

Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

October 10, 2007

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University

3:06 pm

1. Roll to Order
2. Roll Call
Present: Maureen Romine, Orit Tamir, David Lobdell, Merryl Kravitz, Daniel Martinez, Peter Linder, John Jeffries, Yongseek Kim, Merritt Helvenston, April Kent, Mary Romero.
Absent: Chuck Swim
3. Approval of agenda – amendment: new business be placed before old business. The amended agenda was approved unanimously
4. Minutes of September 26, 2007 were approved unanimously.
5. Communication from the Administration: Dr. Rivera
 - Academic Affairs examines retention and graduation rates statewide. Since performance-base funding is probably forthcoming, the VPAA asked Dr. Mendez to look at models of first year experience in other institutions. Dr. Mendez collected data and drafted a report on first year experience that was submitted to Dr. Rivera. On his part, Dr. Rivera formulated an ad hoc committee to review the draft and make suggestions on how to improve NMHU first year experience initiative and help create a Freshmen Year Program that addresses all academic and non-academic concerns. The committee includes Dr. Hill (Institutional Research) a research faculty, representation from each of the colleges/schools, campus life, financial aid, housing, advising services. The focus will be on helping both freshmen and transfer students through the first year at NMHU.
 - Distance Learning Committee – Dr. Rivera seeks a committee that will include representation from the registrar, financial aid, business office, and faculty that will investigate how NMHU can better support the students, faculty, and staff at the centers. The committee will not include deans or center directors.

- Dr. Rivera received requests for 33 searchers, eight of which will require new funding. Dr. Rivera also considers the non-tenure track full-time faculty, and seven requests for instructor level positions. He hopes to summarize the requests this weekend for the president's review and for approval. Dr. Rivera hopes to have a list of the approved searches by the middle of next week.
 - Asked Evonne Roybal-Tafoya to look for a place from which Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs Committees can be televised from to the center.
6. Communication from the chair – Dr. Romine
- Faculty Grievance Committee plans mediation training.
 - Dr. Romine met with members of both Pino and Ballen committees.
 - a. Equipped with a budget of approximately \$20,000, the Ballen Endowment will provide for some type of classroom activity and community activity for a period of two weeks. The university will provide housing for the scholar/s involved with Ballen for the duration of the 2-week period.
 - b. Pino committee met this morning and started a discussion on how to spend approximately \$4,600 earmarked for faculty development. The committee will first need to define what faculty development is and how to approach development.
 - Karen Solomon met with NMHU faculty, did a presentation on the 2009 NCA visit, and took some questions. The Executive Committee met with her over lunch and discussed, for the most part, main campus communication and relationships with the centers.
 - According to p. 34 of NMHU's undergraduate catalog: "to participate in the commencement ceremony, a student must complete all degree requirements at the end of the term."
7. Academic Affairs – Dr. Jeffries
- Dr. Rivera talked about freshman year experience.
 - Dr. Rivera indicated that New Mexico universities are likely to soon face performance-based funding.
 - Dr. Rivera initiated the formation of a sub-committee that will address issues pertaining to the centers.
 - There will be no Fall graduation this semester.

- Changes to the nursing program were discussed as well as awarding approved 30 credit hours of upper division courses for nursing courses that were obtain in junior colleges.
8. Student Senate: There was no representation from Student Senate.
9. Mr. Sean Weaver – Director of University Relations
- University Relations is close to having a unified graphic look for NMHU.
 - There are substantial problems with NMHU’s website. University Relations is addressing these problems and is working on a new website.
 - The planned new university website will include a Faculty Expert Guide.
 - The new university website will promote the idea that NMHU should be a first choice university.
 - Webmaster position may be outsourced.
10. New Business:
- a) Dr. Luis Ortiz’s nomination to the Financial Planning Committee was confirmed by acclamation.
 - b) Mr. Arlie Tagayuna’s nomination to the Athletic Committee was confirmed by acclamation.
 - c) Dr. Helen Blythe’s nomination as an at large member of the Faculty Research Committee was confirmed by acclamation.
11. Old business:
- Faculty Security carrying firearms – Dr. Romine polled faculty senators regarding the proposition to allow that campus security to carry firearms.
 - Some of the concerns voiced to faculty senators included lack of trust; questions regarding the efficacy of firearms in preventing violent crime on campus; a philosophical argument that firearms do not belong on campus; and, questions regarding the competence of campus security.
 - Examples in support included concerns about compromising safety of campus security in cases of violent crime; the notion that there are firearms on campus and that security should be able to deal

with armed individuals; and, concerns about city/state police response time.

- Overall, approximately 2:1 NMHU faculty object to the arming of campus security with
- The following Faculty Senate resolution was passed (6 for and 2 against):

After polling its constituents, the faculty senate resolves that campus police not be allowed to carry firearms and recommends that other alternatives be explored.

Respectfully submitted,

Orit Tamir, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary