

Approved Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

14 October 2009

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University 3:00 pm

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** 3:09pm
2. **Roll Call: Present:** Maureen Romine, April Kent, Kathy Jenkins, Jim Peters, Ken Bentson, David Lobdell, Maura Pilotti, Julius Harrington; Merritt Helvenston; Gilbert Rivera (VPAA, *ex officio*).
Also Present: Mary Jane Valdez; Maxine Salas.
Absent: Daniel Martínez, David Argüello, Stella Helvie.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved without change.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** 23 September 2009. The minutes were approved with several minor revisions.
5. **Introduction of Maxine Salas:** After the approval of the minutes, Dr. Romine introduced Maxine Salas, who outlined for the Faculty Senate the functions of the Staff Senate and some of its current activities and issues.
6. **Communication from the Administration:** Dr. Rivera reported briefly on the process of chair searches, and noted that the process was underway, and at various points. He noted that he has asked for updates in the process. He then reported on the dean selection process. He reported that the School of Business is planning to meet this Friday to discuss the matter. He noted that the current administrative structure is less than two years old, and that he hoped to have two years under the two-college system in order to collect input from the faculty about which setup was more functional. He made the same arguments regarding the new departmental structure. He indicated that he plans to send out a survey in the late fall or during the spring to faculty in the two colleges, to decide if the current structure makes more sense than the previous one. In addition, Dr. Rivera indicated that he planned to limit the discussion of the university's administrative structure to the question of whether to have one or two colleges. The question of administrative structure will have an impact on the dean search process. Dr. Rivera then turned to the upcoming NCA accreditation site visit of early next month. He indicated that during the present week, an agenda for the visit will be circulated to the campus community. He also reported on a recent meeting of the Northeast Regional Educational Cooperative (NEREC), to share the results of our self-study and accreditation plans. Finally, he reported on a task force formed last spring to survey the current state of developmental education in New Mexico, and outlined a report by the task force given at a recent governor's summit. Dr. Risch, Dr. Olivas, Dr. Ward, and Dr. Lujan should all have copies of the

report. They served on subcommittees of the task force. Dr. Rivera then fielded questions.

7. **Communication from the Chair:** Dr. Romine deferred to Dr. Jenkins, who has attended some cabinet meetings for her, because of class schedule conflicts. Dr. Jenkins reported on the plans of new Student Union building, the recent Ideal NM/Blackboard malfunctions, and the upcoming NCA visit.
8. **Communication from Academic Affairs:** Dr. Bentson provided a brief report on recent Academic Affairs meeting. Discussion of program review process being considered. Office of Institutional Research will look at income vs. cost, flagging programs. 1st flagging, self-study & strategic plan, 2nd flagging, program review, up-down vote. Every 4 years, program review. Also discussion of FYE/Academic Enrichment, discussion of charge on DE, subcommittee organized.
9. **Communication from the Student Senate:** No representative (John Paul Martinez has left Student Senate)
10. **Web site update – Sean Weaver:** Dr. Romine introduced Sean Weaver and Rick Loffredo, who discussed the means by which departmental/school websites should be updated. He noted that changes could be made by e-mailing content to the University Relations office. Dr. Rivera's has the responsibility for overseeing all academic affairs content. Senators discussed the need for some kind of approval process to get new content posted. Mr. Weaver and Mr. Loffredo then fielded questions, and discussed how best to improve the university's website for students, faculty, and others.
11. **Old Business:**
 - a. **Vote on strategic plan:** Dr. Romine introduced the issue; there was a motion to approve the new plan; the motion was seconded, and it was passed unanimously.
 - b. **Updates, Chair & Dean Selection Processes:** These issues were dealt with during Dr. Rivera's report.
 - c. **Charges to Academic Affairs:** there was a motion to charge Academic Affairs to:
 - 1) review and develop a recommendation concerning the consequences of not attending 70% of classes for an audit and make a recommendation regarding the 70% attendance requirement for audits;
 - 2) ascertain the current state regulations regarding online delivery of courses, particularly with respect to asynchronous versus synchronous instruction;
 - 3) Review and recommend revisions of current program review procedures and uses, including the incorporation of unit-specific strategic plans in the process;
 - 4) to develop internal policies and procedures and

an approval process for certificate programs. The motion was seconded, and passed unanimously.

- d. **Charge to International Education Committee – review duties & responsibilities:** There was a motion to so charge the committee, which was seconded, then passed unanimously.
- e. **Outcomes Assessment Committee Conversion:** Dr. Romine made brief remarks detailing the need for the change. Dr. Jenkins explained the rationale in somewhat more detail: There was a motion to make the committee ad hoc, with membership outlined by Dr. Nelson. After some discussion and comments by members, the motion was seconded, then passed unanimously.
- f. **100% online programs – input from faculty:** a discussion. Dr. Romine reminded senators of their responsibility to discuss with their faculty the issue. A number of senators had done so, and reported the results of these discussions. A broad range of opinions were expressed, asynchronous vs. synchronous and more broadly the issues of dealing with technology and equality of educational outcomes. A number of senators representing programs that are at least partially online explained their sense of the potential of the approach for reaching new groups of students. Mr. Max Baca of ITS was in the audience, and asked by the Senate to present his perspective. He reminded the Senate of the rapid changes in technology just since the 1990s, and noted the need to move forward despite occasional technological problems. There was a motion made and seconded, which read: “The faculty senate endorses the 100% online programs established by the School of Business (MBA) and the Nursing Program (RN-BSN), with the understanding that both programs need to be reviewed and approved by the Academic Affairs Committee.”
- g. **The Blackboard/ElluminateLive! Horror and other Distance Education Nightmares (moved from New Business, item a):** Max Baca provided a brief report on recent problems with the Ideal NM/Blackboard platform. He noted that the politics of the process required the amalgamation of state government, K-12 education, and higher education on a single education platform. This resulted in an underfunded and somewhat problematic system, which did not function well during the crucial time of midterm week at NMHU. He noted as well that there were additional problems with ElluminateLive!, and that the issue had come up at a recent Council of University Presidents (CUPA) meeting. He further noted the existence of serious communication problems at various levels. Now a system is in place giving NMHU access to resources and information, but Mr. Baca is still attempting to find out root causes of the recent problems. Individual senators regaled the Senate and Mr. Baca with examples of those problems. A lively discussion ensued. Mr. Baca explained the impossibility of making a sudden change in platform without causing

unacceptable difficulties, but pledged to work with the faculty to decide on the best way to go forward in developing a setup with the necessary reliability and features.

- h. AAUP Statement on government of Colleges & Universities:** Tabled.
- i. Governance issues – Faculty search committee function and faculty rights:** Tabled.

12. New Business:

- a. Charge to Faculty Affairs: Handbook language covering non-tenure-track faculty:** Tabled.
- b. AAUP—“Faculty Handbooks as Enforceable Contracts: A State Guide.”**
Tabled.
- c. Changes to Faculty Senate committee membership:** Tabled.

13. Adjournment: 5:11pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter S. Linder

Secretary/Treasurer, Faculty Senate. Max’s Cell Phone: 429-9990