

Approved Minutes

Approved January 28, 2015

Faculty Senate Meeting January 14, 2015

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: Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Erica Derkas as proxy for Gadsden, Gloria (Social & Behavioral Sciences); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Main, Douglas (School of Education/Counseling & Guidance); Manafy, Abbas (History/Political Science/Language & Culture); 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, Emily (School of Education); Williams, Susan (Nursing); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Excused: Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Karaba, Robert (School of Education); Walker, Diane (School of Education)

Absent: Dominguez, Joseph (Student Senate – Graduate); Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work); Izaguirre, Ariadna (Student Senate – Undergraduate)

Also Present: George Lyon, Kristie Ross

- 3. Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with an addition to New Business regarding election of member to the Executive Committee, move the Ad Hoc committee report after Communications, and the addition of issues to item 11d.
- 4. Approval of Minutes** – Minutes from December 10th were approved with a typo correction in 5b.
- 5. Communication from the Administration**
- a. Dr. Aguilar was not present
- 6. Communication from the Chair**
- a. Special Board of Regent meeting on Dec. 16th.
 - i. Removal of the ACT requirement was approved.

- ii. Proposed changes to the Dean Section to the faculty handbook was approved.
- iii. +/- grading option was approved and will be implemented in Fall 2015.
- iv. Proposed members for the President's search committee were announced. Faculty members include Dr. Maureen Romine and Dr. Ian Williamson.
 - 1) A search firm will be hired to vet applicants.
- b. Two new regents have been appointed: LouElla Marr-Montoya, Sandra Turner and two names were submitted for the student regent
- c. Call for volunteers to serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee on Research & Scholarly Activities went out with two responses.
- d. Center for Teaching Excellence – Dr. Aguilar will meet with the advisory board and develop process for hiring a director.
- e. Dean Searches – Social Work search will begin search next fall. Education and the College of Arts & Sciences are going forward.
- f. The kick-off on the Strategic Plan - Vision 2020 is scheduled for January 22. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

- a. Academic Affairs has not met since our last meeting.

8. Communication from the Student Senate

- a. No one was present

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

- a. Nothing to report

10. Ad Hoc Committee on NMHU identity

- a. The committee put out a newsletter which collated the issues which came out of the forums. A Q&A with administration was organized. This semester they plan on looking for solutions and will create a survey monkey to prioritize the issues and then have forums which will look at solutions. They will be attending Strategic Planning forums to raise ideas there. They plan to publish a calendar of when the forums will be held and what issues will be discussed. With President and Dean Searches happening this year, it is a good time to discuss these issues.

11. Old Business

- a. Voting Faculty
 - i. Dr. Susan Williams has discussed with Dr. Aguilar the definition of research activities. Social Work, Education and other departments may wish to hire faculty which may be interested in clinical or consulting type of work.
 - ii. Accrediting bodies may want clinical practice for faculty so that they remain current in the field.
 - iii. Is there a rule for senate which allows any departments with non-tenure track faculty to be voting members? Would need to change the handbook.

- iv. Other universities have a broad definition of voting faculty – mostly if they are full-time.
- v. Want to make sure university hires tenure-track positions in order to protect the academic rigor of our university.
- vi. How can we have more faculty participating?
- vii. There are 147 Full Time faculty and 45 are non-tenured.
- viii. Members should discuss this issue with their departments.
- ix. Dr. Kathy Jenkins will take this issue to the Faculty Association.

12. New Business:

- a. Senate Executive Committee member
 - i. Dr. Gadsden is not able to attend the Executive Committee meetings.
 - ii. Motion made to nominate Dr. Derkas to the Executive Committee. (Loewen/Manafy) Motion passed unanimously and Dr. Derkas accepted.

- b. Senate Representative for Dean Search Committees
 - i. Per the Faculty Handbook section on Dean Searches, the senate should nominate a representative to sit on the search committee who is not in the school or college.
 - ii. Members should ask department members if they would be willing to serve.

- c. Revised Student Academic Integrity Policy
 - i. This was voted on at General Faculty meeting last fall. President Fries had several suggested changes. Major changes occurred in Penalties for Multiple Instances of Academic Dishonesty.
 - ii. Motion made to approve the changes to the Student Academic Integrity Policy (Kempner/Williams) Motion approved unanimously.
 - iii. It will now go to full faculty to approve and then the BOR.

- d. Issues for the Spring semester
 - i. Handbook, Section VI – Faculty Personnel Policies
 - 1) Will need to work with Dr. Aguilar to discuss definitions of faculty categories
 - ii. Advisement Manual
 - 1) At one time there had been an advisement manual. This will have to be developed with other departments.
 - 2) Motion made to charge to the Student Affairs Committee to revise or create the advisement manual before Fall 2015. (Christensen/Harrington) Motion passed unanimously
 - iii. Duties of Committee Chairs
 - 1) Would like this spelled out in the Faculty Handbook, as well as consequences for non-compliance.
 - iv. Revise evaluation of administration
 - 1) Need to make the evaluation more relevant to faculty, and get feedback to faculty regarding the evaluation.

- v. Follow-up on the progress on the charge to the Faculty Affairs Committee to develop personnel policies for non-tenure-track faculty
- vi. Need to put out a call for the Faculty Development Committee and would like more tenured faculty on this committee, as well as from centers. Eventually the CTE will take over this task.

13. Committee Reports & Announcements - Staff Senate announced Strategic Plan Meeting

14. Meeting adjourned at 4:43 p.m.