

Approved Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
10 February 2010

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University 3:00 pm

1. Call to Order:

Roll Call: Present: Maureen Romine, Kathy Jenkins, Maura Pilotti, David Lobdell, Julius Harrington, Ken Bentson, Jim Peters, Jayni Flores, Merritt Helvenston, Stella Helvie, Brad Radeke (Student Senate), Sheri Nsamenang (GSA), Maxine Salas (Staff Senate).

Also Present: Mary Jane Valdez, Margaret Gonzales, and Dr. William Sayre.

Absent: April Kent, David Argüello, Daniel Martínez, (prior notification).

2. Approval of Agenda: 10 February 2010. Approved without change.

3. Approval of Minutes: 27 January 2010. Approved without change.

4. Communication from the Administration: Dr. Rivera was not present.

5. Communication from the Chair: Dr. Romine reported briefly on the announcement she made regarding proposals for changing the quorum requirements for general faculty meetings. She then turned the floor over to Dr. Peters, who reported on his ad hoc committee's activities in reviewing various learning platforms. He indicated that most members of the committee found Blackboard to be the least attractive alternative. He indicated that financial considerations would drive the decision, but that faculty input was crucial in the decision. He then fielded a number of questions from senators. He also touched on the IdealNM program, and noted that the New Mexico Legislature was considering cutting funding for the program. Dr. Sayre then spoke briefly about his interest in having whatever learning platform was put in place used for assessment purposes. A lively discussion then ensued. Dr. Jenkins reported on the work of the Distance Education Subcommittee, and noted that much of their activity was contingent on the learning platform used by the university. Stella Helvie noted that the SOE was beginning to use a program called Chalk & Wire, and the discussion then turned to issues of compatibility. Then Dr. Romine made a brief report on the activities of the *ad hoc* committee on webpage design, and announced that a presentation to faculty would be forthcoming. She also noted that the Faculty Handbook had been updated, and the updates posted to the Web.

6. Communication from Academic Affairs: Dr. Bentson noted that that the university closed at 1:00pm on 3 February due to inclement weather, and so no meeting was held. There will be a presentation on 17 February of the DegreeWorks program, and Dr. Bentson will disseminate more specific information as it becomes available.

7. **Communication from the Student Senate:** Brad Radeke reported on the two most recent meetings of the Student Senate. Among the issues under consideration were the deadline for the Gloria Brown-López Scholarship and recent problems occurring at Club HU. Also mentioned were some difficulties being faced by international students in dealing with the International Office and fellow students. Dr. Romine noted that the Faculty Senate's International Education Committee might be appropriately involved in such issues. Dr. Jenkins made a motion to charge the International Education Committee to meet with representatives of the GSA and Student Senate to discuss International Student concerns. It was seconded, and—the question having been called—passed unanimously.
8. **Communication from the GSA:** Sheri reported on recent discussions by the GSA on the possibility of establishing a scholarly journal, either organized by department/discipline or a single one for all disciplines.
9. **Communication from the Staff Senate:** Margaret Gonzales reported that the Staff Senate was working on organizing and compiling the Staff Satisfaction Survey. Among the issues included were safety, infrastructure & working conditions, interactions with students & faculty, etc. She reported also on the review of the proposed policies sent by the Human Resources Department, and noted that the Staff Senate had made recommendations for modifications of those policies.
10. **Old Business:**
 - a) **Discussion of Selection, Potential Peer Institutions:** Dr. Romine reported on this issue, and noted that the only action thus far on this has been Dr. Hill's preliminary list, but that the Faculty Association had expressed concerns. Dr. Romine noted that there seemed to be only limited guidance for the selection process. Dr. Jenkins provided a Faculty Association perspective on the issue, focusing on issues of workload, salaries, and other collective bargaining issues. Another issue raised was the precise rules of HED, regarding the institutions to which we are allowed to compare ourselves. A number of senators raised questions about the process. Dr. Bentson also noted that this case was symptomatic of much of the university's decision-making, and opined that a process needed to be developed to make sure that such decisions are made with appropriate faculty involvement.
 - b) **Catalog Format & Content:** Dr. Romine asked Dr. Bentson to address the issue of the catalog, next year being a catalog year. Dr. Bentson reminded senators of the importance of the catalog in recruitment and the university's image, and asked at what level the faculty should be involved in the process. A lively discussion ensued, complete with humorous anecdotes. Dr. Bentson stated that he was already working on the structure of the catalog. Dr. Romine recommended the compilation of a list of concerns and problems.
11. **New Business:**

a) Concerns about University Policies & Procedures: Dr. Jenkins: Dr. Jenkins reported on recent efforts of the administration to implement new policies from Human Resources, and noted that the NMHU Faculty Association had formally communicated with the administration insisting that any policies affecting faculty be brought to the table for collective bargaining.

b) Naming Policy: Dr. Romine reported on the naming policy proposal of the administration. Dr. Bentson noted that the proposed policy did not seem to apply to sitting regents, and that there have been cases of this in the past.

c) Faculty Marshals: A number of nominations were made, including Stella Helvie, Jim Peters, Chris Nelson, Abbas Manafy, Steve Williams and Kathy Jenkins.

d) Reports or Committee Updates: Nothing to report.

e) Charges to Faculty Committees:

International Education: see above.

Academic Affairs: Charge Academic Affairs: Review Duties & Responsibilities and make recommendations for changes in committee workload without sacrificing key priorities.

Student Affairs: Review the School of Social Work's new policy on the use of electronic devices in the classroom, and make a recommendation as to whether it should be made a university-wide policy.

Student Affairs: Review & report on the recommendations from Academic Enrichment chair regarding summer orientations.

It was moved and seconded to send the above charges to the respective committees. The motion passed unanimously.

f) Committee Service Documentation: Dr. Romine noted this issue as coming out of the recently-held meeting of the Executive Committee with committee chairs. It was suggested that committee chairs identify those committee members who actually serve, and provide them with certificates of completion of committee service. Dr. Jenkins recommended that committee chairs generate certificates online, and present them to the people on the committees that participate.

12. Adjournment: 5:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

**Peter S. Linder
Secretary/Treasurer, Faculty Senate**