

## **Approved Minutes**

Approved August 24, 2011

### **General Faculty Meeting**

**Wednesday, 23 March 2011  
4:00 p.m. in Sininger Hall 100**

- 1. Call to Order: 4:18 p.m.**
- 2. Approval of Agenda** – approved unanimously
- 2. Approval of 1-26-2010 Minutes** – approved unanimously

Note: quorum obtained

- 3. Welcome – Maureen Romine**  
Dr. Romine welcomed Faculty and Administrators attending the meeting. She then quickly turned toward Dr. Fries and invited him to make his presentation on the status of the NMHU budget and related legislative actions.
- 4. Legislature and Budget Update – President Fries**  
Dr. Fries thanked Dr. Romine for the invitation and then proceeded to present a list of items pertaining to the NMHU budget. Below is a list of points covered:

*Enrollment status.* Freshmen applications increased by approximately 11%. NMHU plans to cooperate with other institutions (e.g., Santa Fe Community College) to offer a variety of programs.

*University corridor project.* NMHU is currently negotiating with the City of Las Vegas a plan to improve access to the University from I-25. Different plans are being discussed, including altering the direction of traffic on University Avenue and National Avenue and placing an archway with a ‘Welcome’ insignia to greet drivers exiting I-25. Additional plans include development of a sports complex on the vacant lot on Mills Avenue, which may become linked to the NMHU sports complex.

*Real estate.* The President met with the Foundation Board to discuss purchase of the vacant lot in front of the Rio Rancho facility.

*Status of VPAA search.* Currently, NMHU has received over 80 applications of which 51 are complete applications.

*Legislative session and related items.* The legislative session led to a more positive outcome for NMHU than forecasted. Several bills had been proposed that could have hurt NMHU. None was approved.

- ✓ Secretary of Higher Education, Dr. Jose Z. Garcia, aims to revise the existing funding formula by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Several constituencies will contribute to the discussion and final decision, including individuals from the Governor's office and university representatives. One of the ideas currently circulating involves a formula that acknowledges the different needs of three types of higher education institutions: research, comprehensive, and 2-year institutions.
- ✓ Governor Martinez has asked that stimulus money, which had been allocated to different constituencies and projects by Governor Richardson, be redistributed. Redistribution may impact some programs more than others at NMHU (e.g., bilingual education). The State budget has eliminated funding for some programs (e.g., SEMOS and Upward Bound) and curtailed funding of other programs (e.g., Forestry and Restoration, Athletics, Ideal New Mexico, Dual Credit, etc.). Changes in the State budget reflect a 2-year-shift of responsibilities from the State to employees and students. An example of the shift is an increase in employee contributions.
- ✓ Decisions will be made shortly by NMHU Administration regarding allocation of available funds to different programs and constituencies. The goal is to address reductions in State funding while ensuring efficiency. Tuition and fee increases will be considered.

At the end of his address to the Faculty, Dr. Fries entertained different scenarios regarding allocation of available funds. He indicated that tuition increases might help to soften the consequences of reductions in funding. He stated that adjustments would be made with the intent to minimize their impact on NMHU's core mission, Faculty and Staff. He admitted that the process of developing a final budget would be challenging.

The President then asked if members of the audience had questions or observations to make.

- ✓ He was thanked for 'keeping us afloat'. The President recognized that reductions in funding faced by NMHU were smaller than those confronted by other NM institutions.
- ✓ He was asked about the fate of athletic programs such as Wrestling and Rodeo. The President indicated that although he would like to preserve all programs, he recognized that some programs were

more onerous than others. He added that he was unable to predict the fate of individual programs at the present time.

- ✓ The President was asked to compare increases in enrollment at NMHU with those of other universities. He indicated that large enrollment increases at other universities might be attributed to their growing reliance on online education or to their opening of other facilities (see UNM's Rio Rancho facility). The President indicated that shifts in NM demographics call for increased reliance on online education and a larger recruitment arena.
- ✓ He addressed concerns regarding the possibility of a reorganization of higher education in NM by acknowledging that online education is more cost effective than traditional education. He added, however, that it would be difficult to forecast the direction and extent of any re-organization during the current period of transition.

5. **Faculty Association Information & Update – Katherine Jenkins**  
Dr. Jenkins indicated that the Faculty Association was entering collective bargaining for Faculty salaries.
6. **Announcements**  
None
7. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Maura Pilotti**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**