

Approved Minutes

Approved 10/15/11

Faculty Senate Meeting

September 28, 2011

Kennedy Lounge

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

1. **Call to Order: 3:04 p.m.**

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Arguello, David (School of Social Work), Braun y Harycki, David (School of Education), Dutoit, Tatiana (Visual & Performing Arts), Gonzales, Margaret (*Staff Senate*), Greene, Richard (Computer & Mathematical Sciences), Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work), Helvie, Stella (School of Education), Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy), LeRoy, Peter (Exercise & Sport Sciences), Linder, Peter (History/Political Science/Language & Culture), Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology), Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management), Pilotti, Maura (Social & Behavioral Sciences), Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry), and Williams, Susan (Nursing).

Also Present: Walker, Diane (School of Education), proxy for Flores, Jayni

Absent:

Rivera, Gilbert (VPAA)

Kent, April (Library)

Marrujo, Virginia (*GSA*)

3. **Approval of Agenda:** 28 September 2011 – Approved with one change

4. **Approval of Minutes:** 14 September 2011 – Approved as written

5. **Communication from the Administration:**

Dr. Rivera was unable to attend the meeting due to illness. He sent a report to the Chair of the Faculty Senate regarding his meeting with the regional manager of the NMHU bookstore. A written account of the content of the encounter was distributed to Senators. Dr. Braun y Harycki (School of Education) reported on the NCATE pre-visit. He recounted meetings that members of the School of Education attended with members of the assessment team and outlined future meetings with both state and national teams. He mentioned that the School of Education had been required to post its logo on all submitted documents and physical locations on each campus/center associated with the School. He also asked for cooperation of the Faculty pertaining to submission of copies of syllabi prior to the accreditation visit.

6. Communication from the Chair:

The Chair highlighted issues discussed during a cabinet meeting held on September 27th. A brief report was then given on the status of ARMAS, including a grant the Center recently received from the Department of Education. The grant covers core activities that ARMAS currently performs. Dr. Martinez, Director of the Center, indicated that the Administration and ARMAS personnel should find alternative solutions to cover services that the grant does not support. A question arose regarding strategies to increase the number of students who take calculus. Currently, only students majoring in STEM disciplines are required to take Calculus. Approximately 200-220 students are slated to major in STEM disciplines. To increase the number of STEM majors, internal and external recruitment must be bolstered. The latter would include recruitment outside New Mexico.

The chair then mentioned a miscellaneous series of issues: (1) Imminent closure of G35 due to construction of the nearby student center; (2) presentation of a master plan and five-year plan made by NMHU President to the New Mexico State Board of Finance; (3) absence of hard copies of the spring schedule of classes; (4) ongoing discussions regarding changes to the funding formula; (5) increased enrollment at the centers; (6) evidence that students at the centers may be displeased with the distance education mode; (7) account regarding the ranking that NMHU received in US News and World Report; (8) information regarding an upcoming meeting of the Instructional Technology committee; and (9) information regarding an upcoming meeting of representatives of the Faculty Association and the Executive Committee of the Senate.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs:

Dr. LeRoy reported that members of the Committee were laboring over a letter requesting released time for the Chair. He also offered a brief summary of the discussion undertaken by members of the Committee on charges given to it by the Faculty Senate.

8. Communication from the Student Senate:

Jessica Gomez gave an overview of the status of the Student Senate. She reported on an event, named 'Express Yourself', which would give students the opportunity to discuss issues relevant to their lives, including sexual harassment on campus. Discussion then arose regarding the current status of the GSA. Ms. Gonzales reported that the members of the GSA had attempted to change the constitution guiding the functioning of the GSA without following proper procedures (e.g., holding elections). As a result, GSA had temporarily lost its official recognition on campus.

9. Communication from the GSA:

None

10. Communication from the Staff Senate:

Ms. Gonzales indicated that members of the Staff Senate met on Tuesday and that their meetings would be scheduled on Mondays. One of the goals of their meetings would be to revise the bylaws regarding voting policy and procedure, and the policy regarding termination of benefits for expired contracts.

11. **Old Business**

a. Senate Representative for the Student Affairs Committee

No Faculty Senator volunteered and/or was available to serve as liaison for the Student Affairs Committee.

b. Proposal for Unified Planning and Reporting

The Chair proposed that the document be sent to the Ad Hoc Instructional Assessment Committee. Following a brief discussion, the following motion was made, seconded and approved (12 yeas, 1 nay, and 1 abstention):

‘The Instructional Assessment Committee is responsible for reviewing the Proposal for Unified Planning and Reporting’.

c. Handbook Revisions – Sections I-IV

The Chair mentioned two sections of the Faculty Handbook that required alterations: the Chair Selection Process and the Dean Selection Process. She reported discrepancies between the view of the Faculty Senate and the view of the Administration. Dr. Linder, representing the view of the Faculty Association, indicated that it was a contract issue related to working conditions. He also indicated that an action from the Faculty Senate should follow the meeting of the Faculty Association and Executive Committee of the Senate.

The issue of duties and responsibilities of Faculty on sabbatical leave or medical leave was also raised. Questions arose regarding the meaning of ‘excused from duties’. Namely, one individual asked whether a Faculty member on sabbatical leave, who is released from his/her responsibilities as Faculty, should be allowed to participate in activities relevant to the functioning of his/her department such as search committees, chair selection, etc. Also to ensure that a Faculty member not be deprived of his/her rights, he asked whether the individual Faculty should be allowed to decide whether to participate in any of these activities.

Lastly, one individual suggested that no change to the duration of a Chair’s tenure be made to the Faculty Handbook. Currently, the duration of a Chair’s tenure is three years. \

d. Plagiarism Concern – Student Integrity Policy

Following a brief discussion regarding a recent event of plagiarism, the Chair asked that the document entitled ‘Student Academic Integrity Policy’ be approved to address plagiarism-related events. A typographical error was reported on the first paragraph of the section devoted to appeals (i.e., the

document should read ‘Student Affairs Committee’ instead of ‘Academic Affairs Committee’). It was noted that both the document approved by the Faculty Senate on April 14th, 2010 and the current document contained the error and should be revised.

A motion to approve the [document entitled *Student Academic Integrity Policy as amended*](#) was made, seconded and approved unanimously.

12. New Business

a. Election of Senate Committee Members

None

b. Voting Faculty

Discussion arose regarding the voting rights of retained-term Faculty. According to one view, retained-term Faculty who have been at NMHU for a long time and have expertise in a specific area/discipline should be conferred the right to become full members of Faculty Senate committees and, consequently, to vote on these committees. The proposal would selectively allow some retained-term Faculty to serve on specific committees and would give them voting rights on such committees. Another proposal promoted the status quo. A diametrically different proposal consisted of giving all retained-term Faculty membership and voting rights on Senate committees.

The rationale for each of these proposals was discussed by the respective proponents. A lively discussion arose, including questions about changes in the Faculty Handbook and the consequences of allowing membership and voting rights on selected committees, etc.

A motion was made and seconded that ‘retained-term Faculty obtain the right to vote in Senate Committees. The motion was defeated (2 yeas, 8 nays, 1 abstention). Consequently, the issue was tabled. The Chair indicated that proposals would be discussed at the next meetings of the Executive Committee and Faculty Senate.

c. Teaching Excellence

Tabled

d. Issues, Concerns and Activities for the 2011-2012 Academic Year

Tabled

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Pilotti

Secretary/Treasurer

