

Approved Minutes

Approved February 27, 2013

Faculty Senate Meeting

February 13, 2013

Science Annex Building, Room 329 - New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order: 3:06 p.m.**

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Braun y Harycki, David (School of Education); Stella Helvie, proxy for Burns, Jim (School of Education); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Flores, Jayni (School of Education); Gonzales, Margaret (*Staff Senate*); Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); Cheryl Zebrowski, proxy for Kent, April (Library); LeRoy, Peter (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Manafy, Abbas (History/Political Science/Language & Culture); Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management); Rivera, Gilbert (VPAA); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business); Tahani, Hossein (Computer & Mathematical Sciences); Emily Williams (School of Education); Williamson, Ian proxy for Gloria Gadsden, Spring 2013 (Social & Behavioral Sciences)

Absent:

Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy);
Montoya, Gabrielle (*Student Senate, undergraduate*)
Rowlett, Joseph (*Student Senate, graduate*)
Williams, Susan (Nursing);

3. **Approval of Agenda:** February 13, 2013 Approved with the addition of one item.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** January 23, 2013 Approved with 1 correction

5. **Communication from the Administration**

1. Dr. Rivera wants to set-up a committee, perhaps a sub-committee of the Instructional Technology Committee, to look into students using/abusing the use of a public software, "Conference Me In" in lieu of attending class. The Executive Committee will discuss at their next meeting.
2. It is a catalog year. Dr. Rivera would like to form a committee to do a final review. There will be fewer printed copies, with reliance on the online version. Executive Committee will discuss at their next meeting.
3. 651 new freshmen have been admitted for Fall 2013. By comparison, we had 1509 last year, however, only 16% of those registered.

4. ACT Questions brought up by Faculty Senate
 - i. How are schools being informed? The Recruitment Office is advising high school students and counselors that the ACT is now required.
 - ii. Support to students? A letter is sent to parents which includes an admission checklist. Admissions information is available in various places on the website. Recruitment office is sending out notices of ACT test dates and registration deadlines to students. They will continue to send out notices to those applicants who haven't taken it.
 - iii. If student has not taken the ACT, there is an appeal process.
 - iv. How are hardship cases defined? Most likely due to financial and/or distance constraints.
 - v. Impact of the requirements? No hard data yet, but it is felt that those who take the ACT will actually show up, and stay in school.

6. Communication from the Chair

1. The new Residence Hall has been named in honor of Matie Viles and Ken and Sue Crimmin
2. Approved the Oil and Gas BBA/MBA program
3. Approved the Hydrazine Remediation Licensing Agreement
4. President Fries' contract has been extended three years
5. General Faculty Meeting on February 8th
 - i. Draft Minutes were handed out to committee members
 - ii. Statement to the Board of Regents on the Reappointment Process of the president
 - Review and discuss with colleagues before sending to the BOR. Need to come up with some ideas of how faculty could be involved.
6. Pino Endowment still has money and a call for proposals has gone out.
7. Ad Hoc Committees
 - i. Indirect Funds Committee is working with Linda LaGrange
 - ii. Student Evaluation of Classes Committee - has 3 faculty members
 - iii. Faculty Development Committee – has 2 faculty members
8. Re-opening of Dean Searches: to be discussed under Item 10
9. Chair selections for the following departments are in progress: Curriculum and Instruction; Business; Biology and Chemistry; History, Political Science, and Languages and Culture; and Visual and Performing Arts
10. Governor Martinez has nominated the following for Board of Regents: Re-appointment of Mr. Leveo Sanchez and student representative, Mr. Michael Martinez, a sophomore biology major. The appointments must be approved by the state senate.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

1. Minutes sent to committee members. Note that Dr. Lail Warren is acting chair this semester while Donna is on sabbatical.

8. Communication from the Student Senate

1. Margaret Gonzales reports that the Attorney General and other members of the Student Senate were removed, because they were not in good standing with the university, mostly low GPA.
 - i. Applications for Student Senate will be available March 30th. Ask students to vote on qualifications, not popularity. The senate may host a forum for the candidates and post applicants photo and statement of interest somewhere on campus.

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

1. Last meeting cancelled. On their agenda is parking issues, Vacancy in the technical skills, and facilities departments. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 26th.

10. Old Business

1. Dean Searches – Senate Draft Response

The Faculty Senate concurs with the attached letters regarding the failed Dean Searches from the Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee and the School of Education Tenured Faculty.

The Faculty Senate would like a response from the administration of why the procedures were violated in these searches, how these violations will be addressed, and how the procedure violations will be avoided in the future. The Faculty Senate would also like the administration to address the issue of unfilled higher administrative positions. We urge that appropriate measures be taken to ensure that future searches are inclusive of the faculty voice.

- i. Dr. Ian Williamson moved to add the following paragraph.
Motion carried
Future searches should follow the procedures in the Faculty Handbook as approved by the Board of Regents.

2. VPFA Position

- i. There was discussion regarding why the VPFA position was not an external search. Dr. Pete LeRoy made a motion to send the following statement to the administration. Motion passed.

The Faculty Senate strongly recommends that an external search be conducted for VPFA position to attract a pool of highly qualified candidates.

3. Dean and VPAA positions.

- i. There was lively discussion regarding these positions. Some of the concerns were the advertising process, need and role of deans considering our size, should deans be hired before new VPAA is hired, the timing of the process, and should we consider a re-organization?
- ii. Dr. Pete LeRoy made a motion to send the following statement to the administration. Motion passed with 5 in favor, 1 opposed and 3 abstentions.

The Faculty Senate strongly recommends that the searches for VPAA and deans begin immediately.

11. New Business:

1. Complete College America
 - i. A copy of Dr. Fries' e-mail was handed out to committee members.
 - ii. He is proposing Graduation Requirements of a minimum of 120 credits
 - Dr. Brandon Kempner has sent a memo to faculty Senate discussing some of the pro's and con's of the proposed reduction of hours. Please review and discuss with other faculty, before charging a committee to review.
 - Some programs, especially education, will not be able to meet this goal.
 - iii. Upper Division Requirements
 - iv. Remedial Classes
 - v. Dr. Rivera has attended an HED meeting discussing new requirements, including core curriculum.
2. Senate representative(s) for the Steering Committee for the University's 120th anniversary celebration
 - i. Want to do something during Home Coming Week. Sharon Caballero would like other faculty to be involved. There were some issues with the sound system last year. Dr. Kerry Loewen and April Kent have volunteered.
 - ii. Faculty Marshalls: Dr. Stella Helvie made a motion to nominate the following people as Faculty Marshalls: Stella Helvie, Andrew Wollner, David Lobdell, Merryl Kravitz, Delores Ortega and Chris Nelson. Motion passed.

12. Committee Reports and Announcements

1. None

13. Meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.