

Approved Minutes

Approved August 27, 2014

Faculty Senate Meeting April 23, 2014

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

1. Call to Order: 3:07 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Gadsden, Gloria (Social & Behavioral Sciences); Kimberly Blea proxy for Gonzales, Margaret (Staff Senate); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); Karaba, Robert (School of Education); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Kent, April (Library); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business); Thompson, Grace (Student Senate, undergraduate); Walker, Diane (School of Education); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williams, Susan (Nursing).

Absent:

Alhosban, Amal (Computer & Mathematical Sciences)
Braun y Harycki, David (School of Education)
Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work)
Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences)
Manafy, Abbas (History/Political Science/Language & Culture)

Also Present

Harrington, Edward
Saunero-Ward, Veronica

3. Approval of Agenda: April 23, 2014 - approved with one addition

4. Approval of Minutes: April 9, 2014 – approved

5. Instructional Technology Committee report

1. Instructional Technology Committee report. Dr. Veronica Saunero-Ward and Mr. Edward Harrington presented a recommendation from the Instructional Technology Committee for the position of Instructional Design Specialist and asked for Faculty Senate to support this recommendation. The Instructional Design Specialist would help with online education, faculty training, design of online courses, quality control, and copyright issues.

2. Discussion about where this position would fit in the university (EOS, Center for Teaching Excellence), budget implications, and alternatives.
3. This position will be discussed at the meeting about the Center for Teaching Excellence with the administration on Thursday, April 24.
4. The Distance Educational Manual has been about 90% revised by the committee. They plan on submitting the manual to Faculty Senate in the fall.

6. Communication from the Administration

1. Three nominations for U.S. Professor of the Year competition. First time for NMHU to participate in this competition that recognizes outstanding faculty who teach at the undergraduate level. Nominators will be informed of the status by the end of September. Dr. Carol Linder, Dr. Jennifer Lindline, and Ms. Miriam Langer were this year's nominees.
2. New Faculty hires
 - a. Chemistry professor has accepted offer.
 - b. Biology has offer to a finalist.
 - c. Several other searches in progress for FT tenure track and visiting positions.
3. Interim Dean/Associate Dean in Social Work update. Will select from nominations received. Interviewing nominees this week.
4. Immigration policy update. Working with university attorney and outside counsel on drafting a policy for institutional support for tenure track faculty, in their 5th year in tenure process.
5. External Program Accreditation. School of Business Accreditation: BBA and MBA programs have been accredited by ACBSP (Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs).
6. Recruitment and/or Retention Initiatives.
 - a. Letters from Deans/Chairs to students who have been admitted to NMHU beginning in fall 2014. Personal letters are being generated to welcome students, say something about the major or institution, and announce information on Convocation and Orientation events.
 - b. Fall Convocation. Will be held on Friday, August 15 in Ilfeld Auditorium. Coordinating with Student Affairs staff in planning. Board of Regents and local dignitaries to be invited.
7. Honors Program Proposal being developed. Interdisciplinary program and increased efforts to earmark scholarships for prospective Honors students.
8. Highlights of President's report to the Board of Regents
 - a. The new Vice President for Advancement was announced.
 - b. There are three finalists for the Athletic Director search. Interviews will be in the next few weeks.
 - c. This Saturday is Legacy Day for Leveo Sanchez.
9. Restructuring of departments. Discussion of planning for future of departments will soon begin with the involved units.
10. The Deans and Directors retreat will be held shortly after the semester.

