

Faculty Operations Committee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 2.2.21 Recorded by: Susan Schauer

Next Meeting: Tuesday 11 am Mar. 2, 2021

Name	Title	Present
Tom Beach	President	Y
Irina Alvestad	Vice President	Y
Susan Schauer	Secretary	Y
Dennis Davies-Wilson	Faculty Senator	Y
Mario Velardi	Member	Y
Kris Nadler	Member	Y
Min Ro	Member	Y

Committee approved past minutes from 12.1.20

Faculty Senate elections – position requires full time faculty, Dennis has reached term limit. Mario volunteers to run for the position. Reuben hasn't responded to email – but did so just after the meeting, so he will also be on the ticket. Dennis will create the surveymonkey for the election. We can't have a write-in option because surveymonkey charges for use of comment box. The position won't take effect until next August, Dennis functions through April.

Faculty Awards - Cindy Rooney has proposed we offer a new faculty award. We had some discussion of this in recent meetings. Dennis reports that branch faculty senators indicated at a recent meeting that there is a new faculty award under discussion that is open to all branch faculty, and perhaps Faculty Assembly should wait to come up with ideas for a new faculty award until we know what the branch-wide award is about, as not to duplicate efforts. Dennis will look into details on that and report back.

Budget Discussions:

Chancellor attending – Cindy Rooney has accepted an invitation to attend on March 2 at 11am. Items for discussion:

- A new Faculty award program, possibly coordinated with branches
- Budget for 2021-22 academic year
 - This committee unanimously recommends maintaining or expanding line item funding for:
 - Faculty Professional Development – funds in Office of Instruction
 - Faculty Travel award – OI funds
 - A new Grants manager – refill position as soon as possible, there are currently several new grants in the works
 - The 0.5 FTE Science Labs Technician, currently filled on interim basis
 - The 0.25 FTE Industrial Shop Supervisor, unfilled

- The ceramics instructor position, to replace Barb Yarnell, unfilled
 - The welding instructor position
- Irina will recommend to the Executive Council that budget funds be retained for these items

Discussion regarding whether cuts will be required in other areas if the above are funded. Concluded that recommendations can be made without considering impacts at this early stage.

Tom will email Irina with the committee's list of budget recommendations.

Dean's mid-year budget review - Irina found funds are available to award three Faculty Initiative Awards this year.

Faculty Senate - Dennis reports that branch campus faculty senators are discussing forming a permanent branch campus council within the UNM Faculty Senate structure. This would allow the momentum gained by the current Faculty Senate President for branch campus advocacy to continue and enable a show of solidarity among all four branches regarding issues specific to the branch campuses.

Library and Testing Center – Dennis would like to advocate for a permanent 0.5 FTE Testing Center Coordinator to manage and proctor exams such as Accuplacer, high school equivalency, and others. Currently the library staff supports the Accuplacer (Library budget), Kevin Rosenberger is 0.25 FTE for test proctoring requested by instructors (OI budget), and this cost could also be shared by Student Services. Goal is to become a certified testing center for several testing platforms, which require a dedicated coordinator/proctor. Dennis estimates this would require a 0.5 position to start with.

Faculty Assembly and Faculty Senator – Irina will put ~\$1500 into that budget to cover travel by the Faculty Assembly President and Faculty Senator. Both Tom and Dennis haven't used these funds in the past because of zoom options and other reasons, but new representatives may need these funds.

MBS contract – Dennis inquired about follow-up on questions initiated last winter. Susan had requested Gayle obtain data on student use of the bookstore, and also when the current MBS contract ends. This committee would like to request that faculty be included in all future bookstore selection processes.

Note: after the meeting Susan looked up notes that indicated that Tom, Susan and Irina had visited with Cindy Rooney about these issues and Cindy was going to look into them. Tom sent a reminder to Cindy.

Honoraria for classroom speakers - Kris suggested there's a need for a streamlined mechanism for providing honoraria to visiting speakers, in particular experts who speak to classes at invitation of instructor. The current UNM honorarium process is cumbersome – can we develop something that operates in-house?

Grants manager - Kris also mentions that the grants manager should be in-house rather than an outside consultant, because cumbersome processes aren't effective for the short time-frames involved.

Dennis – would it be more beneficial for Cindy Rooney to visit with this committee after legislative session is over in March? Could more accurately report on budget issues. After some discussion it was decided that meeting with Cindy earlier than later would be better.

Office of Instruction funding recommendations by this committee -- Tom will send email to Irina confirming this committee's recommendations and will send email to Cindy Rooney regarding committee recommendations on funding for a testing center and grants manager.

Faculty Senate - Dennis will send entire faculty an email to gather feedback for him to take to UNM Faculty Senate regarding a resolution requesting that The UNM Foundation divest from companies involved in oil and gas drilling and invest in companies working toward greener energy solutions.

Tomorrow's faculty assembly meeting has been arranged by Kathryn and will be recorded.