

Faculty Senate Meeting
October 11, 2017
Approved October 25, 2017

Lora Shields room 329 and via ZOOM, 3:00 p.m.

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

2. Roll Call:

Present: Coggins, Kip (School of Social Work); Cruz, Patricia (Education; Educational Leadership); Ensor, Kevin (Counseling & Guidance); Fath, Lauren (English & Philosophy); Gadsden, Gloria (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Gardner, Sandra (for Flood, Jeanne (Nursing); Harrington, Edward (Visual & Performing Arts); Jeffries, John (Computer Science & Math); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Lindline, Jennifer (Natural Resources); Lange, Mariam (for Meron, Angela; Media Arts & Technology); Ortiz, Luis (School of Business); Romine, Maureen (Biology); Ross, Kristi (for Rodriguez, Elaine; History and Political Science); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williamson, Ian (Psychology); Yerende, Eva (Education; Curriculum & Instruction); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Excused: Meckes, Shirley (Teacher Education);

Absent:

Also Present: Gonzales, Roxanne (VPAA/Provost); Gallegos, Juan (Student Affairs Committee Chair); Kempner, Brandon (HLC Accreditation Director); Linder, Peter (Faculty Affairs Committee Chair); Lujan, Natasha (Undergraduate Student Senate); Marrs, Diana (Center for Teaching Excellence)

3. Approval of Agenda: – MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the agenda with a reordering of speakers. Motion passed.

4. Approval of Minutes: – MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the Minutes from September 27th. Motion passed with a round of applause for the correct spelling of Gloria Gadsden's name in the roll call.

5. HLC Update (HLC Accreditation Director B. Kempner)

a. Relayed that it is a relatively quiet time in accreditation process. Has been finalizing visit schedule, preparing handouts, meeting with units/departments, and handing out very attractive mugs. Schedule includes a Faculty Forum on 11/06 at 4:00. Faculty Senators are asked to prioritize attendance at this event. Director considering a Colorado run and subsequent sharing event to influence faculty positivity.

b. Reminded Senators and faculty at large that the only tool that HLC has in its arsenal is dynamite to blow up a university's accreditation status. They do not have a scalpel to shape or mold change. Lengthy discussion ensued about how to address the grumblings across campus prior to or after HLC visit so that the visit does not turn into a venting session. While voicing some concerns may be appropriate during the visit, there are

other suitable and effective avenues, like the Faculty Senate, to discuss university issues of concern.

6. Communication from the Administration (VPAA R. Gonzales)

- a. Announced that AA Office has been working on budgets; will be turning in department and unit budget requests to VP Finance & Administration in the next few days. The majority of department budget requests included conversions of faculty lines and requests for new lines. VPAA Gonzales will be looking at enrollment numbers and other metrics during final budget development.

7. Communication from the Chair

- a. Gave announcements:
 - i. Retention initiative sponsored by the VPSEM scheduled for 10/12 at 3:00-4:00 in SUB Ballroom.
 - ii. "People Admin 7" workshop, sponsored by Human Resources/Payroll, scheduled for 10/17 at 4:00 p.m. in Library Computer Laboratory.
 - iii. BOR met today and considered language regarding the process for granting tenure to administration hires. Decision pending.
 - iv. President Minner scheduled to attend next Faculty Senate meeting on 10/25 to talk about Executive Goals (previously circulated among FS).
- b. Led discussion about changing when give General Announcements and schedule other portions of the Faculty Senate agenda that duplicate the General Faculty agenda when there are back-back meetings (table to GF meeting, put at end of FS meeting, and other options). No decision made how to consolidate meeting agenda(s).

