

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2018

4:00-4:50 p.m.; Lora Shields 265

Approved October 24, 2018

1. **Call to Order at 4:00 p.m.** Note: quorum obtained (28+ voting Faculty attendees; 25 needed for a quorum).
2. **Approval of Agenda.** MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.
3. **Approval of Minutes** from August 16th, 2018. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the meeting minutes from August 16th. Motion passed unanimously.
4. **Chair's Announcements** (D. Sammeth).
 - Master's in Fine Arts proposal has been moved forward to HED (yeah!).
 - Process for updating the core classes/syllabi has been modified and simplified a bit. Be sure to be in touch with Allard, Kempner, or Williamson as you move forward.
 - Provost Gonzales has announced a forum on October 3rd, next Wednesday, at 1:00 ("Vision for NMHU") to present her vision for the Office of Academic Affairs, which is outlined within the AY 2018-19 Draft Goals as well as within her Spring 2018 white paper.
 - Remainder of meeting will surround these proposed changes. *What is our view? How do we wish to respond?* You will hear what committees recommend, but note that these are committees working outside of co-governance. Note that the Distance Learning Manual is outdated and many of our operating procedures need rethinking and updating. Note, too, that the Academic Affairs Office is hiring an Executive Director for Online

Learning. *How can we hire someone when we haven't even decided on our own academic structure?* Programs throughout country have variety of models. *What is best for NMHU?*

5. **Possible reorganization proposed by Academic Affairs Office.** MOTION MADE to move to meeting of the whole. Motion passed unanimously.

- 2018-19 Strategic Goals for the Academic Affairs Office (handout).
 - White Paper (*Weaving Tradition and Technology: Intentional Frameworks for Enrollment Growth by Building on Current Practice*) (handout).
 - Results of last year's task forces.
 - Interim Dean positions.
- One voice offered that White Paper has no data, no roadmap, no mention of assessing the quality of on-line learning versus on-ground learning. No linkage to unique character of NMHU and unique population of northern New Mexico. Current committees examining reorganization are predominantly composed of staff, administrators. Efforts could be viewed as assault on tenure as the intent is to hire per-course, contingent staff to instruct proposed on-line courses.
 - Another voice expressed concern about issues brought up during Summer 2018 Search and Screen process for the online learning leader. Comments not being incorporated into process, faculty ideas about what NMHU could look like not being considered.
 - One shared fear that faculty volunteering for committees legitimizes the moving forward of actions that impact academic. Academics is purview of Faculty and co-governance system. Another expressed that wants to be involved so that s/he has a voice in process, no matter how small.
 - Claiming management rights is the worst thing that a university can do.

- One faculty voiced that many on-line programs are for training and on-ground programs are for educating. Period.
- One faculty voiced that Online Instructional Manual gives too much decision to instructors. This language was useful during distance education’s infancy, but now is outdated.
- Currently no way to conduct peer evaluations of online classes or processes for evaluating class content.
- Concern about date and time of VP Academic Affairs Dr. Gonzales’ scheduled form – “Vision for NMHU.” Many faculty members have class and laboratory obligations at that time. Suggestion to have a General Faculty meeting in two weeks (Wednesday, October 10th at 4:00), preempting the 2nd hour of the Faculty Senate meeting scheduled at that time, for Dr. Gonzales’ to lead forum to discuss the 2018-19 Strategic Goals for the Academic Affairs Office, her Spring 2018 White Paper (*Weaving Traditions and Technology: Intentional Frameworks for Enrollment Growth by Building on Current Practice*), and the results of last year’s HU Futures task forces for reorganization and online learning.

6. Possible items to be considered during 2018-19 Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) negotiations (feedback for Faculty Association).

- Salary increase, salary compression, and workload were offered.
- Faculty Association leader shared that the FA and the NMHU Administration have to agree on what articles to open up for negotiation. FA team will be sending out survey to solicit faculty input for negotiation items. Stay tuned.

7. Adjournment at 4:55.