

Approved Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

11-10-2010

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 pm

1. Call to Order: 3:06 pm

Roll Call

Present:

Maureen Romine (Chair), Stella Helvie (Vice Chair), Jennifer Almand, Ken Bentson, David Braun y Harycki, Regina Briefs-Elgin, Tom Corbin, Jane Gorman, Richard Greene, Julius Harrington, Kathy Jenkins, April Kent, Kerry Loewen (proxy for David Lobdell), Maura Pilotti, and Margot Geagon (proxy for Charles Swim), & Maxine Salas.

Also Present: Gilbert Rivera (VPAA)

Absent: Brad Radeke (unexcused absence) & Jayni Flores (excused absence)

2. Approval of Agenda: 10 November 2010

3. Approval of Minutes: 13 October 2010

4. Communication from the Administration:

Dr. Rivera reported the number of faculty applying for tenure, promotion, and sabbatical leave. He also mentioned timelines for sabbatical leave and reappointment plus criteria upon which decisions to grant a sabbatical leave (i.e., merit of the proposal) or to reappoint are made (i.e., teaching, scholarship and service to the University). He added that no more than 5% of the faculty could be granted a sabbatical leave each year, assuming funds are available.

Dr. Rivera mentioned two meetings pertaining to recruitment and retention, which had been called by the President and attended by invited Faculty and Administrators. Dr. Rivera revealed that the President intended to engage Faculty and Administrators in discussions pertaining to the welfare of students, including retention, class performance, potential changes in funding formulas, and delivery of pedagogy at the NMHU centers. Concerning the latter, Dr. Rivera noted that the centers hold 1/3 of NMHU enrollment.

Dr. Rivera indicated that the primary goals of the meetings were to increase retention and academic reputation. Several suggestions were made, which included expanding the committee to include members of the Student Affairs committee, improving campus life and community engagement, and altering the existing scholarship system. A lively discussion arose regarding the advantages/disadvantages of open enrollment vs. implementation of admission requirements (e.g., minimum ACT score). Suggestions were made regarding the feasibility of establishing admission requirements that not only are meaningful but also increase over time and the possibility of expanding

recruitment efforts to a larger pool of students. It was recognized that competition among Colleges and Universities for high performing students had been steadily increasing. It was also noted that NMHU could be conceived as the Liberal Arts equivalent of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. Other topics of discussion included changes in marketing strategy to attract more high performing students, limited availability of scholarships for such students, and importance of class attendance for students' scholastic success. Lastly, it was suggested that a representative of the Senate be sent to future meetings with a list of items/issues for discussion.

5. Communication from the Chair:

Dr. Romine briefly reported on the Board of Regents' special meeting. She reminded the audience that proposed alterations to the Faculty Handbook had been approved unanimously and that several administrative searches were continuing. Dr. Romine indicated that most members of the Faculty Affairs committee had been elected and that she had named a member of the committee, Dr. Ward, as acting chair.

Dr. Romine briefly discussed a number of issues, including the peer institution report, which she volunteered to make available to senators, the need to discuss reports from flagged programs, and the status of the Platform committee. Discussion arose pertaining to the impact of current economic conditions on the selection of a platform, the feasibility of a transition to an updated version of Blackboard, and the extent to which the Platform committee was (or would be) involved in any decisions concerning Blackboard.

6. Communication from Academic Affairs:

Dr. Bentson reported that the Academic Affairs committee approved the distance education manual. Recently, the committee also approved moving Media Arts from the College of Arts and Sciences to the School of Business. Dr. Loewen reported that the move was consistent with the conceptualization of Media Arts as a professional program. He also indicated that a name change (e.g., School of Business Technology and Media) was being considered for the host school.

7. Communication from the Student Senate:

None

8. Communication from the GSA:

Ms. Almand mentioned GSA's support of the internship and job search website entitled 'Going Global'. She indicated that the GSA contributed \$ 1,000 to purchase the license for the website. Ms. Almand then inquired about the proper channel through which students could broadcast global e-mail messages. She was told that all messages must be sent to the Dean of Students who would then broadcast them to the campus community. Lastly, Ms. Almand discussed GSA's plans to organize a gala for faculty and graduate students.

9. Communication from the Staff Senate:

Ms. Salas indicated that the Staff Senate had established several committees concerned with a variety of issues/topics, including staff policy and salaries, content and

structure of website, newsletter, and feedback to university relations. Ms. Salas also reminded the audience of suggestion boxes that members of the Staff Senate had placed at different locations on campus.

10. Old Business

a. Financial Planning Committee – proposed policy for special classroom fees

Dr. Romine reminded the audience that Dr. Peters was working on generating a policy. She indicated that according to Dr. Peters, approval of fees and related rationale is an administrative function. A lively discussion arose regarding the need to develop unambiguous language that details the range of items to which special classroom fees are to apply/refer. Dr. Romine asked Faculty to send her comments. She promised to collate all information and send it to Dr. Peters.

b. Strategic planning and budgeting

No discussion took place.

c. Faculty representation on GSA and Student Senate

Dr. Greene volunteered to be the Faculty Representative on the Student Senate, whereas Dr. Helvie volunteered to be the Faculty Representative on the GSA.

11. New Business

a. Ad Hoc Web Page Advisement Committee – Dr. Mike Petronis

Dr. Petronis distributed a document outlining his committee's recommendations. He also made a presentation regarding an array of features that an updated NMHU website should exhibit, including useful and informative faculty's web pages. Dr. Romine indicated that a discussion of recommendations from the Web Page Advisement Committee would be forthcoming.

b. General Faculty meeting time

A motion was made and seconded that information regarding available times be distributed to faculty and that Faculty be asked for feedback. The proposal was approved unanimously.

c. Draft of Distance Education Manual

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Distance Education Manual. The motion was approved with one abstention.

d. Election of Merritt Helvenston to the Student Affairs Committee

Dr. Helvenston was unanimously elected to the Student Affairs Committee.

e. Committee Reports and Announcements

None

f. Executive Session

A motion was approved to allow Associate Deans who have a 50% teaching load to be non-voting members of the Senate.

A motion was approved unanimously that the Faculty Handbook be followed by Administration in the Dean Selection Procedure.

g. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Pilotti

Secretary/Treasurer