

**Approved Minutes
General Faculty Meeting
Wednesday 26 April 2006
3:00 pm in Kennedy Lounge**

1. **Call to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at 3:22pm. A quorum was present.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved without modification, unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes, General Faculty Meeting of 29 March 2006:** The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. **Discussion of New Programs:**
 - Dr. Sabutis introduced the topic, and began with a proposed program for a Bachelor of University Studies degree. He noted that there was a history of such programs at UNM, and noted that considerable support for such a program had been expressed at New Mexico Highlands University. He then turned the floor over to Dr. Rolando Rael, who played a leading role in the development of this program. Dr. Rael provided a brief overview of the proposed program and outlined the need for such a degree. He then outlined the breadth of the group developing the proposal, and noted that the Academic Affairs Committee had already indicated that any such program must be academically rigorous. He noted that the proposal had built into it a number of areas of concentration, and that the contemplated program would be faculty-run. He described the wide potential audience of the program, and summarized it as having significant potential and a good deal of faculty support. He then fielded questions from the faculty members in attendance, including questions about how the program could be marketed, and what the graduates of the program might be able to do with their degrees. Also discussed was the question of whether all classes transferred in had to be from accredited universities? This exhausted the discussion of this proposed program.
 - Dr. Sabutis then introduced Professor Robert Mishler, who made a brief presentation to introduce a proposed Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Science. He gave a brief overview, and distributed a summary of the proposal. He noted that the program as proposed would require little or no additional staffing or resources, and noted that there were few comparable programs in the region, and none in the state of New Mexico. Professor Mishler then fielded questions from the faculty in attendance, about the anticipated demand for graduates of this proposed program. He noted that this is a rigorous program, and noted the potential for a fairly high attrition rate.
 - Dr. Sabutis then introduced the Native American-Hispano Cultural Studies Program. Dr. Mario González—chair of the faculty committee developing the proposal—not being present, committee members Dr. Peter Linder, Dr. Daniel Martínez and Dr. Tom Ward made a brief summary of the state of the proposal, and fielded questions. Then Dr. Sabutis invited Dr. Carmen Vidal-Lieberman to comment, and to comment on an earlier proposal for the creation of such a program, one which had been voted down by the Academic Affairs Committee the previous semester. She summarized the original proposal, and argued in favor of its adoption instead of the one under development. Dr. Sabutis then threw the floor open to questions. A lively discussion ensued about the relative merits of the two minor proposals.

Faculty Association Informational Report: Dr. Sabutis then recognized Dr. Ward, and Dr. Ward gave a brief report about the activities of the Faculty Association, noting that contract talks have begun, and the process is going forward. He renewed the plea for people to turn in Faculty and Salary surveys. He then responded to questions about the timetable for negotiations and a contract,

5. **Announcements:** Dr. Sabutis made an announcement about Faculty Research Day, and noted that both students and faculty were scheduled to present their research. He then raised the issue of Administrator evaluations, and made a plea for people to respond. Dr. Martinez then reported that a public poetry reading would take place on 10 May, 6-7pm.
6. **Meeting Adjourned:** 4:40pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter S. Linder
Secretary/Treasurer, Faculty Senate.