

# Draft Minutes

## Faculty Senate Meeting

August 22, 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, representation from Social Work.
3. Approval of Agenda – Agenda was approved unanimously with the following amendments:
  - Switching items #10 and #11.
  - Adding elections At Large representative on Academic Affairs.
  - Adding elections of representative to the Student Senate.
4. Approval of Minutes of 5-9-07 – minutes approved with 2 corrections unanimously + 1 abstention.
5. Communication from the Administration – Dr. Rivera was away. No communication from the Administration.
6. Communication from the Chair:
  - The EC met a number of times during the summer, once with Dr. Rivera.
    - Dr. Rivera expressed a need for a committee that will work with him and the centers. This will be a charge to Academic Affairs committee.
    - The Executive Committee addressed some of the problems associated with Web CT.
    - The Executive Committee asked Dr. Rivera for funds for mediation training for Faculty Grievance Committee. Dr. Rivera agreed to provide \$2,500 for mediation training.
    - Dr. Rivera indicated that searched committees' make-up will follow the handbook.
    - The Executive Committee asked Dr. Rivera that the faculty will be engaged in discussions regarding the possibility of arming NMHU security with fire arms.
    - The reorganization of CAS was discussed.
    - The Executive Committee also met during the summer to address, per a request from Dr. LaGrange, an assurance to be included in a report to NCA that shared governance exists. The following was submitted to Dr. LaGrange:

- There are evidence of improvement regarding adherence to shared governance policies marked in the faculty Handbook during the past few months at the upper echelon of NMHU's current administration and the BOR.
    - There are still problems regarding adherence to shared governance policies marked in the faculty Handbook at the middle level of the administration.
  - Regents Meeting.
    - Hispanic Round Table representatives did a presentation during the BOR meeting and distributed a brochure with some propositions for NMHU. Dr. Romine circulated copies of the brochure for the senate review and suggestions regarding if/how to be involved in the matter.
    - The BOR also discussed a number of capital projects (renovations of the Science Annex, Student Union), and repairs.
    - Dr. Fries, in his President's Report – stated some changes to University Policy regarding sexual harassment, sexual assaults, etc. The changes mainly addressed time lines.
  - Reports from Regents Sub Committee
    - Building (Peter Linder): The committee addressed the dumping of computers on the grounds of the golf course, and the idea of building a gate to the golf course.
    - Student Affairs (Merryl Kravitz) – nothing important to report. Dr. Linder added that 'retention' is the watchword for AY 07-08.
    - Academic Affairs (Orit Tamir) – Dr. Rivera provided an update on NCA Monitoring Reports, NMHU's of School of Education, the status of Ready for College statewide initiatives, and plans for Faculty Development week. Dr. Rivera addressed most of these topics during a Faculty Orientation Week's brown bag.
    - Budget and Finance (April Kent) – NMHU is moving toward getting the campus to be more environmentally friendly.
7. Communication from Academic Affairs: No communication – Academic Affairs Committee haven't met yet.
    - Nominations of At Large representative to Academic Affairs. Dr. Jeffries was nominated (Dr. Tamir nominated, Dr. Kravitz 2<sup>nd</sup>) and elected by acclamation.
  8. Communication from the Student Senate: There was no representative from Student Senate.
  9. Chief Scarborough – The idea of campus police carrying fire arms on campus is not new. In the past, campus security carried fire arms. All certified officers in NM are trained and can legally carry firearms. The question of fire arms on NMHU's campus was brought up, especially after the Virginia Tech by administration, by some students, and the police. NM is ranked #4 in homicide and #6 in violent crime in the country. There is violent crime,

burglaries, drug and alcohol, and domestic violence on campus --- all of which Campus Security respond to unarmed (they do carry a variety of non-lethal weapons). At this time, Campus Security has to call State Police for backup. The latter can be anywhere between Wagon Mound and Pecos. A lively discussion ensued (Peter Linder ©). The training of security officers with State Police will cost \$4,000 per office + \$2,000 for room and board. Carrying fire arms will improve the relations between Campus Security and Las Vegas Police (the latter feel as if they are baby sitting Campus Security). The problem is mainly time of response of officers with fire arms to violent incidents - State Police response time is unpredictable.

The Senate will invite Chief Scarborough to the next General Faculty meeting.

10. Faculty Handbook Revisions:
  - a. Athletic Committee – Dr. Daniel Martinez. Presented procedural changes in the athletic committee. These are internal procedures that do not require Faculty Senate endorsement.
  - b. IRB – Dr. Williamson responded to a charge from Faculty Senate regarding the possibility of having the IRB committee as a stand alone committee. Dr. Romine will contact Dr. Williamson and ask him to inquire whether it is better to have IRB as an independent non-Faculty Senate committee? What do other universities do?
  - c. Faculty Grievance Committee – The requirement that all Faculty Grievance Committee should be tenured issue is addressed in the Handbook, under the Committee of NMHU, A.1. (Criteria).
  
8. Ballen & Pino Endowments – The Senate needs more documents from the President Office in order to understand what behind the endowments before proceeding.

Respectfully Submitted,

Orit Tamir  
Faculty Senate Secretary