

December 13, 2006

New Mexico Council of Graduate Deans
Draft Minutes of the December 1, 2006 meeting
Held at New Mexico State University,
Las Cruces, New Mexico
(Minutes prepared by Linda Lacey, chair lacey@nmsu.edu)

Present: Dean Amy Wohlert, UNM; Dean David Johnson, NM Tech; Provost Faye Vowell, Dr. Marcia Bourdette, Western New Mexico University; Dr. Josephine De Leon, Deputy Secretary of NM Higher Education Department; Dean Linda Lacey, NMSU

Absence: Due to weather problems Dean Phillip Shelley, Eastern New Mexico University, and Provost Placido Gomez, New Mexico Highlands University
Votes from both institutions were emailed to Dean Lacey, NMSU prior to the vote that took place December 1, 2006.

Presenters: Dr. James Peach, Dean Garrey Carruthers, Vice President Vimal Desai Chaitanya, New Mexico State University and Dean Joseph L. Cecchi, University of New Mexico

Review of the Minutes of June 28th 2006: The meeting began at 1:40 pm. The minutes from the June 28, 2006 meeting was approved.

Roundtable Discussion: Several of the campuses are dealing with issues of academic ethics including plagiarism and academic dishonesty. We also discussed issues dealing with institutional research approvals and graduate student research. Several of the campuses are developing and/or implementing training workshops on ethics and research proposal clearance processes. It was agreed that we will share workshop agendas at future meetings of the Council.

New program proposals underway at NMSU include a joint doctoral degree in Information Technology and Management with NM Tech and UNM, and a Master's of Arts in Chemistry. UNM is developing an Interdisciplinary Master's degree.

Discussion of the proposed changes to 5 NMAC 5.2: Dean Lacey reviewed two areas that constitute major changes to the administrative code. This includes changes to certificate programs, and dormant degree programs. The proposed changes on certificate programs would allow institutions to internally review and approve certificate programs that do not require new resources for implementation.

Most of the discussion focused on dormant degree programs. In the current 5 NMAC 5.2, degree programs that haven't admitted students for a period of three years must be removed from the list of degrees offered in the Graduate School catalog. To admit new students into a dormant program, institutions must develop a new degree proposal based

on the guidelines provided by 5 NMAC 5.2. The proposed change states that institutions of higher education must inform the New Mexico Higher Education Department about dormant programs annually and indicate whether or not the program will be deleted or revised to attract new graduate students. Questions were raised about the purpose of the flagging study and its relationship to the proposed change on dormant programs. The purpose of the flagging study is to collect information on dormant programs. It was decided that the flagging study should not be tied to proposed changes in 5 NMAC 5.2.

Dr. De Leon mentioned that the proposed changes to 5 NMAC 5.2 also requires language on programs that wish to split into separate departments. It was agreed that Dr. De Leon will develop language to address the separation of departments and degree programs.

Dr. De Leon announced that the public meeting on the proposed changes to 5 NMAC 5.2 will take place on January 5, 2007 in Santa Fe. All Council members are invited to attend the meeting.

Report from the New Mexico Higher Education Department: The New Mexico Higher Education Department has developed an internal review board for new degree proposals that consists of representatives from the Legislative Finance Committee, Department of Finance, Office of Workforce Training and Development and the State Board of Finance. The New Mexico Board of Finance as well as the NM HED review board will focus on program costs, duplication issues, collaboration across institutions in building and sustaining programs, and the need for state appropriations to support new degree proposals. Dean Johnson invited leadership from the NMHED on the matter of how tuition charges might be accommodated for students from one university who are taking a class from another NM publicly-funded university. As distance courses are shared between universities, this will be increasingly at issue. Dr. De Leon reported that this will be examined by a subgroup of the NM Learning Network Steering Committee.

Presentation of new degree proposals:

- a) The proposal for a Doctoral degree in Economic Development was discussed first. The proposal was presented on June 28, 2006. The Council liked the idea of a professional doctoral degree in Economic Development but felt that the proposal needed additional clarification prior to being presented to the Academic Council for Higher Education and the State Board of Finance. Questions and concerns about the proposal by the Council were summarized and given to the faculty of NMSU. On September 25, 2006, NMSU addressed the questions and concerns raised by the Council. In addition, faculty of NMSU reorganized the proposal so that the program of study is featured in the text of the proposal. The revised proposal was presented by Dean Garrey Carruthers and Dr. James Peach. During the December 1st meeting issues were raised about the listing of new degree courses as part of the proposed degree. It was mentioned that the proposed new courses will be developed and approved provided that the proposal is approved by the state of New Mexico. The proposal received five positive votes and one abstention.