

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**February 11, 2009**  
**3:00 pm, Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University**  
**Approved Minutes**

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Orit Tamir, David Lobdell, David Arguello, David Sammeth (proxy for Merritt Helvenston), Julius Harrington, April Kent, Ken Bentson, Maureen Romine, Stella Helvie, Kathy Jenkins, Jim Peters, Lee Stauffer.  
  
**Others Present:** Dr. Rivera, Genevieve Torres
3. Approval of the agenda – the agenda was unanimously approved as amended – move ‘C’ to the first item on New Business.
4. Approval of 1-28, 2009 Minutes – approved unanimously as corrected.
5. Communication from the administration – Dr. Rivera
  - The wording of the bill concerning the CSF takeover underwent changes.
  - The takeover of the CSF situation has been up and down. As of this morning NMHU is back in the running to takeover the CSF.
  - There is a difference of 25 billion dollars (federal stimulus plan) between the House and the Senate with regard to the Education Bill.
  - Next year NMHU is looking at 1.5 million dollar budget reduction.
6. Communication from the Chair – Dr. Romine
  - Strategic Planning Steering Committee will hold its final meeting tomorrow (2-12-09). A forum will follow.
7. Communication from Academic Affairs – David Lobdell and Ken Bentson
  - The committee will start working on program reviews next month.
  - The committee works on cheating issues.
8. Communication from Student Senate – Genevieve Torres
  - The Student Senate received more bills from clubs. The Senate has \$600 left for clubs.
  - Yesterday was NMHU day with the legislature. A group of students traveled to the Roundhouse to meet with representatives.
9. New Business
  - a. A meeting of the Executive Committee and the Collective Bargaining Executive Committee yielded some concerns with regard to budget.
    - Dr. Jenkins – In governance the Senate should come forward regarding finance and have a voice in how the university spends money.
    - The bargaining team compared NMHU’s budget to that of other New Mexico universities:

- Instructions– NMHU hasn't made a change in the past 10 years. UNM Taos and Northern Community College - NMHU's competitors - allocate much more money to instructions.
- Research – NMHU research funding has gone down by almost 64% despite the fact that the university has a sizable graduate program.
- Academic support – funding has gone down.
- Student support – NMHU has been flat during the past 10 years. During the same period other institutions allocated more money per FTE.
- Scholarships – NMHU increased available funding.
- Dr. Rivera – What percentage of the overall budget goes to instructions? The overall change in 1.7% = more students but not much more funding.
- Dr. Romine – we need a budget and finance committee that will be involved.
- Dr. Bentson moved, and Dr. Peters 2<sup>nd</sup>, to create an ad hoc budget committee – The motion passed unanimously.
- By next Senate meeting Dr. Peters will review the university budget; discuss it with VP Taylor; and, report to the Senate.

- b. Review of Senate Committees – For next meeting senators will review the section of the Handbook pertaining to the Faculty Senate.

Respectfully submitted by

Orit Tamir, Ph.D.  
Faculty Senate Secretary