

Faculty Senate Meeting
August 13,, 2008
Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University
Minutes - Draft

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Orit Tamir, Daniel Martinez, David Lobdell, Mike O'Brien, Jane Gorman, Meryll Kravitz (late), Peter Linder, Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington, Jim Peters, April Kent, Maureen Romine.

Absent: Mary Romero, John Jeffries, Kathy Jenkins

Others present: Dr. Gilbert Rivera
3. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved unanimously as amended.
4. Approval of the minutes – minutes approved with corrections – 8 for and 2 abstentions.
5. Communication from Administration – Dr. Rivera:
 - a. NMHU had a successful recruitment season: 401 new Freshmen already registered and of the additional 80-90 new incoming students some are also Freshmen.
 - b. Problems associated with accommodating incoming students include classes that reached their caps and are closed and shortage in resident halls. Dr. Rivera asked the faculty to be flexible and raise the cap on classes and/or move classes to larger classrooms when possible.
 - c. Annual Evaluations will take place during Fall Semester. Packets are due on September 5th.
 - d. A number of faculty members will apply for tenure, promotion, or both. Evaluation forms will be available online. Dr. Rivera encourages faculty to type the evaluation.
 - e. Reorganization of the CAS and School of Education took place. This is a transition period and Dr. Rivera seeks additional input from departments that underwent reorganization.
 - f. The positions of the two colleges' deans are interim positions. They will remain interim positions until issues pertaining to the reorganization are resolved. At that time deans will be selected to permanent positions.
 - g. Department Heads: this is an in-between term. The positions are interim positions. The Handbook does not address how interim positions are selected. Collective Bargaining allows administration to select interim heads.
 - Dr. Tamir– compensation and release time that was available to chairs are different from what is available to Department Heads. Dr. Rivera

– the administration proposed last Spring that the chair will be available on an on-call basis during the summer for advisement and make sure that they are available during the summer. They will not be required to be physically on campus.

- h. The interim positions of heads will remain in place until the remaining 4 articles of collective bargaining (work load, evaluation, compensation for this year, and grievance) are ratified by the faculty, administration, and BOR.
 - Dr. Romine – the chair selection process is in the Handbook and is not part of terms and condition of employment. Dr. Rivera -the process is being discussed in collective bargaining. According to the Handbook faculty can make recommendations to the administration regarding their selection of chairs. Still, the administration can reject such recommendations and either appoint someone else as chair or request a different recommendation.
 - i. Faculty development plan will be due in November.
6. Communication from the Chair – Dr. Romine
- a. BOR and sub-committee activities.
 - Budget and Finance (Dr. Linder): the financial position of the university is good. The administration encourages people to vote for the bond of special funding for higher education (statewide initiative).
 - b. BOR May’s meeting – The Board approved Faculty Handbook revisions regarding IRB and IACUC as well as salary increases for staff, GAs, and Adjunct Faculty. The Board also approved the promotions of Helen Blythe, Erika Derkas, and Miriam Langer.
 - c. BOR July’s meeting – The BOR suspended the Forensic Science program and eliminated the Computational Engineering program. The BOR also approved the promotions of Margaret Young and David Lobdell to Full Professor.
 - d. With the reorganization of CAS and the School of Education the Deans’ Evaluation seems to be unnecessary during the Fall Semester.
 - e. Faculty Senate Committees will work on revisions to the Faculty Handbook that stem from the reorganization and collective bargaining. Revisions will also address much needed clarifications and the approved changes regarding IRB and IACUC.
 - f. Committee membership – Dr. Tamir contacted deans and chairs requesting schools/departments representation for Faculty Senate, Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and Research Committees.
 - g. Dr. Romine suggested that small departments may have to form ‘coalitions’ in order fill committee positions. Dr. Linder commented that this will require changes to the Handbook.
7. Student Senate: no report

8. Academic Affairs: no report
9. New Business
 - a. Dr. Harrington addressed his proposed Race: New Mexico's Dialogue proposal—
 - Native Americans need to tell their own story. NMHU does not have Native Americans in tenure track positions.
 - In order to implement the initiative there is need to obtain external funding for 3-5 years.
 - Dr. Harrington advocates for 25% release time for faculty that participate in implementing the initiative.
 - Merryl Kravitz added that the initiative may cover Campus wide or state wide summit on race, theater, producing material that will aid the discussion.
 - Dr. Romine noted that this is a worthwhile project that the senate can support.
 - Dr. Tamir made a motion to endorse the proposal *Race: New Mexico's Dialogue*. Dr. Harrington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Other issues/topics
 - Dr. Kravitz – all ITV classes were moved to Sininger Hall. The move causes a major inconvenience and creates security issues to the School of Education and to others. EOS needs to respond to these issues. Dr. Linder suggested that the deans and Academic Affairs get involved.
 - Dr. Linder moved to charge Academic Affairs to investigate the policy of moving all ITV to Sininger Hall. Dr. Kravitz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Orit Tamir, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary