

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
February 15, 2006
Donnelly Library, Room 327
3:00 p.m.

- 1. Members Attending:** Dr. David Sammeth; Dr. Jill Baker; Dr. Ken Bentson; Dr. Dan Houtchens; Dr. James Leger; Professor Bob Mishler; Dr. Nicole Montague; Dr. Linda Newman; Dr. Lee Stauffer; Dr. Hossein Tahani; Dr. Margaret Young; Dr. Donna Woodford; Dr. Joseph Sabutis, Faculty Senate; Dr. Placido Gomez, Vice President of Academic Affairs

Members Absent: Dr. Mario Rodriguez; Dr. Luis Ortiz; Dr. Carolyn Newman; Jesse Lopez, Student Senate President

Ex-Officio Members: Mr. John Coca.

Others Present: Dr. Rolando Rael

- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Prior to approval of the agenda, Dr. Sammeth mentioned that Dr. Bentson's proposal for the procedure to be followed with new or changed programs had been discussed at the last meeting that there was a lot of interest in the procedure. In keeping with that, Dr. Mishler passed out a draft proposal for a Bachelor of Science Major in Forensic Science.

Dr. Sammeth requested that a charge from the Faculty Senate, which had been distributed to the committee, be added to the agenda as item 7.4.

Dr. Baker made a motion to approve the February 15, 2006 agenda with the addition of item 7.4. Dr. Houtchens seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

- 3. Approval of Minutes** – There were no minutes to review due to the absence of Susie Maestas.
- 4. Report from Vice President for Academic Affairs** – Dr. Placido Gomez had nothing to report at this time.
- 5. Report from Registrar** – Mr. Coca reported that he had looked into how other schools handle double majors. Currently our catalog reads “any course used toward a certain major or minor may not be used toward another major or minor. When the same course is required for different programs, a substitution will be made for one of them” (38). Mr. Coca reported that other schools do not have this language in

their catalogs. The committee then discussed whether we should eliminate this wording from our catalog and allow departments to determine whether they will allow a course to count for more than one major or minor. Dr. Mishler suggested that the committee should notify the departments that we are considering this and ask for feedback.

6. Report from Subcommittees –

7. New Business

7.1 The English Program proposed a graduate section (517) be added to the currently existing Intro to Modern Grammar (317). This class is required by teachers and education majors seeking bilingual licensure. Questions were raised about having a 3/500 class. The matter was tabled until the committee could receive feedback from the English program as to why it was a 300 level course and not a 400 level course. The motion to table the matter passed with one opposing vote.

7.2 Dr. Sammeth mentioned that a representative from academic affairs was needed on the Retention Committee. Dr. Tahani suggested that he is already serving on this committee and would be willing to serve as the Academic Affairs representative. The motion passed unanimously.

7.3 Margaret Young made a motion that the committee go to a committee of the whole in order to discuss the Bachelor of University Studies program. Dr. Houtchens seconded the motion. Dr. Rael asked the committee what concerns they have about the BUS. The issues raised included how this might interface with continuing education, who would do the advising, whether it might help with retention, and how it could be structured so as to prevent it from devaluing NMHU degrees. Vice President Gomez mentioned that a committee was being formed to work on the BUS degree, and that a representative from Academic Affairs was needed. Dr. Young said that she was already on the committee and she would be willing to serve as the Academic Affairs representative as well. Dr. Houtchens nominated Dr. Young. The motion passed unanimously.

7.4 Dr. Sammeth read the Faculty Senate's charge to the Academic Affairs committee. After some discussion the committee decided that they needed more information about the specific pilot program in English 111. It was determined that the parties involved would be asked to provide additional information at the next meeting.

8. Adjournment – Jill Baker moved that the committee adjourn. Lee Stauffer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.