

Approved Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

23 February 2011

Science Annex Building, Room 329 - New Mexico Highlands University, 3:08 p.m.

1. **Call to Order: 3:06 p.m.**
2. **Roll Call:**
3. **Present:** Maureen Romine (Chair), Stella Helvie (Vice Chair), Ken Bentson, David Braun y Harycki, Regina Briefs-Elgin, Tom Corbin, Tatiana Dutoit, Jayni Flores, Richard Greene, Julius Harrington, Kathy Jenkins, Dolores Ortega (*proxy for Jane Gorman*) Maura Pilotti, Charles Swim, and Kamal Davis (*proxy for Jennifer Almand*)
4. **Also Present:** Gilbert Rivera (VPAA)
5. **Absent:** Kent April (excused absence), Maxine Salas (excused absence) & Shani Crawford
6. **Approval of Agenda:** 23 February 2011 – as amended
7. **Approval of Minutes:** 9 February 2011 – as amended
8. **Communication from the Administration:**

Dr. Rivera briefly reviewed a few issues, including timing of *sabbatical leave applications and tenure & promotion review process*. Regarding sabbatical leave, he reported that he met with the President. Dr. Rivera announced that the fate of sabbatical applications is uncertain due to absence of a finalized budget from the NM Legislature. Concerning the tenure & promotion review process, he reported that Chairs and Deans were currently transcribing/summarizing peer evaluations. He also indicated that the Chair Selection process was continuing. Members of the Executive committee reported on the status of the process for each of the interested departments.
9. **Communication from the Chair:**

Dr. Romine reported on a variety of topics discussed during a recent cabinet meeting. She mentioned that the Commencement speaker had yet to be selected. She also reported that student applications had increased.

Dr. Romine mentioned that the President was composing a memo regarding expected adherence to the fire code and that the Executive committee would continue meeting to revise the Faculty Handbook. Other topics mentioned included NMHU's zero growth budget, completion of construction of the Lora Shield building by the end of March, and call for proposals for the Pino Endowment Faculty Development Award.

Dr. Bentson reported on his committee's initial steps towards the goal of integrating and streamlining paperwork required by strategic planning, outcome assessment, and

program review. The need to select a label for the committee for identification purposes was also mentioned.

Dr. Jenkins indicated that she attended a meeting devoted to preparation activities for the upcoming Commencement ceremony. She reported that no changes to the ceremony were planned. Dr. Jenkins mentioned that more people than in past ceremonies were expected to be on stage and that a new flag had been ordered to recognize the merger of two schools into the College of Arts and Sciences.

Faculty Marshals were selected (Ken Bentson, Stella Helvie, Kathy Jenkins, and Merryl Kravitz).

10. Communication from Academic Affairs:

Dr. Bentson briefly mentioned a few issues handled by his committee and reserved the right to discuss in depth two items later (see below). Among the issues mentioned were an approval of revisions to the Fine Arts curriculum, alteration of Area V of the Core Curriculum with the introduction of new Fine Arts courses, and the ability of the School of Social Work to use accreditation documents for program review. Dr. Bentson also mentioned that his committee did not see the need to change policy pertaining to non-degree status.

11. Communication from the Student Senate:

None

12. Communication from the GSA:

Mr. Davis reported on his association's intention to increase awareness of GSA on campus. He remarked that GSA's priorities included the goal of enhancing social life, supporting graduate students' efforts to attend and present at conferences and publish, inducting new members and ensuring transparency of decision-making processes and resulting actions.

13. Communication from the Staff Senate:

None

14. Old Business

1. Athletes missing classes

A lively discussion ensued regarding the consequences of athletes missing a substantial number of classes due to practice and game obligations. Concern was expressed by several Faculty. Among the issues discussed were the distinction between academic obligations and sports-related obligations, amount of travel and number of games required of student athletes, burden placed on student athletes, differences among sports regarding academic success, and pressure placed on coaches to win games. Coaches' scheduling of practice activities, games, and its relationship to academic activities (e.g., class attendance) were also mentioned as problematic. Dr. Greene presented data outlining the relationship between athletic success (e.g., number of games won) and academic success. Dr. Bentson stated that the problem of students missing classes is not limited to sports. He added that the issue of field trips

should be included in the discussion. Attendance policy (e.g., missing classes due to jury duty) was another issue mentioned as requiring examination/discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to charge the Athletic committee to examine the following issues regarding athletes missing classes: Policy on missing classes, practice and game scheduling, academic advising as a function that belongs to Faculty as opposed to coaches, duties of the Athletic Committee as outlined in the Faculty Handbook, and relationship between athletic success and academic success.
Unanimous approval

2. Changes to the core – involvement of the AAC and the Faculty Senate
The document entitled ‘Alternative to Core Curriculum in undergraduate Fine Art offerings’ was discussed by Faculty Senators. Questions arose regarding prerequisites for each of the courses listed in the document. A lively discussion arose. It included topics such as the routing process for changes to the Core Curriculum, the distinction between State-wide Core and discipline-based Core, and the timing of English vs. Math Core requirements as it relates to student success rates and advising.

A motion was made and seconded that AH 310, Art History I, AH 311, Art History II, and AH 380, Art of the Americas, be added to the Core Curriculum.
Unanimous approval

15. New Business

1. Distance education update

It was reported that NMHU was expecting a communication from NCA, which would notify NMHU of the need for either a self-study or a site visit. The audience was informed that NCA had only one question for NMHU, one that pertained to the program on software development proposed by the School of Business. Discussion followed regarding the requested level (3 or 4) of accreditation and its benefits.

2. Report on use of tenure-track, full time visiting, and per-course Faculty, Fall 2006 to Fall 2010

The document prepared by the OIER and dated February 2011 was discussed by the members of the Faculty Senate. Attention was paid to the data illustrated by a graph that plotted SCH generated by different types of Faculty. It was remarked that NMHU has a ‘young faculty’. Namely, the University has fewer tenured, full-time professors than many other institutions of higher learning. A question arose regarding the distribution of different types of Faculty in Centers vs. Main Campus. The query remained unanswered.

16. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Pilotti
Secretary/Treasurer

