

Faculty Senate President's Report, BOR Meeting, 13 January, 2009
Howard L. Snell, President, UNM Faculty Senate

Good morning and welcome to 2009. The Faculty Senate has several points for this morning's report. Several of them represent follow ups of the five points we presented at the Special BOR meeting of 18 December 2008.

1. As we've communicated previously, the Faculty Senate encourages increasing the direct involvement of Deans and Department Chairs in setting and implementing all policy at UNM. We are encouraged to hear that this is happening to some degree and we're ready to help the process in any way possible. At the last BOR meeting, a point was made suggesting that financial resources could be conserved by limiting searches for Deans to internal candidates. While the Faculty Senate recognizes that current employees of UNM could include the best candidates for future Deans in some cases, we also realize that can only be determined when internal candidates are compared to those identified in a national search. Thus we plan to work with the Administration to formulate policy that would require national searches for tenure track faculty, Deans, and upper level administrative positions. The goal of that policy will be to encourage internal applications for such positions to make the pools of potential applicants as broad as possible.
2. At the 18 December 2008 BOR meeting some questions were raised about how funds required to service debt associated with bonds at UNM flowed through our financial systems. Those questions arose after we learned that those funds were not reflected on the budget summaries provided at BOR meetings. Faculty Senate President-Elect Doug Fields met with Executive VP David Harris and VP Andrew Cullen who explained some of the issues associated with servicing bond-associated debt. Based on those discussions, the Faculty Senate would like to recommend that the budget summaries be amplified to reflect a summary of bond-associated debt and the flow of revenue used to meet those obligations.
3. The Faculty Senate realizes that we still don't have a full appreciation of the potential budgets for 2009/10 nor the details of 2008/09 budget rescissions. However, recent statements by Governor Richardson suggest that we'll be facing cuts. The Faculty Senate would like to emphasize points we've made before: Reasonable solutions for facing those cuts can't concentrate only on reducing costs of academic programs. We need to find additional funds for academic programs if we are to maintain the quality at UNM that we hope will increase our enrollments and move us into the American Association of Universities. Furthermore, it is extremely important that the academic units of Departments and Colleges/Schools along with their leaders – Department Chairs and Deans, be allowed complete flexibility in determining how they will allocate resources to meet their missions.
4. At a previous BOR meeting, there was some discussion about reviewing UNM's policies regarding Honorary Degrees. Because the Honorary Degree Committee is a

Faculty Senate committee, I recommended a review team to the President's Office on 19 November 2008. That review team should consist of:

- A. The current Chair of the Honorary Degree Committee.
- B. The past Chair of the Honorary Degree Committee.
- C. Because the Honorary Degree Committee is a subcommittee of the Senate Graduate Committee, the Chair of the Senate Graduate Committee should be invited to participate or name a delegate from the faculty currently on the Senate Graduate Committee.
- D. Because Honorary Degrees are Graduate Degrees, the Dean of the Graduate School should be invited to participate or name a faculty delegate (if the Dean wished - that representation could be delegated to the Senate Graduate Committee as in C, but if the Dean wants direct representation then that should be provided).
- E. Because this relates directly to issues of Faculty Governance, there should be a representative from the Governance Committee.
- F. Because the granting of degrees is an academic issue usually vested in the faculty, there should be a representative from the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee.
- G. Because we're reviewing a long standing policy within the Faculty Handbook, we should invite the Chair of the Faculty Senate Policy Committee to participate or name another member of their committee.
- H. A representative from the Faculty Senate Operations Committee.
- I. A representative from the Board of Regents.

This review team has yet to meet and the Faculty Senate is concerned that one of our important committees will fail to fulfill its duties for 2008/09. Thus the Faculty Senate Operations Committee will meet with the current Chair of the Honorary Degree Committee this afternoon to discuss how we should proceed. Hopefully, my next report to you will include progress by this important committee.