

Approved Minutes

Approved October 26, 2011

Faculty Senate Meeting

12 October 2011

Kennedy Lounge

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

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

2. **Roll Call:**

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

Also Present: Mrs. Mueller, JA, NMHU Bookstore manager

Absent:

Rivera, Gilbert (VPAA)

Arguello, David (School of Social Work)

_____ (*Student Senate*)

3. **Approval of Agenda:** 12 October 2011 – Approved as written

4. **Approval of Minutes:** 28 September 2011 – Approved as written (1 nay and 1 abstention)

5. **Communication from the Administration:**

The manager of the NMHU bookstore, Mrs. Mueller, apologized for the difficulties students and Faculty experienced with book orders at the beginning of the fall semester. She promised to make any possible effort to enhance communication between Faculty and bookstore management. She illustrated the options available to students for book ordering and the conundrum faced by the bookstore when attempting to order an older edition of a textbook. Questions and comments by Faculty punctuated her report.

- 6. Communication from the Chair:**
The Chair spoke of the new learning management system (*Desire 2 Learn*) and indicated that training would be scheduled in the spring. She reported that *Desire 2 Learn* allows one to import content from Blackboard.
- Senators were reminded of the Nina Telsa Ballen Visiting Professor Program and the Pino Endowment for Faculty Development Program. A brief description of the purpose of each award was offered. Then discussion arose regarding membership and School/College representation on the committees responsible for the awards.
- The Chair indicated that members of the Executive Committee would be meeting with representatives of the Faculty Association to discuss cooperative actions.
- Lastly, the Chair mentioned the process of selection of Faculty for Emeritus status and the function that many retired Faculty still play on campus. Questions arose regarding the availability of a list of retired Faculty.
- 7. Communication from Academic Affairs:**
Dr. LeRoy, Faculty Senate liaison to the Academic Affairs Committee and the Emergency Action Plan Committee, referred to the report sent to Senators earlier describing the activities/actions recently undertaken by the Academic Affairs Committee and the Emergency Action Plan Committee. Dr. LeRoy, who was asked whether NMHU Centers would participate in emergency planning, replied that currently only the main campus was involved.
- 8. Communication from the Student Senate:**
None
- 9. Communication from the GSA:**
The representative of the GSA, Virginia Marrujo, offered an illustration of the current status of the GSA. She indicated that its members were told by NMHU Administration that the GSA was dormant and that its funds were frozen due to lack of compliance with the approved Constitution. She reported that members of the GSA would meet with the President and the Dean of Students shortly to discuss the current impasse and possible solutions. She reported that most GSA representatives are motivated to preserve the GSA's unique role of supporting the academic needs of graduate students. If a merger with the Student Senate is to occur, Ms. Marrujo stressed the importance of ensuring that such needs are met (e.g., separate funds devoted to graduate students).
- 10. Communication from the Staff Senate:**
Ms. Gonzales indicated that members of the Staff Senate would be meeting next week.

11. Old Business:

a. *Senate representative for the Student Affairs Committee*
No volunteer was found to serve as liaison on the committee.

b. *Handbook revisions – Sections I-IV: Input from Faculty Association (eligibility of Faculty on Sabbatical Leave and Chair Selection Process)*

‘Faculty on sabbatical leave can choose to participate in the Chair Selection Process and are eligible to be nominated as Chair.’

A motion was made and approved to include the language as written.
(All yeas)

c. *Student Academic Integrity Policy (student version)*

A motion was made and approved to return to the original language as written.
(All yeas)

d. *Voting Faculty*

A discussion arose regarding the opportunity for non-tenured track Faculty to vote on Senate Committees. Pros and cons were reiterated and concerns expressed. Dr. Kempner proposed a compromise whereby a Senate Committee could ask the Faculty Senate to make a non-voting member a voting member on that committee for one term. It was remarked that the Senate should rely on the member’s expertise to decide whether voting rights should be granted. Furthermore, it was noted that exceptions would apply to specific committees such as Faculty Affairs. Approval by Faculty Senate would be a necessary condition for the non-voting member to become a voting member.

It was suggested that the issue be presented to the entire Faculty and discussed at the next General Faculty meeting. The Chair suggested that Senators circulate the question among the Faculty of their departments/schools. She indicated that she was unsure of the scheduling of the next General Faculty meeting. It was decided that a text of Dr. Kempner’s proposal would be developed during the next Executive Committee meeting and then sent to Senators for distribution to Faculty.

e. *Teaching Excellence*

A discussion arose regarding a proposal for a center devoted to teaching excellence. Questions pertained to the scope of the center and its usefulness to the development and implementation of pedagogy at NMHU. Questions also arose regarding availability of funds for an effective operation, activities considered under its umbrella (e.g., workshops) and their timing (e.g., Faculty Development Week). Discussion also involved the voluntary vs. mandatory

nature of activities envisioned for the center, the need to update information in the document and to know its history. It was decided that the idea was to be explored further.

12. New Business:

a. *Election of Senate Committee Members*
Tabled

b. *Request for release time for the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee*
Tabled

c. *Instructional Assessment Committee*
Tabled

Prior to the end of the meeting, Dr. Loewen mentioned ongoing plans for a gala. Ms. Gonzales reminded everyone of the closure of G35 for the remainder of the semester.

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Pilotti

Secretary/Treasurer