

NEW MEXICO INSTITUTE OF MINING AND TECHNOLOGY

FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Tuesday, November 3, 2015

Workman 101 - 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES

1. Call to order and approval of minutes

Chair Dave Raymond called the meeting to order at 4:05 pm with a call for approval of the October 6

This leads to our one piece of business that was voted on and passed at the last Council of Chairs meeting. This is changing our Institute minimum credit requirement from 130 to 120 hours. The point is that we have an Institute requirement currently that is forcing some programs to have students just take courses to meet that requirement. A number of these show up in free electives. Changing to 120 credit hours is consistent with what is going on with the State today but allowing the programs to decide themselves what the requirements would be. If this is approved, we have to determine exactly how to enter it into the catalog. Dr. Mary Dezember has some ideas and offered support on how to enter this into the catalog. Dr. Ostergren noted that our approach would be to work on this and have it included in the next catalog update.

A lengthy conversation was held discussing concerns including accurately wording this change in the catalog and pressure that NMT will be forced to lower credits for all programs.

President Lopez stated that we are trying to explain to others that one of the reasons NMT is what it is, is because of the types of programs that we have and the requirements. This is our belief and this is what we are trying to defend. However, the reality is that we have a Board that is very much is lockstep with what the State is trying to do. That is to reduce and force everyone to be at 120 hours. President Lopez expressed to the Board that this is a slippery slope and a long headed approach to a quality education. If we don't put in any effort that even appears that we are trying to meet them, then we are inviting them to come down and institute a law. We stand to lose quality students and faculty. Dr. Warren Ostergren has shown data that shows the other factors that are driving graduation rates. It is a mistake to just say no. We can give a little and show data that shows other ways that impacts the graduation rate.

Dr. Ostergren stated that we can defend our credits based on the success of our programs. We are getting input from our alumni and our employers. If we show that we are taking a step in the direction of lowering our credits, indicates our willingness to work with those that have this interest. Our commitment is not to force any program to do anything that they do not want to do.

Dr. Brain Borchers noted that students receive Federal financial aid up to 190 credits. If this changed, than the number would be lowered to 180 credits. This would greatly affect our transfer students. Sara Grijalva noted that federal financial aid is 150% max for a student's program. Their financial aid maximum would be adjusted accordingly.

Dr. Warren Ostergren motioned on behalf of the committee to change the Institute minimum requirement from 130 to 120 credit hours. Dr. Steve Simpson made a friendly amendment for clarity to add "We support the move to lower the minimum credits needed for graduation to 120, as we do believe that this is a critical step toward satisfying concerns about students' time to graduation. We wish to emphasize, however, that individual departments should only drop their own de-

ing the current General Education requirements, as these are essential to providing our graduates with a foundational well-rounded education.” Several nays. Motion passed.

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f. Graduate Deadline Updates

Dr. Lorie Liebrock announced there are t

9. Adjournment.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11 pm by unanimous decision.