

Vice-Chair's Report
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Joe Pfeiffer

Chair Eastman, Associate Dean Peter Gregware, Chris Brown, and I met March 7 to discuss the proposed procedures for handling alleged academic misconduct. Dean Gregware raised concerns that the draft policy escalates the seriousness of a misconduct case too quickly; Senator Brown is working on a revised, somewhat more flexible policy.

ADAC met on March 10.

- Donna Alden presented plans for Bachelor of Applied Studies and Bachelor of Independent Studies degree plans for concentrations in Homeland Security and Emergency Management. These are specific required courses for these concentrations, and would be transcribed as such. While Dr. Alden pointed out that these are specifically not majors, several of the associate deans raised concerns that having specific courses required for a BIS/BAS concentration is not in the spirit of those degrees, and that the transcribed concentrations could easily be mistaken for majors by persons reading the transcript.
- There was discussion of the Crimson Scholars program, with a suggestion that students eligible for Crimson Scholar status be automatically regarded as such, without requiring them to apply (as is now the case). There was also discussion of other possible changes to the program, such as raising the GPA requirement or going to a windowed rather than cumulative GPA.

Due to a scheduling conflict Chair Eastman was unable to attend the March 11 Academic Deans Council meeting, so I attended in her place. Some notes:

- ADC has approved permitting military training and education to transferred as university credit. It is important to note that this is not simply credit for service nor for training such as boot camp; it is specifically for training and education that is recognized by the *American Council of Education Guide* (ACE). This has reached us as Proposition 24-07/08.
- ADC has approved the name change of the Agronomy graduate programs to Plant and Environmental Science. This change has reached us as Proposition 22-07/08.
- A situation has arisen in which a small number of M.S. theses and Ph.D. dissertations contain information that is sensitive enough that there is concern that their publication would jeopardize the anonymity of study participants, so there is a request that they be embargoed for a set period of time (the request is for three years). It is noted that there have been other situations in which a dissertation or thesis may contain proprietary or classified information, which might also need to have publication delayed. NMSU has no policy appropriate to these situations as yet; a task force chaired by Dean Titus and including several deans, the VP for Research, and the Chair of the Faculty Senate has been formed to consider the matter.
- HED has asked that NMSU, as well as other universities in the state, create a task force to consider the treatment of part-time faculty. Apparently there are concerns that they may not be being treated fairly as regards benefits, pay, ability to compete for tenure-track positions, etc.

Chair Eastman, President Martin, Provost Cruzado, Dean Moulton and I met March 19 to discuss the progress of the faculty workload policy approved by Faculty Senate as Prop 01-07/08. As President Martin and Provost Cruzado are of the opinion that the policy cannot be considered completely in isolation of potential financial impact, it will be getting considered by the Admin Council. Meanwhile, clarification is being sought as to when and whether ADC approved the policy last spring.

President Martin and other members of the administration met with faculty senators on March 20 to discuss salary issues. The President is considering postponing a portion of raises until January in order to build up a pool that could be used for one-time bonuses. He also mentioned the inappropriateness of the state funding formula for universities such as ours, as it completely fails to recognize NMSU's mission of research and service as well as teaching. He

mentioned that NMSU is exploring the possibility of creating an endowment by leveraging our land holdings and water rights.

The General Education Course Certification Committee met March 13. There is a tremendous backlog of courses which are overdue for re-certification; at the same time, it appears that many of the courses we list as general education courses have not been offered in so long that the automatic five-year delete may delete them. Cynda Clary will be stepping down as Chair of the committee, and will be replaced by Jozi De Leon.

Reorganizing our chapter of the Policy Manual continues. Once again, I'm expecting a complete draft to be available for comment very shortly.

Respectfully submitted,
Joseph J. Pfeiffer, Jr.