

Approved Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

14 April 2010

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University 3:00 pm

1. **Call to Order: 3:07pm.**

Roll Call: Present: David Lobdell, Maureen Romine, April Kent, Orit Tamir (proxy, Maura Pilotti), Ken Bentson, Stella Helvie, Jim Peters, Merritt Helvenston, Sheri Nsamenang (GSA), Kathy Jenkins, Brad Radeke (Student Senate), Maxine Salas (Staff Senate).

Absent: Daniel Martínez, Jayni Flores, Jane Gorman, Julius Harrington.

Also Present: Camea Gagliardi-Blea, Jennifer Lindline, Jean Hill, Arlie Tagayuna, Sean Weaver.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** 14 April 2010, approved with changes in order, additions.

3. **Approval of Minutes:** 10 March 2010: approved without changes.

4. **Report, Student Senate Committee:** Dr. Romine provided a brief introduction, and then turned the floor over to the members of the committee. The chair, Dr. Camea Gagliardi-Blea introduced herself, named the other members of the committee present, and noted that the committee's recommendations regarding the various charges had been made unanimously. She further discussed the approach of the committee in undertaking the investigations with which they had been charged by the Faculty Senate. The committee's position is that both faculty and professional advisors needed to be involved. She identified a number of problems associated with advisement, including declining retention, a need for more intense advisement, a lack of clear lines of authority, a lack of communication, and a lack of scrutiny regarding policy changes. She next outlined a series of recent procedural or policy changes, particularly a shift in responsibility for 1st-time freshmen from professional (Student Support Services, Student Academic Support) advisors to faculty, and listed some problems resulting from such shifts, including student confusion, duplication of files (and effort), and inequitable workloads. Dr. Gagliardi-Blea reiterated that the committee's fundamental concern remained the provision of services to students.

The committee made a series of recommendations:

- 1) Assign advisement oversight responsibility to a single entity, and provide clear rationales for procedural/policy changes.
- 2) Create a center for professional advisement, with signatory authority;

- 3) Create an *ad hoc* academic advisement committee, responsible for drafting/maintaining advisement manuals & guides, training, shared decisions, sequencing of courses, etc.
- 4) Establish a new major declaration process, which would require the involvement of faculty in the process, establish and maintain faculty adviser-student contact, and provide for “intrusive” advisement.
- 5) Establish a major release form, so that students cannot declare a new major without formally eschewing a previous one;
- 6) Adopt and fully implement the DegreeWorks advisement software; which represents an advance over the current system.

After her presentation, Dr. Gagliardi-Blea responded to questions and comments from members of the Senate. A lively discussion ensued, and a number of varying points of view were raised. The question of advisement manuals was debated at some length, and a number of questions were raised about who was ultimately responsible for advisement. She then reported on the new student orientation recommendations made by the ad hoc Academic Enrichment committee, which Student Affairs was charged with reviewing. She noted the recommendations were all reviewed by the committee, and that they commented on all of them. Dr. Lindline further articulated the position of the committee on the various recommendations, and Dr. Rivera clarified many of the issues still subject to some confusion.

Finally, Dr. Gagliardi-Blea reported that the committee strongly endorsed the School of Social Work’s policy regarding electronic devices in the classroom. She then left the room to the thanks of the Senate.

5. **Sabbatical Policy:** Dr. Romine turned the floor over to Dr. Tamir, representing Social & Behavioral Sciences today, who expressed concern with recent statements by the VPAA about sabbaticals, and what she and others saw as a discrepancy between the administration’s position and the Faculty Handbook’s policy regarding sabbaticals, specifically that the administration would consider sabbatical applications only from faculty members taking a full year off at half-pay. Dr. Jenkins noted that the Faculty Association considers this a contract issue, but since it is in the Faculty Handbook, that the Senate should address it. Dr. Rivera responded that initially there were to be no sabbaticals granted for the coming academic year, given the university’s financial situation, but established the full year at half-pay approach as an alternative.
6. **Report: Sean Weaver:** Mr. Weaver handed out information on the university logos and standards for official communication, and provided some brief explanation for the changes in policy.
7. **Ad hoc Committee on Selection of Potential Peer Institutions:** Kathy Jenkins: Dr. Romine turned the floor over to Dr. Jenkins, who reported briefly on the process by which the ad hoc committee developed a list of recommended peer

institutions for submission to the Higher Education Department. She provided a list of fourteen institutions agreed upon by the committee, and provided two options for the fifteenth institution required for the list. She outlined the criteria used to qualify possible peers, and noted that the committee had begun with a list of 194. The criteria included Hispanic-serving/Historically Black/Tribal institutions, percentage of minority students, open admissions policy, percentage of Pell Grant recipients, size of graduate programs, and others. A list of fourteen institutions was identified, with two alternatives as to the fifteenth. A motion was made and seconded to accept the first fourteen on the list; it passed unanimously. There followed a motion to select North Carolina Central University as the final member of the list; it was seconded. A lively discussion ensued about the advisability of emphasizing first-time freshmen versus graduate student numbers. Upon a vote, the motion failed, one in favor to seven opposed. There was a motion to list Governor's State as the fifteenth, it received a second. The question being called, the motion passed, seven in favor to one opposed.

8. **Chair selection process:** Dr. Romine distributed language on a revised process for chair selection, for Faculty Senate review and – if possible – approval. It was moved and seconded to accept the process as revised. The motion passed unanimously.
9. **Communication from the Administration:** Dr. Rivera reported on the search for a dean of the School of Business. The process will get underway on 19 April, with a meeting of the school's tenured & tenure-track faculty. Dr. Rivera also noted that there will be a search next year for a dean for the reunited College of Arts & Science. He then responded briefly to questions.
10. **Communication from the Chair:** Dr. Romine reported briefly on a number of issues.
11. **Communication from Academic Affairs:** Dr. Bentson reported on the last meeting of the committee, including flagging reviews for Languages and Culture and General Science, and a Master of Science.
12. **Communication from the Student Senate:** Brad Radeke reported on the award of the Gloria Brown López scholarship, and ongoing work to revise the constitution.
13. **Communication from the GSA:** Sheri Nsamenang reported on the receipt of article manuscripts for the proposed graduate student journal, and the solicitation of nominations for the Graduate Student Award.
14. **Communication from the Staff Senate:** Maxine Salas reported on a survey she is conducting, and distributed a suggestion form developed recently.

15. **Grievance response:** Dr. Romine reported on the response of the Grievance and Conciliation Committee to the Faculty Senate's position on a recent grievance filed by Dr. Sabutis against the Senate, Executive Committee, Ms. April Kent, and Dr. Tom Ward, and the Senate Executive Committee's response to their response. She noted that the Grievance Committee concurs with the position articulated by the Executive Committee.

16. **Adjournment: 5:01pm.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter S. Linder

Secretary/Treasurer