

Approved Minutes General Faculty Meeting
Wednesday, August 24, 2011
4:00 p.m. in Kennedy
Approved March 9, 2012

1. **Call to Order: 4:11 p.m.**
2. **Approval of Agenda** – approved unanimously
2. **Approval of 3-23-2010 Minutes** – approved with one abstention

Note: quorum obtained (30 Faculty attendees)

3. **Information Items – President Fries**

Dr. Fries thanked the Faculty as a whole and the Executive Committee of the Faculty in particular for their work during the summer. He reported on NMHU's increased enrollment figures on both its main campus and centers and remarked that other higher education institutions, in contrast to NMHU, were experiencing declines in enrollment. The only negative news for NMHU, he noted, was the decline in enrollment at San Juan College. Dr. Fries then reminded his audience of the decision to be made regarding a platform for online delivery of educational services.

Dr. Fries also spoke of positive signs and trends in the economy of New Mexico (i.e., improved revenues). He then indicated that although higher education institutions were required to have a funding formula by October 15th, no definite decision had been made on content of the formula. He briefly outlined several scenarios and the options available to NMHU. He remarked that NMHU was off to a good start.

Discussion arose regarding several issues, including curtailment of day care services and recognition that retention and graduation rates are driven by the reputation of the University. Dr. Fries mentioned the possibility of establishing a robust scholarship program for deserving students, program accreditation, and enhancement in job placement by NMHU's career office as opportunities for improving the academic reputation and attractiveness of NMHU among current and potential students. Dr. Greene acknowledged improvement.

Following a query, Dr. Fries addressed the fate of ARMAS and recognized that the flow of soft money is predictably unstable across time. He indicated that discussion of feasible solutions would occur shortly.

4. **Report on the National Survey of Student Engagement – Jean Hill**

Dr. Hill presented an overview of the survey on students' satisfaction, a \$ 3,000 effort to understand the extent to which freshmen and seniors might approve or disapprove services and opportunities offered by NMHU. Dr. Hill indicated that data from the survey were available online

(<http://www.nmhu.edu/FacultyStaff/institutionalresearch/OIERreports.aspx>). Discussion arose regarding several issues, including cost, procedure adopted for sampling and distribution of the survey, comparison of NMHU data with those of other institutions, and interpretation of attitude changes across time (i.e., whether fluctuations could be attributed to changes in demographic characteristics of the student population).

5. Information Items and Time for General Faculty Meetings – Dr. Maureen Romine, Chair Faculty Senate

Dr. Romine welcomed attending Faculty and spoke of work conducted by members of the Executive Committee during the summer, which had been focused on revising sections of the Faculty Handbook. She asked Faculty to consider the issue of scheduling General Faculty meetings. She mentioned Friday afternoons at 1:00 pm as a reasonable possibility. Dr. Rivera indicated that he had asked Deans and Chairs not to schedule classes for tenured and tenure-track Faculty on Fridays at 1:00 pm. He indicated that he would verify the outcome of his request and report results to the Faculty. Dr. Petronis asked about the proposal regarding e-mail voting. He learned that a decision had not been made.

6. Announcements

None

7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Pilotti

Secretary/Treasurer