

## Draft Minutes

### Faculty Senate Meeting

September 12, 2007

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University

3:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Maureen Romine, Chuck Swim, Mary Romero, Orit Tamir, David Lobdell, Merryl Kravitz, Daniel Martinez, Peter Linder, John Jeffries, Yongseek Kim, Merritt Helvenston, April Kent.  
  
**Absent:** Joseph Sabutis
3. Approval of Agenda – Agenda was approved unanimously with the following amendments: Adding Dr. Hill’s presentation as item #8, and adding an item to #10.a.
- 4.
5. Approval of Minutes of August 22, 2007 – minutes approved with 2 corrections and one abstention.
6. Communication from the administration – Dr. Rivera:
  - Faculty recruitment and retention
    - Increase the number of tenure/tenure track faculty at NMHU.
    - Over 30% of NMHU’s faculty are minority – there is more diversity among the faculty.
    - There is need to provide peer mentoring to new faculty.
  - Student access and recruitment.
    - NMHU is close to performance-base funding. We need to look at ways to factor all aspects of retention. Our problem is with the 6 years graduation rate for 1<sup>st</sup> time Freshmen.
    - Need to increase student access to university programs.
    - The total number of Freshmen at NMHU dropped by 1% and the number of graduate students (about 40% of NMHU’s students) increased by 1% compared to Fall ’06. The overall SCHs increased by 1%.
    - Increase the number of transfer students from 2 year institutions through the use of better articulation.
    - Increase the number of ITV and WebCT courses – can be used in the recruitment of high school students from outside Las Vegas area even at the 1/200 level.
    - Increase the number of courses and academic programs offered at the centers.

- Student performance
  - Increase the percentage of students who graduate from NMHU.
  - Establish Freshman year program for recent high school graduate and a separate one for non-traditional students.
  - Track student performance, especially at 1/200 level courses.
- Centers
  - Increase the number of full-time faculty at the centers.
  - Increase the number of courses and programs at the centers.
- Restructuring
  - A full report of the restructuring of the College of Arts & Sciences will be available in October.
  - Re/Establish inter-disciplinary centers with specific foci – natural sciences and the Center for the Study of Northern NM and the Greater Southwest. The faculty of the MA in Southwest Studies expressed interest in reactivating that center that was initially established in support of the Southwest program.
  - The School of Education is also in the midst of a reorganization process.
- Accreditation
  - The School of Business will have accreditation visit on October 14-17, 2007.
  - The School of Education proceeds with NCATE (S?) report.
  - College of Arts and Sciences submitted a request for the certification of the Forestry Program.

7. Communication from the Chair: Dr. Romine

- Dr. Romine read and circulated the Report to the BOR.
- Pino Endowment – Faculty Senate sent an invitation to the faculty to participate in Pino by either volunteering or nominating colleagues to the Pino Committee. So far there was only one response. The deadline for nominations/volunteers is 9/19/07 for nominees or volunteers. The Senate encourages faculty to nominate/volunteer to the Pino Committee.
- Hispano Round Table leaflet – more time is needed for discussion with colleagues. We are committed to increasing the diversity of faculty and actively try to look for ways to increase diversity of faculty.
  - Suggestion for consideration - NMHU faculty has been looking at increasing the diversity of qualified candidates. Do we also want to address every point listed in the Hispanic Round Table (HRT) leaflet. A

short discussion followed. Dr. Rivera suggested that instead of responding to a group the senate and the university may address what the university has been doing regarding increasing faculty diversity.

- IRB Committee explores the possibility of removing the committee from Faculty Research Committee and report directly to the VPAA and directly of Research.
  - BOR Sub Committees - reports:
    - Budget and Finance – Dr. Linder:
      - The committee is looking at final budget numbers. The general sense is that NMHU’s financial position is strong.
    - Academic Affairs – Dr. Tamir:
      - Dr. Rivera provided a detailed report.

#### Buildings and Grounds – Ms. Kent

- September 17<sup>th</sup> will see the start of campus wide text messaging & e-mail in case of emergency.
- NMHU plans to save money on gas – the university is working toward replacing boilers around the campus.
- NMHU is in the process of going “green” – as mandated by the state.

#### Student Affairs – Ms. Kent

- Students want more faculty advisors at the orientations.
- The committee considers moving toward 2-day orientation.
- The committee stresses the importance of faculty involvement in recruiting graduate students.
- There is a Health Insurance flyer and a brochure for international students.

#### 8. Communication from Academic Affairs: John Jeffries

- Academic Affairs elected a chair and a secretary.
- The committee passed a motion to re-institute Fall Commencement.
- The committee discussed possible issues to be addressed during the AY 07-08.

#### 9. Jean Hill – Visit of Karen Solomon.

- Karen Solomon, NMHU’s liaison at the Higher Learning Commission, will be on campus 27-28 of September to address issues pertaining to NMHU’s preparation for doing a Self-Study and for the next North Central comprehensive visitation in the fall of 2009. NMHU faculty members will have opportunity to meet with her. She will give a brief overview of the process and will have Q&A with NMHU’s faculty. She will also meet with the Executive Committee.

9. 'Policy' statement – following a suggestion from Dr. Rivera, the next step will be to send the draft of the 'policy' statement to all committee chairs for review and comments by Faculty Senate committees. Committees should provide the Senate with comments on the language of 'policy' by the end of September.

10. New Business

a. Review and approval of at large committee members:

- i. Athletic Committee – tabled until the fog of membership is cleared.
- ii. Faculty Research Committee - Mike Petronis (Natural Sciences) – Approved unanimously.
- iii. Faculty Grievance Committee – Tom Ward – approved unanimously.
- iv. Financial Planning – Carmen Vidal-Lieberman and Mary Romero – Approved unanimously.
- v. Student Affairs requires a faculty senator – Merritt Helvenston agreed to represent the Senate.

b. Charges to the following committees:

- i. Athletic Committee – tabled.
- ii. Academic Affair
  - a. Work with Dr. Rivera on forming a subcommittee to address issues pertaining to the Centers. The subcommittee should involve all relevant constituents - Approved unanimously.
  - b. Changes to the grading system – tabled.
- iii. Faculty Grievance Committee will set up mediation training to its members and alternates. – Approved unanimously.

o The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Orit Tamir, Ph.D.  
Faculty Senate Secretary