

Approved Minutes

Approved October 22, 2014

Faculty Senate Meeting

October 8, 2014

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

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

2. Roll Call:

Present: Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Gadsden, Gloria (Social & Behavioral Sciences); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); John Ramon Vigil, Proxy for Izaguirre, Ariadna (Student Senate – Undergraduate); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Karaba, Robert (School of Education); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Main, Douglas (School of Education/Counseling & Guidance); Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management); Ratzlaff, Elizabeth (Staff Senate); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business); Thompson, Wally (School of Education, Curriculum & Instruction); Williams, Susan (Nursing); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Absent: Dominguez, Joseph (Student Senate – Graduate); Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work); Manafy, Abbas, excused (History/Political Science/Language & Culture); Walker, Diane, excused (School of Education); Williams, Emily, excused (School of Education)

Also Present

3. Approval of Agenda: - approved

4. Approval of Minutes: – minutes from Sept. 24th were approved with 3 corrections

5. Communication from the Administration

- a. Information to be presented at the Oct. 10 Board of Regents (BOR) Meeting
 - i. 4 year degree plans with a sample of BS in Chemistry
 - ii. MOU signed with Luna Community College to share faculty, space, etc.
 - iii. MOU signed with university in Turkey
 - iv. Higher Education Center is a new space in Santa Fe and scheduled to open in January. NMHU will moving there from Santa Fe Community College.
 - v. Agree upon the need for faculty involvement in Dean selections, but still need to discuss the handbook
 - vi. Awards
 - 1) Finalist in the Excellence in Education Award to ARMAS/NMHU
 - 2) Digital Technology in Education award to Dr. Vigil-Padilla for excellence in using technology in teaching.
 - vii. Higher Learning Commission visit: Working committee being setup with Dr. Hill as coordinator

- viii. Dr. Aguilar will chair the Strategic Planning steering committee. Looking for nominations of people who want to look forward, and thinking out of the box.
- ix. Diversity initiative is moving forward.

6. Communication from the Chair

- a. Cabinet Advisory Board meeting last Thursday
 - i. Raton is becoming non-viable
 - ii. Website being redesigned
 - iii. President Fries presented his Target list of items to work on this year. which include closure of the Maakwa (SUB contractor) contract, the Strategic Plan and a recruitment plan
- b. BOR meeting is on October 10th. 3 new regents will be appointed in the new year. Faculty are encouraged to attend.
- c. Enrollment is down 3.5%
- d. CTE advisory board request for nominations was sent out, but waiting for a volunteer from social work.
- e. +/- grading policy survey results. 60% say they want the proposed system. 75 responded. Lots of comments. Should move forward. Registrar says that it could be implemented next Fall. The BOR will have to approve this policy.
 - i. Motion made to accept the +/- grading system policy that was sent to the faculty for a vote and as recommended by Academic Affairs. Motion carried with one opposed.
- f. The executive Committee met with Dr. Peter Linder of the Faculty Affairs Committee. More members are needed since there are only 4 currently on the committee with 10 being the full size. This committee is limited to tenured faculty. The committee is working on grievance and tenured/non-tenured policies. Dr. Romine sent a request to deans to elect additional members.
- g. Student academic dishonesty policy language and procedures are being working on.
- h. Distance Ed manual has been sent out to faculty for their input
- i. Dean Section of handbooks is out for faculty input
- j. First faculty forum will be on Oct. 16th – “Who are we, and where are we going?”

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

- a. \$377,000 PED grant for special education
- b. Need a graduate coordinators chair
- c. Grad catalog is ready for review with a small print run scheduled
- d. 2 graduate appeals
- e. Call for Ballen Endowment applications going out shortly. Alexis Dias Pimienta is the fall scholar, scheduled for the first 2 weeks in November.
- f. The Capstone course for Biology was approved.
- g. Duties of the committee were discussed. They are reviewing which signatures are needed on various forms, as well as what course/program changes need approval.
- h. An ad hoc subcommittee will draft language for a revised policy for retroactive drops and adds.
- i. Graduate Honors – voted to accept the registrar’s recommendation
- j. Program Reviews: sub-committees to give feedback before being sent to administration.

8. Communication from the Student Senate

- a. Assisting with the CROP Hunger Walk Oct. 18th at United World College
- b. There is still money available for clubs and students to attend conferences

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

- a. Discussion about compensation for staff who write grants
- b. Discussion about the ongoing issue of prompt e-mail/phone call response
- c. Staff would like to do an administrative evaluation and would like the senate's form as a starting point.

10. Old Business:

- a. Graduating Honors – calculating GPA
 - i. Discussion: shouldn't be different from any other university, other schemes would be too complicated to implement, save registrar's office much time.
 - ii. Motion made to accept the recommendation from Academic Affairs on calculating GPA for graduation honors. Motion passed with one opposed.

11. New Business

- a. Charge to Instructional Technology Committee to investigate and recommend action on the issue of State authorization of online enrollment.
 - i. Dr. Susan Williams gave a brief overview of the issue. There is a national reciprocity agreement (SARA-State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement) which New Mexico has not yet signed. That requires legislative action. The state Education Committee will be looking at it.
 - ii. The charge as proposed is not needed since it's a legislative issue.
 - iii. Motion made to charge the Instructional Technology Committee to investigate what NMHU would need to do if SARA is implemented by New Mexico. Motion carried unanimously.
- b. Concerns about Shared Governance.
 - i. The Senate went into Executive Session to discuss concerns about shared governance and administrative leadership.

12. Committee Reports and Announcements

- a. None

13. Meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.