

New Mexico Highlands University
Approved General Faculty Minutes
Meeting of 24 March 2004

1. **Call to order:** 3:12pm. Quorum of 35 was present; most of those present consumed lame refreshment.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda amended to add discussion items, and approved unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes from 28 January 2004:** The minutes were sanitized, and passed unanimously.
4. **Proposed changes in Athletic Committee Language:** Dr. Hill introduced the proposed changes in handbook language relating to the Athletic committee. A number of questions were asked; some points of clarification were made. A lively discussion ensued centered upon the issue of overlap with the Academic Affairs Committee, and the issue of recusal in case of a family member who is a student athlete at NMHU. A phrase was inserted to the language, to indicate that the committee's purview would be limited to non-academic members. After a plea by Dr. Hill, Dr. Helvenston made a motion to approve the language as amended. Dr. Bentson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.
5. **Defining Program Coordinators:** Dr. Hill introduced the proposed changes in handbook language relating to the role of program coordinators. A lively discussion ensued, principally over the issue of compensation. Several faculty members noted that the language being considered would allow the issue to be ignored; they argued that there should be specific language in the handbook mandating compensation. A number of specific language changes were suggested. A specific change was proposed by Dr. Williams, to change the recommendation for compensation from the academic unit to the Faculty Senate, as necessary. This motion was approved with one vote against. Dr. Alarid then made a motion to approve the amended language, and Dr. Helvenston seconded. The motion was passed, and the language approved, with one abstention.
6. **Discussion & Announcements:**
 - Dr. Jenkins, at the behest of Dr. Hill, gave a brief report on the recently-concluded NCA Focused Visit, concluded on 23 March. She noted the success of the University in convincing the NCA that the progress had been made in all eight areas, and reported that there remained three issues that the regents needed to address, to wit: 1) the presidential search; 2) governance structures and shared governance; and 3) institutional research. She then answered a number of questions, and received a rousing "well done!" and applause from the jubilant faculty.
 - Dr. Ward gave a report on the process of collective bargaining. He noted that the regents have made preparations for collective bargaining. He reported that the bargaining unit needed to prove "majority status," and distributed membership information and cards to be filled out attesting to support for collective bargaining.

A lively discussion ensued and Dr. Ward fielded adroitly several questions and comments.

Adjournment:

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7. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:36.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter S. Linder, Secretary/Treasurer