

Approved Minutes: General Faculty Meeting
Wednesday 30 March 2005
3:00pm Kennedy Lounge

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 3:15pm. A quorum was present.
2. Approved of Agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved with one modification.
3. Approval of Minutes from Meeting of 28 January 2005: Minutes approved unanimously, without amendment.
4. Address, Dr. Beulah Woodfin: A retired UNM professor and the executive director of the New Mexico Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Dr. Woodfin addressed the faculty briefly about the concerns of that organization regarding recent developments at New Mexico Highlands University. She also announced a panel discussion to be held at the University of New Mexico on 8 April 2005, addressing contemporary challenges to academic freedom.
5. Faculty Question-and-Answer Session with: Javier Gonzales, Chair, Board of Regents: Regent Gonzales made introductory remarks. In them, he noted the critical importance of tenure, freedom of expression, and the free exchange of ideas at the university. He argued also that such free expression and such ideas should be constructive in nature. He also asked the faculty to renew its commitment to the university and the students. He also asked the faculty to give a "fair chance" to the administration and the Board of Regents, point out that there had been considerable recent change. Then Regent Gonzales received faculty members' questions, and discussed the current state of the university and the state of relations between the administration and the faculty. Among the issues raised were: recent tenure and other personnel decisions (particularly the cases of Dr. Hill and Dr. Turner), the nature of shared governance and the relevance of the current Faculty Handbook, the extent to which the Faculty Senate and its committees represented—or did not represent—the faculty as a whole, relations between the administration and regents and the faculty, and the role of the regents in the running of the institution. After more than an hour before the faculty, Regent Gonzales ended with a promise to communicate concerns with the other regents and the president, and pledged to attempt to improve communication and respond to concerns expressed by the faculty.
6. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:12pm.