

Faculty Senate Meeting
November 12, 2008
3:00 pm, Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University

Minutes - Draft

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Orit Tamir, David Lobdell, David Arguello, Peter Linder, Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington, April Kent, Ken Bentson, Maureen Romine, Stella Helvie, Kathy Jenkins, Jim Peters, Merryl Kravitz.

Absent: Lee Stauffer, April Kent

Others present: Dr. Rivera
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Amended agenda was approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of the minutes** – the 10/22/08 minutes approved as amended with two abstentions.
5. **Communication from the administration** – Dr. Rivera
 - The Academic Affairs BOR Subcommittee met on Monday.
 - The subcommittee recommended approving the changes to the Faculty Handbook.
 - Dr. LaGrange outlined changes to the Research Handbook. The subcommittee recommended approving the changes.
 - Certificate programs are not new to NMHU. Anthropology proposes the first of several certificate programs. The proposed CRM Certificate program was presented to the sub-committee. Committee members felt that certificate programs should go to the BOR for approval.
 - Vocational Evaluation does not require BOR approval.
 - The administration recommended the suspension of the Forensic Science program last academic year. For the time being, NMHU found adjunct faculty to teach two forensic science courses next semester.
 - The administration disestablished Computational Engineering program and notified the students.
 - Accreditation – Preparations for NCA is progressing.
 - NCATE – The School of Education will have a retreat on the 24th-25th of this month to Address NCATE.
 - The Nursing program will be visited next spring – the first class is scheduled to graduate December next year.

6. Communication from the Chair – Dr. Romine
 - BOR will meet this Friday. The Faculty Senate will report the following (highlights)
 - Ballen Endowment will sponsor Visiting Scholar Edward Dominguez (Fine Arts). Edward Dominguez is an accomplished artists with nationally recognized record of exhibition, demonstration, and scholarship in his field. The visit will be from November 10th to November 21st and will include working with students in studios, lectures to the public and students, public demonstrations, and social gatherings.
 - Pino Endowment – A call for proposals has gone out and a selection will be made for the spring semester.
 - Strategic Plan – nominations from departments/schools will be sent to President Fries shortly after November 14th.
 - The Faculty Senate is currently working on sections that require revisions due to collective bargaining.
 - BOR Finance and Administration Sub – Committee (April Kent via e-mail)
 - Capital projects are on schedule.
 - A revised version of the Tuition Policy is being sent to the BOR for a vote.
 - The budget outlook for next year is murky. NMHU hopes for a flat budget.
 - A faculty nomination for the strategic plan steering committee – only one name was submitted so far.
7. Academic Affairs – David Lobdell
 - The committee reviewed an informal proposal from the School of Education, course revisions from psychology, and accepted new courses from nursing.
8. No students representatives
 - Dr. Linder – Student Senate discussed the aftermath of Homecoming. The Senate distributed all the funds for the Fall Semester.
9. Old Business:
 - Faculty Affairs charges (below) were approved unanimously.
 - Review and advice Faculty Affairs Responsibilities (Section IV. A.4)
 - Review and advice Definition of Faculty (Section VI.B) and consider the possibility of adding Clinical Faculty.
 - Review and advice Types of Contracts (Section VI.C).
 - Review and make recommendations regarding Sabbatical
 - Academic Affairs charge (below) was approved unanimously.
 - Review and advice Discontinuance of Program or Department Not Mandated by Financial Exigency as well as the related Appeals Procedure (Section VI.L. 2, 3).
10. New Business

- a. Dr. Jenkins – Student Traits: Only 27 individuals responded to the survey. Six traits were identified, 3 of them received 100% approval. This year will mark the start of a 3 year process. It also demonstrates that NMHU is addressing some of its problems even if the university does not solve all of them. Dr. Jenkins asked that the Senate will provide a list of 3-4 traits by December 15th. Faculty Senate approved the following traits:
- Mastery of content knowledge and skills.
 - Effective communication skills.
 - Critical thinking and analytical skills.
 - Effective use of technology.
- b. Faculty Participation in General Faculty Meeting – should we consider not having classes on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm; should we consider doing away with the Senate and have a general faculty meetings instead?

Respectfully Submitted by

Orit Tamir, Ph.D
Faculty Senate Secretary