

Academic Affairs Committee Meeting
May 10, 2006
Donnelly Library, Room 327
3:00 p.m.

- 1. Members Attending:** Dr. David Sammeth; Dr. Jill Baker; Dr. Ken Bentson; Dr. Mario Rodriguez; Professor Bob Mishler; Dr. Margaret Young; Dr. Hossein Tahani; Dr. James Leger; Dr. Carolyn Newman; and Dr. Lee Stauffer.

Members Absent: Dr. Placido Gomez, VP; Dr. Luis Ortiz; Dr. Nicole Montague; Dr. Dan Houtchens; Dr. Joseph Sabutis, Faculty Senate; Jesse Lopez, Student Senate President and Dr. Donna Woodford.

Ex-Officio Members: Mr. John Coca, Registrar.

Others Present: Dr. Mendez, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences; Dr. Eric Romero; Dr. Tom Ward; Dr. Mario Gonzales; and Dr. LaGrange.

- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Dr. Jill Baker made a motion to approve the May 10, 2006 agenda. Dr. Ken Bentson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 3. Approval of April 10, 2006 Minutes** – Dr. Lee Stauffer moved to approve the minutes of April 19, 2006. Dr. Margaret Young seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Report from Vice President for Academic Affairs** – Dr. Gomez was unable to attend the meeting; however, Dr. Sammeth reported that he sent an email to which reads: **“The Academic Affairs Committee asked that I report to it regarding concerns about the First Year Experience. After last week’s meeting, I met with Vice President Cordova and Dean Mendez. We agreed that the course should be placed under an academic component of the University. We also agreed to constitute a committee that would discuss this and other concerns that were raised last week. We request that you recommend two members of the faculty to serve on this committee. I believe that communication would be enhanced if one of the persons you recommend was a member of the Academic Affairs Committee.”**

The Committee also asked that I consider faculty concerns regarding course evaluation. I plan to contact Professor Williams and others who raised concerns. I have not had the opportunity to do this.” (Attachment 1)

Dr. Sammeth indicated that the Academic Affairs Committee needs to have representation from this committee as well as a faculty member not on this committee to serve.

5. **Report from Registrar** – Mr. Coca reported that the Commencement Ceremony will take place on Saturday, May 14th. Dr. Sammeth indicated that there a barbeque was being held after rehearsal for the graduates and their families at the Messina Field.
6. **Report from Subcommittees** – Dr. Baker reported that the Undergraduate Subcommittee still has a few petitions pending. She indicated that the Undergraduate Committee had 23 petitions and 3 hearings versus last semester 13 petitions and 2 hearings. Dr. Young reported that Graduate Subcommittee had 1 appeals and petitions to review.

Dr. Sammeth commended both Drs. Baker and Young for their leadership of these committees.

7. Old Business

- 7.1 **First Year Experience Course-Report from Vice President for Academic Affairs.** Report provided by Dr. Sammeth in Item 4.

8. New Business

- 8.1 **Proposal for Native American/Hispano Cultural Studies Minor** – Dr. Sammeth reported that he received emails concerning the approval of the proposal. After providing his comments, Dr. Leger made a motion to approve the Proposal for the Native American/Hispano Cultural Studies Minor. Professor Mishler after his comments about the proposal; seconded the motion. The proposal was opened for discussion at this point only no voting. (**Attachment 1**)

Dr. Sammeth reported that there are five new courses proposed. Dr. Sammeth indicated that the committee should state whether or not they support the hire of a program coordinator.

The members of the committee that put together the proposal together, Dr. Mario Gonzales, Dr. Tom Ward and Dr. Eric Romero provided were available to answer any questions about the proposed minor. Dr. Gonzales mentioned that the committee's focus was the content area of the proposal, where it would be housed was not brought up.

After discussion of the pros and cons of the proposal, Dr. Sammeth clarified the motion which will include flexibility and specify the hiring of a coordinator and where the program will be housed, which are not specified in the proposal. Dr. Lee Stauffer provided a friendly amendment to the motion which includes flexibility. The proposed program will specify the hiring of a coordinator and where the program will be housed. Dr. Jill Baker seconded the motion. A vote

was taken, there were 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions. Motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Sammeth at this point, requested a motion to amend the agenda to include the discussion of a proposal titled: RN to BSN: A Partnership with Luna Community College. Dr. Young made the motion to amend the agenda, Dr. Baker seconded. The motion passed and this item was added as a new business item.

8.2 RN to BSN Academic Program Proposal – Dr. Linda LaGrange indicated that this program is considered a Major in Nursing. Dr. LaGrange provided some history as to how this program came to be. Dr. LaGrange handed out materials on the initial proposal to the committee members for their review. She also handed out the official request for the Nursing Program, the Memorandum of Understanding with Luna Community and page 7 of the draft. (**Attachment 2**) Dr. LaGrange gave an overall review as to how the program would work and how it would benefit both Luna and Highlands. There was also discussion about addressing the primary concerns, which Dr. LaGrange will respond online: 1. Concern about Anatomy and Physiology Courses and 2. Outcomes Assessment and 3. Details be brought forth about funding.

After discussion of the pros and cons of the program in conjunction with Luna Community College, Dr. Baker made a motion to approve the formation of a Major in Nursing, the second two years of the program. Dr. Tahani seconded the motion. A vote was taken, there were 7 in favor, 2 abstentions and 0 opposed. Motion passed.

Before adjourning, Dr. Sammeth requested that each committee member forward Susie an email contact numbers where they could be reached during the summer months. Dr. Sammeth wished everyone a save summer!

Adjournment – Dr. Baker made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Stauffer seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. by acclamation.