

5-13-1997

Faculty Senate President Annual Report, 1996-1997, vol 21 & 22

UNM Faculty Senate

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/fs_documents

Recommended Citation

UNM Faculty Senate. "Faculty Senate President Annual Report, 1996-1997, vol 21 & 22." (1997). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/fs_documents/306

This Report is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Faculty Senate Documents by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact amywinter@unm.edu.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

1996-97

VOLUME 22

The University of New Mexico
Faculty Senate

Annual Report of the President - May 13, 1997

Post Tenure Review - Today, we will ask for your approval of a negotiated settlement of the differences between the Faculty Senate-approved policy and the Regents amended version.

Support of faculty governance - Largely through the negotiating skill of Prof. Helen Damico, the Operations Committee has convinced the administration of the need for stronger support of faculty governance. Next year, funds will be available for the formal buyout of the time of the Faculty Senate President. We also hope to obtain funding for a graduate assistant to assist the Operations Committee and the President.

Resolution in Support of Tenure - The Senate passed a resolution reaffirming our commitment to faculty tenure, and calling on President Peck to reaffirm his commitment to the same. President Peck did so at the April 10 meeting of the Board of Regents. His transcribed comments are available at this meeting.

Task-force to examine administrative structure - In light of the financial situation and the cutbacks announced by the Provost, the Senate voted to establish a task-force to examine the administrative structure of the university. Prof. Neeraj Magotra has recruited members for this group.

Textbook costs - Senator Deborah Graham headed a group to examine the textbook pricing policies of the UNM Bookstore. She presented her report at the April 8, 1997, meeting of the Senate. Using a representative sample of books, they found that 31% were priced above list price, while 57% were priced below list. She suggested that the Bookstore management adopt a more flexible pricing policy, because a student who finds that even one book is overpriced will feel gouged.

The Bookstore management has suggested that an ad-hoc group of faculty be appointed to examine other concerns expressed by faculty about the bookstore operation. We will recruit volunteers for this group in the near future.

Use of Part-time Faculty at UNM - The ad-hoc task-force has received responses to the initial questionnaire. The group met only once during the Spring Semester. I did not push the issue because of the press of other issues, and the consideration that the situation would change this year with the freeze on tenure-track hiring.

Evaluation of chairs and deans - The policies passed at the February 25, 1997, Senate meeting were on the agenda for the May 6 meeting of the Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Because two members of the committee had not received their agenda packets in time to examine the policies, they were tabled to a later meeting.

Resolution on State Science Curriculum Standards - State Board of Education acknowledged receipt of the resolution. We received a response from one of the members of the Board, saying in essence that neither evolution nor creationism were included in the standards. It may be noted that the State Board of Education recently voted to include the discussion of evolution in its performance standards.

Faculty conflict resolution - It was hoped that the Faculty Ethics and Welfare Committee would work on this issue during the 1996-97 year, but this was not accomplished. The Operations Committee will look into establishing an ad-hoc task force.

Honorary degree candidates - The Senate confirmed the selection of two candidates for honorary degrees, to be awarded at the May 17, 1997, commencement ceremony.

Task force to review the processes for evaluation of upper-level administrators - The Senate voted to establish a task-force to examine the existing processes for evaluation of upper-level administrators and to recommend possible changes to those processes. This task-force will be developed in the near future.

Purchase of tree in honor of Anne J. Brown - Members of the Senate, as well as others in the university community, contributed to purchase one of the new trees to be planted on the UNM campus in honor of Anne J. Brown, University Secretary Emerita. It should also be noted that a tree was also purchased in memory of John N. Durrie, the first University Secretary, by former President Ferrel Heady.

A plaque denoting the gifts is being placed inside the entrance to the Alumni Memorial Chapel.

Continuity in faculty governance - The Senate discussed proposals from the Operations Committee that would improve the continuity in faculty governance. Recommendations arising from these discussions are included in today's agenda.

Changes in charges to Faculty Senate committees - The Senate approved changes in the charges for nine committees, and will consider three more today.

Scholarship policy - Thanks to the tenacity of Prof. Larry Lavender, the Scholarship, Prizes and Loans Committee has finally gained access to records necessary to evaluate complaints and concerns about the administration of the university's scholarship programs.

Research Fraud Policy (interim) - The Senate approved this policy at the September 10, 1996, meeting.

Concerns with academic programs -

1. Core Curriculum - The Regents Academic and Student Affairs Committee voted to recommend the policy to the Board for approval. It will be on the agenda for the Board of Regents meeting on Friday, May 16.

2. Student outcomes assessment - The Senate heard a report by Prof. Diane Marshall on the development of the process required by our accrediting agency. Three Senators volunteered for a faculty advisory board.

3. Resolution on writing - The Senate passed a resolution calling for an evaluation of writing skills to be part of outcomes assessment.

4. Recruitment and retention of students - The Senate heard a report from Asst. Vice-president for Academic Affairs David Stuart. An administrative task force was established to look into this on a crash basis for 1997. The administration has also hired an outside consulting firm that has been successful at other institutions.

5. The Senate sponsored an open forum on the Western Governors University at the behest of the Community Education Committee. The Executive Director and another staff member from the Commission on Higher Education presented information and answered questions.

6. The Operations Committee received some specific responses to our inquiries about academic drift. This will be pursued further and include effects of the financial situation and the administrative responses thereto.

7. Curricula - The Senate considered 78 proposals (Forms C & D) referred by the Faculty Senate Curricula Committee, and will consider eight more today.

Quality of life -

1. Student Health Center - The Senate heard about programs for dealing with difficult students.

2. Parking resolution - VP McKinney has established a Transportation Advisory Committee, with several subcommittees charged with specific areas. At least two faculty members are on each subcommittee. There will be no increase in parking fees for the coming year.

3. Tuition and fees - The Senate adopted a report from the Faculty Senate Budget Committee that includes the conclusions that tuition at UNM is low in comparison with peer and regional institutions, and that financial aid available to students has increased at a rate greater than tuition and fees. This report was passed on to the Board of Regents.

It should be noted that the earnings from the state lottery will be available for the first time next year. New Mexico residents graduating from New Mexico high schools in 1996 and later, and attending New Mexico institutions of higher learning will be eligible for tuition scholarships after the first semester as long as they carry a full load and maintain a 2.5 GPA.

4. Faculty salary inequities - The College of Education Faculty Committee asked the Senate to look into this question. Information developed by the Faculty Senate Budget Committee was passed on. In addition, the Faculty Senate jointly sponsored, with the UNM chapter of AAUP, an open forum and budget and salary issues on April 15, 1997.

5. Improved retirement benefits - The proposal to increase the multiplier to determine retirement benefits from 2.35% for each year of service to 2.5% was not introduced into the legislative session. The Educational Retirement Board learned from its actuaries that the proposal for increased employer contribution to fund this increase was inadequate.

Memorial Minutes - The Senate heard memorial minutes for four deceased members of the UNM faculty.