

Proposition 21-09/10

Sponsor: Anne Hubbell, Nancy Baker (A&S)

Proposed Committee Assignment: Emergency Legislation

Title: A Memorial In Honor Of Dr. Rebecca M. Verser

Dr. Rebecca Verser, NMSU Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication Studies, passed away on Wednesday, April 7, 2010. Dr. Verser was only 35 when she passed away, leaving a young daughter and her husband.

Rebecca was respected by faculty, students, and staff at NMSU. Although Rebecca was active in a wide range of departmental and university projects, many of us remember her for the constant and positive support she gave to undergraduate and graduate students.

Rebecca was the Graduate Program Director for the Communication Studies Department, the first person to officially run the graduate program. Under her leadership the program, grew exponentially in numbers of graduate students from an average of 20 to up to 50 last year. She was their mentor and sometimes the person who had to correct them. They respected her for her belief in them but also in her high expectations of them. She organized an unorganized program and always took time to listen, counsel, and research with our graduate as well as undergraduate students.

Dr. Verser was also active in the Teaching Academy and was invited to run a semester-long workshop for graduate teaching assistants. Students told me that the workshop was one of the best experiences they had at NMSU.

Many of us may have seen the tribute the undergraduate and graduate students, including alumni, did for her that was portrayed on News22. The love and respect for this great teacher we believe are well portrayed there.

Rebecca's dedication to NMSU and its students will long be remembered and sorely missed. The NMSU Faculty Senate extends its deepest condolences and sympathies to the family, friends, students, colleagues and all who knew this remarkable young woman.