6. Communication from the Chair

1. Cabinet/Advisory Council Meeting, April 17, 2014
 - a. Admissions down 11.9% from this time last year – one reason is that there is less recruiting in regions where many applications are turned in but yield very little actual enrollment.
 - b. Commencement – 822 graduating – special section for local seniors.
 - c. Plan to gradually increase the tuition so we are not first on the list of lowest tuition.
2. Board of Regents Finance and Administration sub-committee report
 - a. Enrollment is down slightly.
 - b. NMHU has the worst retention rate in state.
 - c. Board is looking at where NMHU is losing money.
 - d. Dorm costs and tuition be will increased.
 - e. The FY 15 budget was approved. Rodeo, the Española site, and daycare have been cut.
3. Board of Regents, April 23, 2014 meeting
 - a. Dr. Romine reviewed the Faculty Senate Report handout.
4. Faculty Activities Brochure status – printed copies will be shipped soon.
5. Thank you letters for deserving members of Faculty Senate committees, including ad hoc committees, will be out soon.
6. The general faculty meeting is next Wednesday, 3:00-5:00 pm. Issues to be discussed include:
 - a. Faculty Handbook changes
 - b. Relationship between the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Association
7. The Executive Committee is meeting with Dr. Aguilar on Thursday, April 24, 3:15-5:00 pm to discuss the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Academic Integrity Policy.
8. Review of AAUP's "Losing Focus: The Annual Report on the Economic Status of the Profession, 2013-2014" from *Academe* March-April 2014.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

1. Mr. Kerry Loewen reported on the Highlights of the last Academic Affairs meeting.
2. Admissions applications are lower than last year, but admissions rates are higher.
3. Course proposal for a new Health Promotion course was approved.
4. Programs review. Should now be on a five year cycle. English and forestry reports are complete and will be looked at in the fall. Programs for review next year have been proposed.
5. Officer elections were held. Dr. Donna Woodford-Gormley was elected chair and Dr. Craig Conley was elected vice chair.

6. +/- grading system discussed. The C- is considered problematic. How student financial aid and student eligibility will be effected is being looked at.

8. Communication from the Student Senate

1. Mr. Joseph Dominquez was elected as the new president. He will be sworn in at the Student Senate Gala on May 30th.
2. Many current senators are graduating this year.
3. The last meeting of the semester will be on Sunday, April 27.

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

1. Ms. Kimberly Blea reported that the Staff Senate has not met this month, but will be meeting in the next few weeks.
2. Staff senate elections are in May; there will be many vacancies. Please encourage staff to get involved.
3. The annual satisfaction survey will be sent out soon.

10. Old Business:

1. Dean selection – no update.
2. Faculty Senate representative for dean search committee – no update.
3. Proposal for policy regarding 2nd BA and clarification of wording in the catalog. – action item
motion to
table the issue until there is more feedback from Biology and Chemistry, Natural Resource Management, and other STEM disciplines
motion passed.

11. New Business:

1. Senate elections: Vice Chair; Secretary; two at-large members for the Senate Executive Committee
 - a. Vice Chair – Dr. Brandon Kempner elected.
 - b. Secretary – tabled.
 - c. At-large members – Dr. Gloria Gadsden and Dr. Edward Martinez - elected.
2. Motion from Academic Affairs Committee to disregard transfer credits in calculating GPA for graduation honors – action item
 - a. Mr. Kerry Loewen reviewed Academic Affairs Committee discussion and vote on this issue.
 - b. Faculty Senate further discussed the issue including minimum number of credits at Highlands, transfer credits, and the spirit of graduation honors.
 - c. motion to
table issue for fuller discussion in fall
motion passed.

- d. The registrar, Mr. Michael Raine, will be included in fall discussions.
- 3. Student Affairs Committee – recommendation on the No-Trespass Policy appeals
 - a. Recommendation was reviewed and discussed.
 - b. Dr. Maureen Romine will discuss the recommendation from the committee with Dr. Fidel Trujillo.
- 4. Relationship of the Faculty Senate to the Academic Affairs Committee in terms of reporting and actions
 - a. Review of Faculty Handbook’s language
 - b. Discussion of the need for clarity of when Faculty Senate becomes involved with Academic Affairs Committee action.
 - c. Dr. Romine will check with Dr. Donna Woodford-Gormley about what has happened in practice in terms of what was sent to the Faculty Senate and what has been sent directly to the administration.
 - d. Mr. Loewen recommended that Dr. Ken Bentson also be contacted to see if practice differed in the past.
 - e. Discussion of the need for better communication of committee actions to whole faculty.

12. Committee Reports and Announcements

13. Meeting adjourned at 4:58 p.m.