

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**February 10, 2016 Minutes**  
Approved February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

**Lora Shields, room 329- New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.**

**1. Call to Order: 3:05 p.m.**

**2. Roll Call:**

**Present:** Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Burns, Jim (School of Education); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Coggins, Kip (School of Social Work); Jeffries, John (Computer Science & Math); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Main, Douglas (School of Education/Counseling & Guidance); Ratzloff, Elizabeth (Staff Senate); Ortiz, Luis (School of Business); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williams, Susan (Nursing); Williamson, Ian (Social & Behavioral Sciences); (Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

**Excused:** Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy);

**Absent:** Izaguirre, Ariadna (Student Senate – Undergraduate); Rodriquez, Elaine proxy for Abbas Manafy (History/Political Science/Language & Culture);

**Also Present:** Edward Harrington

**3. Approval of Agenda:** - MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the agenda WITH correction to item 10b, and deletion of report from Academic Affairs since Kerry Loewen was not at the last meeting. Motion passed unanimously. Note: Todd Christensen arrived to give the Academic Affairs report.

**4. Approval of Minutes:** – MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the Minutes from January 27<sup>th</sup>. Motion passed unanimously.

**5. Communication from the Administration**

- a. Board of Regents meeting is on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>.
- b. Alcohol policy was put together by a committee of faculty, staff & students.
- c. Alumni event tomorrow to help with HIPS fundraising.
- d. Work groups are working on the report for the HLC meeting,
- e. Business Dean search will have on-campus visits in the next couple of weeks.

**6. Communication from the Chair**

- a. Chair selection process is starting. Cheryl is in charge of Biology and Teacher Education; Kathy is handling History, Political Science, and Language and Culture and Special Education; Maureen is handling Chemistry; Brandon is handling Visual and Performing Arts; and Doug is doing Business Administration
- b. HLC update: working on preparing our report due March 25<sup>th</sup>; Brandon is now scheduled to go to Chicago in April with the administrators
- c. Statewide HED initiatives: Math and English have been asked to provide all 100, 200, 300 level syllabi
- d. Big Ideas Reading Group Update: Two events this Spring, with the short essay “The Value Equation” to be hosted on campus for a broader audience, and then a reading

group at President Minner's Residence for faculty and staff on *College Unbound*. Announcement went out today.

- e. Branding committee: The President has launched a branding initiative, to come up with a clearer Highlands "brand" that will be used to promote the university. A committee was put together, headed by Sean Weaver. Current membership Sean Weaver, Corrie Weaver, Thomasina Ortiz-Gallegos, Benito Pacheco, Julie Salman, and 3 Faculty members: Angela Meron (Media Arts), Gloria Gadsden, and Brandon Kempner. First task is going to be launching surveys to see what kind of terms are associated with NMHU. There should be an open forum about this on campus soon.
- f. Reminder: President's Leadership Program. E-mail was sent on Friday, due date is March 15<sup>th</sup>. Encourage your colleagues to apply.
- g. Brief updates: Alcohol Policy is being discussed; there may be some CBA/Association related issues. Dr. Jenkins has been in communication with President Minner to have a side by side comparison of the policies. Please solicit comments from your departments.
- h. The letter about interim appointments is being discussed in the Association. They are doing a survey as to whether or not to submit a joint letter with the senate.
- i. Call for faculty activities brochure has gone out. Submit your activities to April Kent.
- j. Edward Harrington and the Campus Climate Committee have asked us if participating in the Chronicle survey is a good idea. Dr. Harrington is chair. The survey is free and would get us a baseline to work on improving. There are some concerns about oversight as to what data is submitted. Also concerns about work load to submit data or the bad publicity if we get a bad rating.
  - i. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to support participating in the survey under the following conditions: Faculty on committee report back on the process, and results of the survey should be distributed to all of the senates. Motion passed with one no vote.

#### **7. Communication from Academic Affairs**

- a. Todd Christensen reported that there was discussion about having a block of time (10:00-12:30) set aside for learning communities with no Core level classes to be offered at that time. It's important that faculty have a say.
  - i. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to charge Academic Affairs Committee to explore options for making learning communities work, including time blocks. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Program reviews are almost complete, and new ones will be beginning.

#### **8. Communication from the Student Senate**

- a. No one present

#### **9. Communication from the Staff Senate**

- a. Kimberly Blea has been appointed interim Dean of Students since Fidel Trujillo has resigned. Elizabeth Ratzloff will now be President of Staff Senate.
- b. They will be doing a radio show tomorrow.
- c. Suggestion Box survey went out.
- d. Bylaws revisions will be voted on.

#### **10. Old Business**

- a. ACTION ITEM: HU Vision 2020 Document. Based on feedback, the executive committee made some suggested changes. Other feedback gathered during the meeting is included below.

- i. Vision Statement: Regional limits us, but comprehensive encompasses national. Perhaps “premier university”.
  - 1. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to recommend that the vision statement be revised by removing the word “comprehensive”. Motion passed unanimously.
- ii. Priority A: Addition of research, creativity activities.....and beyond. Perhaps use “including life-long learning” in place of beyond. Change to either all bullets or complete sentences in all of the priorities.
- iii. Priority D: add “leadership development” before mutual benefits
- iv. Priority E: Suggested last sentence: “Support teaching and learning by creating a connected, synergistic university.”
  - v. There is also some concern about the lack of mention that we are Hispanic and Native American serving institution. That should be mentioned somewhere in the document.
- vi. Core Values: Exclamation points are over the top. Corrections in Responsiveness: Take out the word “as” and change solving to resolving.
  - 1. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to forward these suggestion to the committee. Motion passed unanimously.
- b. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to charge the Student Affairs Committee to work with the Dean of Students to craft a policy for faculty regarding disruptive students in the classroom. Motion passed unanimously
- c. DISCUSSION ITEM: Retained Term/Term/Per-Course Manual
  - i. There is an official definition of “contingent faculty.” Brandon met with some of them last Monday and they had several suggestions which the Executive Committee will incorporate into the manual.
  - ii. Need more discussion from contingent faculty, especially at the centers.
- d. DISCUSSION ITEM: Evaluation of Administrators
  - i. Chair evaluations would be based on responsibilities outlined in the faculty handbook.
  - ii. It was determined that we continue to evaluate the same administrators as we have previously done.
- e. Tabled until brought forth: Advising Manual
- f. Tabled until brought forth: Web Policy

**11. New Business:**

- a. None

**12. Committee Reports and Announcements**

**13. Meeting adjourned at 4:57 p.m.**