

General Faculty Meeting Minutes
Approved
Wednesday 22, April, 2009, 4:05 pm, Kennedy Lounge

1. Approval of the Agenda – Agenda was approved as amended unanimously.

2. Dr. Jean Hill – Accreditation Information
 - Dr. Hill circulated an Overview of the Self-Study Process in Preparation for an Accreditation Visit by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities. The document provided a brief overview of accreditation; a short summary of NMHU’s recent accreditation history; a summary of the Self-Study process; information on faculty roles in the process; and ,a listing of the five evaluation criteria .

 - Dr. Hill stressed that NMHU is in a precarious position – The Higher Learning Commission will send a team of 8 not 5 to campus, meaning that the Commission takes the visit very seriously.
 - Dr. Hill expects to have a complete draft of the self study by the end of May. She needs faculty members that are willing to read the draft and provide comments during the summer. She final draft need to be done by the end of the summer. The report will be submitted in September.
 - Faculty can: volunteer to serve on one of the work groups; read and comment on the self study draft; participate in academic program review; assist in the preparation of Outcome Assessment of their program; and, help in the development/review of their program mission and plans.
 - Faculty members should be familiar with the university’s strategic plan.
 - When not teaching, faculty members should be on campus and available in their offices during the visit Nov. 2-4, 2009.

- President Fries – Information on Accreditation and Other Matters
 - The accreditation process is important for the short and long term future of NMHU. He asked faculty to do as much work as possible to address the issues that are of concern before the team arrives.
 - The team is less concerned about the financial situation and about the relationship between the BOR and the administration – issues that were problematic in 2000. Still, there is a high turnover in the BOR.
 - In terms of student advisement and programmatic decisions - it is not enough to just do it – in order to be effective advisement regularly. Showing that we not only collect data but use the data.
 - Policies and procedures – we need to document them and have them in the resource room.
 - Faculty involvement in the strategic planning process is important.
 - The regents committees will be meeting on Monday April 27th.
 - Q - Dr. Tamir asked when faculty would be able to vote on the strategic plan. Dr. La Grange replied that the drafts are online and comments are

welcome. She later added that she can wait for a vote by the General Faculty during Faculty Development.

- Dr. Sharon Caballero – Alumni/Foundation matters
 - Dr. Caballero asked for 2 volunteers to serve on a think tank to double the participation rate of NMHU alumni: how to reach the alumni, how to attract them, and how to get them to donate – Margaret and Mary Shaw volunteered.
 - Dr. Caballero also circulated a flyer soliciting donations to the university from faculty.

- Dr. Kathy Jenkins – Update from the Faculty Association
 - You have seen the newspaper and the flurry of e-mail.
 - We passed a faculty resolution 2 weeks ago and sent it to the president. To date the president offered no response to the resolution.
 - The Faculty Association filed Prohibitive Practice complaint with the Labor Board. The law is that if there is no agreement by the end of the semester faculty won't receive retro-active pay.
 - The Bargaining Team feels that the collective bargaining is not working – that the administration is not bargaining. The Team thought that an agreement was reached last February, but it didn't happen.
 - It seems that the Administration's strategy is to push us to the deadline. AFT and NEA said that this happens time all the time in New Mexico with teachers, and that when an agreement is reached after the deadline teachers get bonuses instead of 'pay.'
 - The Bargaining Team has been present at the bargaining table. The comments from President Fries to the Optic were misleading.
 - The bargaining team will attend a special meeting with the administration tomorrow (Thursday).