

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

Final

Wednesday 28 November 2007

3:08 pm

General Faculty Meeting

1. Agenda approved with amendment –Dr. Ward’s report was moved to agenda item #5
2. Minutes – minutes approved unanimously with minor changes.
3. University Web Page – Mr. Sean Weaver
 - a. Mr. Weaver proposes to outsource the redesign of the university web site. The redesign will include a variety of new features including enabling faculty to update department websites and have their own faculty websites. If NMHU outsource the redesign of NMHU’s web page it will be up and running within approximately three months. It will take a single on-campus web master much more time to do the same job
 - b. The redesigned web page will cover the centers and the centers faculty.
 - c. The outsourcing company will maintain the university’s web site’s software and technical aspects of the web page. NMHU will be responsible for the maintenance of content.
 - d. Every faculty member will be able to have a web page designed under university guideline.
 - e. Dr. O’Brien stated that the redesigned web page should be accessible to people with disabilities.
4. President Fries
 - President Fries congratulated the faculty members who received tenure during the last BOR meeting. He also extended congratulations Sabbatical recipients.
 - Enrolment so far has been flat.
 - Mostly positive publicity during the Fall ’07.
 - Great participation in campus events.
 - Generally, it has been a more normal Fall Semester.
 - NMHU received close to \$800,000 through Foundation endowment.
 - Accreditation – it looks like the School of Business will be re-accredited, though there are still concerns about stability of leadership and assessment process at NMHU.
 - Jean Hill is helping improve the assessment process.

- NCATE – NMHU passed 5 out of 6 points needed for accreditation by NCATE. Still, mainly due to problems associated with assessment the School of Education is at risk of losing its accreditation. It won't have an effect on licensure related matters for the students.
- The Forestry is seeking specialty accreditation.
- NMHU is also seeking accreditation for rehab counseling and for exercise science.
- Karen Salomon from North Central visited the main campus and Rio Rancho during the Fall. Her presentations and discussions addressed accreditation matters.
- Organizationally – communication between centers and main campus has improved. The School of Education is looking at how to structure and operate the school. Dr. Rivera initiated examination and possible reorganization of the College of Arts and Sciences.
- Dr. Fries thanked Interim Dean Kathy Jenkins and Interim Dean of Graduate Studies and Research Linda LaGrange for their contributions.
- The university will conduct an internal search for Associate VP of Graduate Studies and Research.
- Unless there are objections, NMHU will conduct an internal search for a VPAA. Dr. Rivera is interested in staying in his position if there is faculty support.
- The BOR underwent changes during the past year, though there is no loss of support for NMHU's president.
- NMHU added thirteen (13) new faculty members since last year. Dr. Fries approved 20 faculty searches for next academic year. With regard to the latter, it is important to create a pool of applicants that include a pool of minorities and women. It will also important to use professional networking in effort to broaden the pool of applicants.
- Financial issues – NMHU not in fiscal difficulty, but the administration also does not have anyone on campus who really understands the budget. The university is in the process of re-doing many of the budget reports.
- Facilities – NMHU in the process of retiring old boiling systems and replacing them with new more efficient units. In addition, a number of buildings are going to be re-modeled. A new student center and residence hall is also in the plans. NMHU will request funds for infrastructure projects from the legislature.
- NMHU is pushing for zero tuition credit. The university has the lowest tuition fee of any institution of higher education in the southwest.
- Higher Education seems to take more active role in terms of interacting with the university.
- UNM, CNM, and Rio Rancho – NMHU will be able to compete at Rio Rancho. NMHU was close to rent space in Albuquerque for the Social Work program. It may still happen during the summer.
- NMHU is moving forward with the program in Raton. There is relatively new facility there with some ADA problems. There are funds to fix the ADA problems.
- The university applied for licenses for eight (8) FM radio stations in northern NM.

- During Spring 2008 NMHU will revisit the Strategic Plan. NMHU needs a more functional plan. Also during Spring 2008 the administration will be working on 2009 budget, the university webpage, and on search for VP for Institutional Advancement.
- Q. When will faculty get contracts?
- A. Collective bargaining has been going on for about two years. President Fries felt that there has been progress during the Fall.
- Q. NMHU faculty should receive salaries similar to faculty in other SW Higher Education institutions?
- A. Yes, but we won't bridge the gap this year.
- Q. How can a member of the BOR run for office without taking care of business on campus?
- A. Regent Gonzales thinks he can handle both running for office and the BOR – he is committed to NMHU.
- Q. UNM advertised an Assistant Professor position with a salary \$10,000-\$15,000 higher than what NMHU tends to offer – how can we compete?
- A. NMHU will not list salaries in search ads – we won't know salaries until collective bargaining is completed..
- Q. What is the status of university security with firearms?
- A. There is no firm decision yet. There is always danger of bodily harm. NMHU is working on a memorandum of agreement with City Policy – stalled. NMHU has a hard time hiring certified security because the latter want to carry firearms given what the university expects them to do.
- Q. Will NMHU demand students to take AST?
- As an institution we need to look at how we're an institution with open door policy yet graduate students. There are some significant academic issues will be addressed as part of the reorganization of CAS.
5. Dr. Tom Ward – Collective Bargaining
- The faculty bargaining team provided the administration with a complete proposal last May and received a complete proposal from the administration in September
 - The team signed on 18 items and is close to sign on 5-8 additional items.
 - Four big items remain.
 - The team is committed to be done in a month.