

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2017
Approved November 08, 2017

Lora Shields room 265 and via ZOOM, 3:00 p.m.

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

2. Roll Call:

Present: Cruz, Patricia (Education; Educational Leadership); Ensor, Kevin (Counseling & Guidance); Gadsden, Gloria (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Gardner, Sandra (Nursing); Harrington, Edward (Visual & Performing Arts); Jeffries, John (Computer Science & Math); Lindline, Jennifer (Natural Resources); Meckes, Shirley (Teacher Education); Meron, Angela (Media Arts & Technology); Mills, Tyler (for Fath, Lauren; English & Philosophy); Ortiz, Luis (School of Business); Romine, Maureen (Biology); Ross, Kristi (for Rodriguez, Elaine; History & Political Science); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williamson, Ian (Psychology); Valenzuela, Norma (Languages & Culture); Yerende, Eva (Education; Curriculum & Instruction); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Excused: Coggins, Kip (School of Social Work); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences)

Absent: Fath, Lauren (English & Philosophy)

Also Present: Kempner, Brandon (HLC Accreditation Director); Linder, Carol (Interim AVPAA); Marrs, Diana (Center for Teaching Excellence); Torres, Jason (Graduate Student Senate)

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

4. Approval of Minutes: – MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the Minutes from October 11th. Motion passed.

5. Communication from the Chair

- a. Reminded all about upcoming HLC visit 11/03 at the SF and RR Centers; 11/06-07 at main campus. FS required to attend 4:00 p.m. forum on 11/06; other faculty members are encouraged to attend.
- b. Shared Executive Committee happenings
 1. President Minner thinking about bringing alum to classrooms; invitation will come through School/College Deans.
 2. President Minner thinking about initiating “FIRE” to look at what happening at NMHU.
 3. President Minner thinking about how to increase faculty donations. Is there a directed donation or student emergency fund that faculty would be (more) willing to get behind?

6. Communication from the Administration (Interim AVPAA C. Linder)

- a. Relayed that E. Roybal-Tafoya and P. Escue are retiring this term. EOS undergoing reorganization.
- b. Shared that there is an urgent need to convene a panel before end of the term to review an intellectual property and inventions issue. There is a section in the Research Handbook that states when an intellectual property/inventions issue arises, a panel representing the entire faculty must be convened. How choose faculty representatives is still being discussed. University has never had to empanel the committee before; does now. Must be heard before faculty and an Intellectual Property attorney. LO suggested that the Faculty Senate be the panel, as all departments and schools are represented. Suggestion taken under advisement.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs (K. Ross)

- a. Summarized activities from last meeting:
 - No pending student appeals.
 - Academic Program Reviews are underway.
 - The Spring 2018 schedule is online; registration opens on Monday, 10/30. There is a problem with students having outstanding balances being unable to register. TouchNet going live and will allow students, parents to see account balance.
 - Undergraduate catalog review is underway.
 - Graduate catalog and handbook review is underway.
 - Need General Education Task Force at NMHU to really discuss/guide what we want our General Education program to reflect.
 - AA considering how to ensure that there are parallel SLO's in courses being offered in different modalities.
 - Nursing and Mediat Arts have submitted course revisions.
 - Class minimum committee has met to discuss and work towards numbers by end of semester.
 - Snow day policy has been sent out with AA members for departmental feedback.
 - Early Alert policy has moved to BOR for approval.
 - Adult Education initiative is under consideration. KR asked (personally, not as AA liaison) *are we putting cart before the horse? Shouldn't we have open discussion forum before a committee has been empaneled to make recommendations? Is this the direction that we want to go? How do we want this to fit in?* DS offered that the Gen Ed Core is the foundation of all NMHU majors. Must consider what offering, what delivering.

8. Communication from the Student Senate (J. Torres)

- a. Summarized recent SS activities:
- b. SS prioritizing student safety. Students do not feel safe amidst traffic and catcalling. Undergraduate Student Senator NL working on organizing a safety campaign to highlight crosswalk traffic requirements and to establish safe place for students to share any harassment that they have experienced.
- c. SS working on how to inform students of requirement to apply for graduation. Many students to not know about this step and get dinged as deadline approaches, passes.
- d. SS discussing issue with safety animals in dormitories who urinate, defecate on floors. All students are being charged cleaning fee while few are culpable; many not happy.

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

- a. None given.

10. Old Business

- a. **Joint Faculty Senate-Faculty Association Concern Follow-up.** A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 11/01 at 4:00 with President Minner and VPAA Gonzales with FS-FA. Will be difficult but important discussions re union issues.

11. New Business:

- a. **Statewide issue: K-12 science standards (Action Item).**

IW gave synopsis of how NM modified National General Science Standards removing Earth's 4.6 billion year old age, changing climate change to climate variability, and removing evolution. Should we write a letter, as other educational bodies have done, expressing our support of the original NGSS? MR shared that within last week, most or all of the original language has been reinstated. Nonetheless, senators feel this is important enough to have a letter on file stating NMHU faculty's stance. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED for FS to write a letter expression support of adoption of NGSS. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

- b. **Handbook changes: Ex-officio and grievance (Discussion Item).**

- IW discussed if/how ex-officio members are named for Faculty Senate Committee. He directed Faculty Senators to review handout, "Additional Line on Faculty Senate Committee Selection Procedures (Section V.A.2) regarding ex-officio membership."

The Faculty Senate may appoint additional ex-officio members to various Senate committees for 1-year terms if these members are deemed useful to the functioning of the committees. Ex-officio members, unless otherwise designated by the Senate, are non-voting members.

- IW also directed Faculty Senators to review handout (Faculty Handbook p. 6-1 to 6-5 Proposed Changes to Faculty Affairs Committee 10-19-17 describing Faculty Affairs Committee and grievance process. No votes today; for consideration only.

- c. **Recruitment and retention data (Discussion Item).**

IW directed Faculty Senators to review handout showing snapshot of NMHU Fall 2017 Enrollment, Retention, and Graduation Rates. Not vote today; for consideration only.

- d. **Customer service/staff support (Discussion Item).** (tabled)

- e. **Faculty direction of online learning (Discussion Item).** (tabled)

12. Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.