8. Communication from Academic Affairs (K. Ross)

- a. Summarized activities from last meeting:
 - o Academic Program Reviews are underway.
 - o 2017-18 catalog may include some carry-over errors. If faculty sees errors, copy page, make corrections, and forward to Interim Registrar (T. Ortiz-Gallegos).
 - o Position regarding class minimums has been circulated among Academic Affairs members to share with departments before next meeting.
 - o There remain overlaps and confusions in Early Alert postings.
 - o Discussions about reducing-upper division credit requirements. New Mexico universities range from 37 to 52; NMHU requires 45. AA Committee (and majority of Faculty Senators) lean towards retaining 45 UD credit requirement.
 - o 8-week schedule has been posted.
 - o Catalog committee coming together.
 - o On-line learning consultant visit postponed from October to December.
 - o Pearson expert coming
 - o VPAA sending faculty to online learning consortium in November.
 - o Budget discussions took place.
 - o Discussions occurred about developing 5-year Master's Programs to streamline students from our undergraduate programs to graduate programs.
- b. DS asked AA to consider if a student can major and minor in same program? Also asked *why is there a Committee for Prior Learning Assessment? Who initiated; what is the need?* VPAA R. Gonzales shared that there are professional learners who come to university with military and work experience. Her office wants faculty to consider a pathway to possibly include some of these experience towards university credit hours, but to do so intentionally. LO asked for committee to consider international education.

9. Communication from the Student Senate (N. Lujan)

- a. Shared that the Student Senate is working on a resolution for equipment sharing from the Outdoor Recreation Center with the faculty and staff.

10. Communication from the Staff Senate (L. Thornton)

- a. None given.

11. Old Business

a. Student Evaluation Process Summary (Action Item)

- i. Lengthy discussion ensued about how to increase participation rates (classroom time versus personal time; paper evaluations versus electronic evaluations).
- ii. Lengthy discussion ensued about item (4) in committee report:
“With regard to comparison data, the committee will not pursue the release of comparison data at this time. We feel it would incite competition within departments and schools, and as such would lead to grade inflation or increased leniency as faculty vied for higher evaluation marks.” Several senators felt strongly that faculty needs comparison data.

The ad hoc Student Evaluation Committee will continue to work with ITS to implement an automated email system that reminds students to complete their evaluations. The committee will also revisit some of the initial charges, including investigating whether ITS can fix the glitch that permits students to initiate evaluation process without completing the evaluation and if ITS can tabulate data on behalf of members.

b. Executive Strategic Plan (Discussion Item).

- i. IW directed Faculty Senators to read and review print-out of power-point presentation in their meeting packets. Question was raised about where are academics in Strategic Plan and Strategic Budget process? A lot of attention on how strategic goals are delivered, not what is delivered – education.

c. Dialogue with SAC and FAC Chairs

- i. **Student Affairs Committee Chair Juan Gallegos provided update.** Reported that SAC is mostly working on Faculty Senate charges – revising Student Advising Manual and adding a section on best advising practices; refining disruptive student policy that includes online students; and investigating a code of conduct policy for online students. Noted that no student appeals last year; issues are being managed at lower levels and not getting to SAC.
- ii. **Faculty Affairs Committee Chair Peter Linder provided update.** Reported that FAC is working on Faculty Senate charge to improve the Faculty Search & Screen process. People Admin System will automate much of hiring process. FAC also discussing sabbatical process and the possibility of establishing a review committee that parallels the departmental review.

12. New Business:

- a. **AAC resolution on approved syllabi (Action Item).** – MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the Academic Affairs resolution: All syllabi will be

catalogued and stored by the Office of Academic Affairs. Motion passed unanimously (14-0).

- b. Faculty direction of online learning (Discussion Item) (tabled)**
- c. Customer service/staff support (Discussion Item) (tabled)**
- d. Executive Session: Joint Faculty Senate-Faculty Association Concern (Action Item).** Broad discussion proceeded about concerns that FS-FA has regarding how the university is treating unions, how dismayed the university community is about infringement of rights, and how FS-FA wants a more good-faith effort by administration at resolving differences. Draft letter from FA and FS Executive Committees circulated and discussed. Some corrections made, including having letter be from bodies at large, not Executive Committees. MOTION MADE to request a meeting between the Faculty Association and Faculty Senate (at least two members from each) with VPAA Gonzales and President Minner to address ongoing issues at NMHU. MOTION SECONDED and passed (11 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention).

13. Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.