirements" (which essentially means areas of most significant concern), with UNM due to report back in January 2011. The first focuses on student advising and student:advisor ratios, identifying an urgent need for investing in student advisement in support of undergraduate success. The second and most substantial reporting requirement focuses on university governance, including the administrative structure of the University, the voice of faculty within decision-making, and the role of the Regents. This section also includes the overall recommendation for accreditation status: the report recommends re-accreditation for the full 10 years, but with the two ongoing areas of concern identified above and with a notation that accreditation period could be shortened if governance issues are not adequately addressed. The Advancement section

is more of the "consultative" portion for the visit and provides some expansion on the team members' observations as well as advice for continued improvement.

Thus, the HLC appears likely to adopt a full 10-year accreditation cycle with two reporting requirements, centered on student advising and university governance (the latter including ongoing monitoring of UNM's efforts to address problems in this area). Final action and notification for UNM's accreditation status will be provided by the HLC early this fall. The UNM faculty leadership is committed to engaging fully with the Administration and Regents in responding to the HLC Report, as a mechanism for undertaking the urgent tasks of fostering research/teaching/service excellence and student success at New Mexico's flagship research university.

Audit Status

Douglas Fields

After the February 25 meeting of the general faculty, the Faculty Senate President convened an ad-hoc Audit Committee to define the scope of the requested audit. That committee submitted its [report](#) to the office of the State Auditor on April 3. The president had sent the administration's interpretation of the audit request to State Auditor Balderas on the March 9. On August 4, State Auditor Balderas forwarded his recommendations for the scope of work of the audit to the Faculty Senate President and President Schmidly. His Recommended Scope of Work is closely aligned with the Faculty Senate ad-hoc Audit Committee's recommendations and includes:

- 1) Budget comparisons of "restricted" I&G funds/expenditures/revenues at the college or office level broken down into the following categories: (a) instructional; (b) academic support; (c) student services; (d) institutional support; (e) physical plant; (f) any other units receiving I&G for FY03, FY04, FY05, FY06, FY07, FY08 and FY09.
- 2) A detailed analysis of F&A revenues and allocations/expenditures sufficient to explain the OVPR debt and the reduction in the F&A return to the units for FY03, FY04, FY05, FY06, FY07, FY08 and FY09. Include a comparison

of budgeted amounts to actual expenditures/revenues.

- 3) A detailed analysis of the amount of funds that were "harvested" (including the tax on growth in fund balances), and where the money was transferred for FY03, FY04, FY05, FY06, FY07, FY08 and FY09. This analysis should include details of revenues and transfers into and out of the Reserves (I&G contingency account or undesignated fund balances). Include a comparison of budgeted amounts to actual expenditures/revenues where applicable.
- 4) A detailed analysis of how the current operations of the Rio Rancho campus are being funded including the impact on the I&G budgets for FY10 and FY11.

An additional recommendation was to use the firm currently conducting the FY09 fiscal audit for the university. President Schmidly and I met on August 14 and a request for quotation was sent to Moss Adams to get an estimate on the cost of the audit. The University Council's office believes that the audit must fall under the authority of the Regent's Audit Committee. I will approach the Regent's Audit Committee to ask for access to all information concerning this audit, and participation in all discussions together with a faculty expert.

Faculty Senate Committee Openings

Administration and Registration

-There are 5 openings: 4 must be from main campus school or college (other than A&S, University Libraries and ASM). The other opening must be filled from Branch. These are 2 year terms.

Budget

-There are 3 openings: COE (2 year term), Nursing (3 year term) and Pharmacy (3 year term).

Computer Use

-There are 3 general faculty openings and these are 2 year terms.

Curricula

-There are 6 openings: A&S (Natural Physical Sciences and Math), COE, Pharmacy, Architecture/Planning and Public Administration. These are 2 year terms. There is also an opening available to the Dental Hygiene Program and the term will be one year.

Faculty & Staff Benefits

-There are 3 staff openings that are appointed by Staff Council

Graduate

-There are 2 openings: A&S (Social Sciences) and Fine Arts. These are 3 year terms.

Library

-This committee needs a chair and there are 5 openings: 2 for A&S from Natural Sciences, 1 for A&S from Humanities, 1 from Fine Arts OR Architecture/Planning and 1 from Branch Campus. These are 3 year terms

Research Policy

-This committee needs a chair and there is one opening for Fine Arts.

Scholarship

-There are 2 general faculty openings for 2 year terms

Early Retirement

UNM is looking into the possibility of creating an early retirement incentive plan for faculty, and has solicited input from faculty. The appropriate Faculty Senate bodies will provide such input, and individual faculty are welcome to do so as well. If a well-structured plan is feasible, it might provide a way to facilitate retirement for those interested AND advance UNM's academic excellence by hiring new tenure-track faculty in the current hiring market.

An announcement should be forthcoming this Fall as to whether such a

plan will be offered. The elected faculty leadership is committed to assuring that savings from such a plan are reinvested in tenure-track faculty AND that such a plan does not cut retirement pay.

Faculty Governance will work with the administration through FS committees and direct communication, and will keep you posted as we know more.



University of New Mexico

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Agenda for Faculty Senate meeting, Aug. 25, 2009

RETREAT TOPICS

1. Introduction and Welcome
2. Faculty Senate President's Report
3. Provst and Executive Vice President Suzanne Ortega
4. President David Schmidly
5. Board of Regents President Raymond Sanchez

Information
 Douglas Fields

Discussion

Discussion

Discussion

SENATE MEETING AGENDA TOPICS

6. Approval of Agenda
7. Acceptance of the April 28, 2009 Summarized Minutes

TYPE OF ITEMS/ PRESENTER(S)

Action
Action

CONSENT AGENDA TOPICS

8. Summer 2009 Degree Candidates
9. Faculty Senate Committee Appointments

Action
 Douglas Fields

Action
 Douglas Fields

AGENDA TOPICS

10. New Business and Open Discussion
11. Adjournment