

Faculty Assembly Meeting Notes, June 15, 2021

The following are notes from a special meeting with new Dean of Instruction, Paul Allen, who began in the position on June 1, 2021. These are meeting notes, not officially approved minutes.

Present: Tom Beach, Dennis Davies-Wilson, Mario Velardi, Min Ro, Irina Alvestad, Paul Allen, Kris Nadler.

The meeting began at 11:02 a.m.

Minutes from the May 2021 meeting were approved.

Members of the Operations Committee introduced themselves to Dean of Instruction, Paul Allen.

The following information about the Faculty Assembly Operations Committee was shared with Paul:

- Tom explained the structure of the Ops Committee, including officer positions, member-at-large positions, and the role of the Faculty Senate representative to main campus. He then read the list of responsibilities in the Faculty Assembly Constitution, and explained that officers are elected by UNM-LA Faculty each fall. He also explained that the Ops Committee meets once a month during the Fall and Spring Semesters.
- Dennis further explained the positive changes that have occurred in the Faculty Senate structure with regard to UNM Branches, mentioning that a permanent Council made up of the Branch Faculty Senators has been proposed. The approval of the formation of this council is in the final stages and will probably be the first order of business during the August meeting of the Faculty Senate, which is the first Senate meeting of the Academic Year.
- Dennis summarized that the Faculty Assembly Operations Committee at UNM-LA is the equivalent of Faculty Senate at UNM-ABQ, and essentially oversees faculty governance issues and ensures that shared governance is honored and maintained at UNM-LA.
- Tom explained the Committee structure at UNM-LA, and how faculty have traditionally been assigned to committees according to their FTE status.

- Dennis explained that the newly ratified Faculty Union Contract may necessitate adjustments to this process, when all said and done.

Faculty Award

Tom provided some brief background about the new award for faculty, for which this committee is in the process of establishing the nomination process and criteria, and the selection process. Paul was invited to provide input during the discussion. Kris Nadler provided an overview of the work she has done on these processes since our last meeting. Paul and various committee members offered suggestions which were briefly discussed. Kris will be incorporating the agreed-upon tweaks to share again with the Ops Committee and Paul for further comment.

It was suggested that we should try to finalize these processes with the current membership, rather than waiting for the first Ops Committee Meeting after new officers and members have been elected in the fall. We will try to finalize and approve the processes over email, but may call another meeting if necessary.

Faculty Handbook

Before Paul signed out of the meeting, Dennis mentioned that revisions to the Faculty Handbook are in progress, and that Kris Nadler is primarily working on them. Tom explained that we will definitely need input from Paul on some of the contents, since the handbook contains both policies and Office of Instruction procedures.

Faculty Senator discussion

Tom explained that Mario Velardi, who was officially elected as the new Faculty Senate representative for the Los Alamos Branch, effective this coming fall, is no longer eligible to serve in that capacity, as he has accepted a position with LANL and will no longer be teaching full time at UNM-Los Alamos. Discussion occurred regarding possible options for determining who will be the Faculty Senator.

- Because Reuben Sanchez was on the ballot for the election that resulted in Mario as the choice, check with him to see if he is still interested and name him as UNM-Los Alamos Faculty Senator.
- Check with other full-time UNM-LA faculty to see if anyone is interested and hold another election.
- Check with Rick Holmes in the University Secretary's Office to see if Dennis is eligible to run again, given that he has lengthy service as Faculty Senator due to being the only full-time faculty member at times, as well as lack of interest from other full-time faculty members.

Irina suggested that we try to keep it simple and offer it to Reuben if he is still interested. Trying to hold another election during summer will be difficult. If Reuben is not interested, and no other full-time faculty member is interested, then Tom will check with Rick Holmes to see if Dennis can continue as the Faculty Senator.

If Reuben is interested, Dennis will mentor him regarding his role as Faculty Senator.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.