

**General Faculty Draft Minutes**  
**Approved April 30, 2014**

**Friday, February 8, 2013**  
**1:00 p.m.**  
**Sininger Hall, Room 100**

- 1. Call to Order: 1:10 p.m.**
- 2. Approval of Agenda – Approved**
- 3. Approval of May 4, 2012 Minutes – Approved**

Note: quorum obtained (30 voting Faculty attendees)

- 4. Presentation by President Fries**
  1. The President will be continuing at Highlands and wants to move the university forward.
  2. The main mission of the university is to focus on student success. The President will be looking at job descriptions, course catalogs, degree requirements, class schedules, scholarships, the structure of the university, and the marketing of the university to make sure they promote student success.
  3. The President wants to emphasize value, rather than low cost, in the marketing of the university.
  4. There will be a focus on the diplomas or certificates awarded. Awarding 1,000 degrees or certificates per year is the new goal.
  5. The retention of students is also an important goal. Retention and graduation rates must be increased. All students should be reached.
  6. The university will be looking at how to use financial aid to motivate students to go to class.
  7. Complete College America recommends co-requisites for developmental classes instead of pre-requisites. Some of these co-requisite plans are in the works at Highlands University.
  8. The President has sent an email to the Faculty Senate about revising degree requirements. He wants the Senate to look at degree credit requirements and his recommendations. The President said his role is to ask questions about requirements and the reasons behind these requirements.
  9. We are in a changing period of higher education and Highlands has to be aware of these changes.
  10. Interim Positions and Unfilled Positions
    - i. Vice President of Academic Affairs - Dr. Gilbert Rivera is retiring. There will be a search for a new Vice President of Academic Affairs or Provost. Hopefully, the position will be filled for the fall. Dr. Rivera is willing to stay through January if needed.

- ii. Vice President of Finance and Administration - There will be an internal search for this position.
- iii. Comptroller – The business office is working well without this position. The President is looking at a new organizational structure for this office.
- iv. Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Dean of the School of Education - There has been discussion about reopening these searches. Hopefully, these positions will be filled permanently for the fall semester.
- v. Registrar – There is currently a small pool of applicants. The search will be advertised and kept open a bit longer.
- vi. Director of Facilities – There are no immediate plans for the facilities position. It will be kept open for a while longer.

11. Questions

- i. The President was asked about the budget for the Student Center. The Student Center is 4.8 million over budget. This cost has been covered by taking funds from other projects.
- ii. There were comments about faculty searches, the search process, the importance of technology, and the impact of massive open online courses (MOOCs).
- iii. The President said it is important to set up a center for teaching excellence so faculty can learn how to use technology most effectively.
- iv. Faculty commented on the 1,000 degrees awarded goal.
- v. Recruitment and marketing issues were discussed.
- vi. Online classes and students taking online classes were discussed.

**5. Information on Senate activities**

- 1. See attached.

**6. Statement to the Board of Regents on the Reappointment Process**

The following amended statement was approved by the Faculty

This statement does not reflect lack of support for President Fries, but instead reflects faculty concern regarding lack of input into the selection process. Considering the importance of the position of President of the University and as we have shared governance at New Mexico Highlands University, we, the faculty, are concerned about the lack of faculty involvement in the reappointment process for this position.

Motion passed. 28 in favor, 1 opposed, 1 abstention.

**5. Announcements**

None

**6. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.