

Minutes - Draft

Faculty Senate Meeting

December 12, 2007

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University

3:07 pm

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Maureen Romine, Chuck Swim, Orit Tamir, David Lobdell, Merryl Kravitz, , Peter Linder, John Jeffries, Yongseek Kim, Mike O'Brien, Mary Shaw (proxy for Merritt Helvenston) April Kent, Mary Romero, Jane Gorman, Julius Harrington.

Absent: Daniel Martinez.
3. Approval of Agenda – Approved unanimously.
4. Approval of Minutes of November 14th - Approved with minor corrections – 2 abstentions.
5. Communication from the Administration – there was no member of the administration present.
6. Communication from the Chair, Dr. Romine:
 - o Agenda for Senate meetings will be sent to all faculty and approved minutes are posted on NMHU's web page.
 - o Pino application was sent out. Both Pino and Ballen endowments are available for applicants.
 - o Dr. Romine asked faculty senators to inquire among their colleagues about issues they would like the senate to work on during Spring semester.
7. Communication from Academic Affairs Committee – Dr. John Jeffries:
 - a) A report on using comprehensive exams in the School of Education was submitted to Academic Affairs. A motion to allow the School of Education to use comprehensive exams as an option passed.
 - b) A motion supporting the School of Education's proposal for a concentration in accounting in the MBA program passed.
8. Old Business - Grading System:
Dr. Romine asked for responses by department/school representative/s
 - a) Mary Romero and Chuck Swim – some faculty of the School of Business are for the proposed changes in the grading system but with adding A+. There is also a concern that C- is not a passing grade in the major.

- b) Meryll Kravitz received a variety of responses that were generally in favor of some changes to the existing system.
- c) Mike O'Brien indicated that those who support the proposed changes will want C- to be a passing grade or get rid of C-. Three individuals oppose the proposed changes.
- d) Youngseek Kim indicated that three colleagues were for the proposed changed and one was against. Adding A+ was suggested.
- e) John Jeffries indicated that his colleagues support the proposed changes with an addition of A+.
- f) Four of Maureen Romine's colleagues opposed the proposed changes, one is neutral, and five support the changes. There is a concern about C- being not a passing grade.
- g) Jane Gorman colleagues were two to one against the proposed changes to the grading system.
- h) Julius Harrington indicated that 75% of the students opposed to the idea primarily because C- is not a passing grade. Graduate students were concerned with B- .
- i) David Lobdell indicated that students opposed to the change.
- j) Peter Linder received a mixed reaction. Two colleagues strongly opposed the proposed change asking whether one can have micrometric precision in humanities. There are also concerns that C- will not count as a passing grade in required courses, and that B- average will deem students ineligible for graduate programs. Students in First Year Experience opposed the proposed changes. In other classes two thirds of the students opposed the proposed changes or did not care.
- k) April Kent indicated that six colleagues were for the proposed changes, the rest were indifferent.
- l) Orit Tamir indicated that two thirds of students who were polled by Behavioral Sciences faculty were for the proposed changes in the grading system. All Behavioral Sciences faculty are for the proposed changes. Behavioral Sciences suggested adding A+.

- A discussion ensued regarding issues such as qualitative differences between low and high B; the possibility that faculty can opt to use grades without applying '- ' or '+;' and, the question on how will a new system work while there are still students who are under the current system?
- The senate decided to get more input from students through a survey on Banner.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
 Orit Tamir, Secretary
 Faculty Senate