

# Approved Minutes

Approved August 24, 2011

## Faculty Senate Meeting

11 May 2011

Science Annex Building, Room 329

New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order: 3:06 p.m.**
2. **Roll Call:**
3. **Present:** Maureen Romine (*Chair*), Stella Helvie (*Vice Chair*), Kenneth Bentson, David Braun y Harycki, Tatiana Dutoit, Jayni Flores, Gil Gallegos (proxy for Richard Greene), Julius Harrington, Kathy Jenkins, April Kent, Abbas Manafy, Maura Pilotti, Maxine Salas, Charles Swim, Susan Williams, and Jennifer Almand (*GSA representative*)  
  
**Also Present:** Dr. James Fries (University President) and Dr. Gilbert Rivera (VPAA).
4. **Absent:** Shani Crawford (*Student Senate representative*), Jane Gorman (excused absence), and Regina Briefs-Elgin (excused absence).
5. **Approval of Agenda:** 11 May 2011 – as amended
6. **Approval of Minutes:** 27 April 2011 – as written
7. **Communication from the Administration:**  
President Fries thanked all members of the Senate for their work. He then proceeded to offer a brief overview of some recent occurrences. Namely, he reported an estimate of the number of undergraduate and graduate degrees to be awarded at Commencement, offered an update on enrollment figures and on the expansion of the honors program, and mentioned some upcoming administrative changes (e.g., selection of VPAA and interim Dean of Arts and Sciences). Dr. Fries remarked that, during the summer, he would be working with the members of the Executive Committee on several documents (e.g., Faculty Handbook) and with State University and Government representatives on devising funding formulas for Higher Education. He also reminded the audience that New Mexico Governor and Higher Education officials had agreed upon a moratorium on new state-funded college buildings. Lastly, Dr. Fries recounted the success of Research Day.

A discussion regarding retention issues as being gender-biased arose. Dr. Rivera offered scenarios addressing the issues raised. He then listed the

number of graduates organized by School/ College and location (main campus vs. centers).

**8. Communication from the Chair:**

Dr. Romine mentioned that she sent a letter on behalf of the Faculty Senate to the Administration supporting the concept of two separate student organizations (i.e., Student Senate and Graduate Student Association).

**9. Communication from Academic Affairs:**

Dr. Bentson reported that, during the last meeting of the semester, the members of his committee approved several program changes, discussed the committee's overall performance with Dr. Romine and Dr. Jenkins, and postponed election of officers to the fall.

**10. Communication from the Student Senate:**

None

**11. Communication from the GSA:**

A brief discussion arose regarding events surrounding the proposed merger of the Student Senate and GSA. Dr. Helvie was thanked for her services as Faculty representative. Ms. Almand indicated that the GSA would donate a reasonable amount of money to the newly established Sigma Xi Travel Fund. An explanation of the fund and its purpose followed.

**12. Communication from the Staff Senate:**

Ms. Salas briefly summarized the activities of the Staff Senate in preparation for the summer/fall semesters.

**13. Old Business**

*Election of Senate officers and Executive Committee members*

The following officers were elected:

Dr. Maureen Romine, Chair

Dr. Stella Helvie, Vice Chair

Dr. Maura Pilotti, Secretary of the Faculty Senate/Treasurer

Dr. Tatiana Dutoit, Member at-large of the Executive Committee

Dr. Katherine Jenkins, Member at-large of the Executive Committee

*Chair selection process – language concerning a tie vote.*

Tabled

**14. New Business**

*Outcomes Assessment Handbook – action item*

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the current [Outcomes Assessment Handbook](#) with the understanding that updates will be required.*

Motion approved with one abstention

*Update regarding GSA*

See text pertaining to 'Communication from the Chair'.

*VPAA candidates – executive session*

Two contrasting motions were debated:

1. The Faculty Senate should send the Administration a list of VPAA candidates described as acceptable or unacceptable along with weaknesses and strengths.
2. The Faculty Senate should send the Administration a list of VPAA candidates ranked by their degree of acceptability along with weaknesses and strengths.

Following a vote, it was decided that *the Faculty Senate would send the Administration a list of VPAA candidates described as acceptable or unacceptable along with weaknesses and strengths.*

Tally: 5 yeas, 4 nays, and 1 abstention

**15. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Maura Pilotti**

**Secretary/Treasurer**