

Faculty Senate Meeting
October 10, 2018 Minutes
Approved October 24, 2018

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

1. Call to Order: 3:00 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Bustos, Leon (Psychology); Ensor, Kevin (Counseling & Guidance); Gardner, Sandra (Nursing); Kent, April (Library); Lindline, Jennifer (Natural Resources); Meckes, Shirley (Education; Teacher Education); Meron, Angela (Media Arts & Technology); Moreno, Yvonne (Education; Special Education/Gifted); Rodriguez, Elaine (History & Political Science); Romine, Maureen (Biology); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Tamir, Orit (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Valenzuela, Norma (Languages and Culture); Villarreal, Benjamin (English & Philosophy)

Excused Absence: Garcia-Nuthmann, Andre (Visual & Performing Arts); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sports Sciences); Karaba, Robert (Education; Educational Leadership); Yerende, Eva (Education; Curriculum & Instruction)

Absent: Coggins, Kip (School of Social Work); Jeffries, John (Computer Science & Math)

Also Present: Baca, Max (Finance Office); Martinez, Edward (Strategic Enrollment Office); Moore, Rebecca (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Advisory Council)

3. Roll Call.

4. Information:

- a. Strategic Enrollment Management (E. Martinez).
Presented a flow chart update (handout). Shared that SEM ready to distribute the plan and requests feedback to move forward and increase enrollment. Wants to take the plan to the Board of Regents in December. Asked for approval/response from the Faculty Senate. Discussion ensued.
- b. Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Advisory Council (R. Moore).
Shared that committee is gaining traction on campus and wants to create awareness of the council's mission and goals that support the NMHU mission statement. E. Romero presented DEI AC's Strategic Goals (7). Requested a volunteer member of the Faculty Senate to sit on the council. Discussion ensued.
- c. Budget Listening Session (M. Baca).
Presented information (handout and power point slides) about FY 2020 budget. Information posted on website at <http://its.nmhu.edu/IntranetUploads/005671-FallListeni-921201841803.pdf>. Discussion ensued. D. Sammeth asked if Department Budgets could be submitted in *Spring* semester, not Fall. M. Baca liked suggestion.

5. Approval of Agenda. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Approval of Minutes. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the Meeting Minutes from September 26th. Motion passed unanimously.

7. Communication from the Administration (I. Williams).

- Reminded Faculty Senate that all courses being considered for inclusion in the New Mexico Common Core (new or continuing) need certification, routing, and other forms submitted to Academic Affairs by November 7th (hard deadline). Encouraged disciplines to get materials into respective Dean's office by end-October. Refer to his 10/05/10 global email for most up-to-date information.
- Shared that more information about the Common Course Numbering System will be rolled out soon. In short, all 100- and 200-level courses across the state are getting common numbering. NMHU has been involved in the process. 100- and 200-level courses will be 1000- and 2000-numbered. Student learning outcomes and course description from the state will be incorporated into the NMHU catalog description and syllabi. E. Rodriguez (committee member) notes that these descriptions cannot be edited. Academic Affairs is noticing that some of the syllabi that they are reviewing are being edited by the discipline faculty.
- Shared that R. Gonzales will be attending program review council meeting next week. Several New Mexico schools are proposing new undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. programs.
- Informed that the Academic Affairs Office is planning for this year's Faculty Recognition event. Looking for suggestions. Asked Faculty to consider including faculty who are awarded tenure and promotion to be included in program.
- Shared that VPAA Gonzales is meeting with faculty in CAS regarding Interim Dean issue. Then, the CAS faculty will make recommendations whether or not to continue Interim Dean Lail in the position directly to the Senate. D. Sammeth informed that the Faculty Handbook discourages, but doesn't prohibit, the continuation of an Interim Dean position past 18 months. Gray area. VP Gonzales is requesting that Interim Dean CAS and SOEd positions be extended to June 30th, 2019. Senator noted that her department has not been approached by VPAA Gonzales. A Faculty Senator noted that there has not been a peep about the Graduate Dean position, which has also been interim for over 18 months.
- Shared that the Administration is following up for some public support for some programs.
- Informed that this Friday, October 12th, there will be a group called Academic Partnership on campus to discuss their services recruiting students in on-line and adult learning programs.
- Senator suggested that if there is restructuring, perhaps have fund raising incorporated into new Dean position job description. D. Sammeth offered that changes from 300- to 200-level courses may cause problems with students, majors meeting upper division credit requirements. He also commented that the Faculty needs to be attentive about possibility of restructuring, on-line offerings, outsourcing, vendor servicing... things that we should be attentive about. Straighterline is a non-accredited for-profit company

from which we have been accepting credits and for which Provost wants to formalize agreement. *Is this what we want?* One Senator noted that the Restructuring and On-Line Committees were not sanctioned by the Faculty Senate. Half of membership on committees comes from administration which is ok, *except who has majority voice for these initiatives in the end?* Suggested that information be brought to Faculty Senate for consideration and voice.

8. **Communication from the Chair (Sammeth).** Introduced the documents for review, both of which have been approved by the Academic Affairs Committee. Noted that his goal of placing these before the Faculty Senate was not to re-do the hard work of the Academic Affairs committee but to have the Faculty Senators consider if this is where we want to go with graduate education. Wants to have solid framework with agreed upon conditions as new and alternative programs roll out.

a. Documents for review:

- i. Proposal for M.S. Natural Sciences-Biology Concentration one-year graduate degree
- M. Romine offered that the Biology Department developed this to consider a greater group of students with different needs than those whose career trajectories require thesis projects. This is a revision of an already-in-place non-thesis option in the Biology concentration.

ii. Proposal for Alternative Teaching Certificate

9. **Communication from Academic Affairs (E. Rodriguez).**

- Shared that M.S. Natural Sciences-Biology Concentration proposal was considered at last meeting. Concerns were raised about whether you can demonstrate mastery of a science concentration without a thesis. Department already has 16 students enrolled in the graduate program most of whom will enroll in this option once formalized. Another concern raised was that if you went through the undergraduate degree program in this discipline having had 4/500 level courses can streamline, are there enough courses for you to take at the graduate level? Other discussion centered around if we approve the program, should it be given another name, like “Professional Degree” or “Certificate Program”? One Senator asked, *What was the vote tally?* Response: 10-2-5. Question -- *Why so many abstentions?* Response – members were really torn about the questions of can you really master a topic in one year?
- Shared that Straighterline company gave a presentation to the Academic Affairs Committee. Noted that NMHU does not get any financial benefit, but benefits from students completing courses towards their degree programs. Most popular courses are College Algebra and Business Stats. Adjunct faculty teach these courses. Representative couldn't answer question about fair wage for these adjunct faculty. I. Williams informed Faculty Senate that there already is a policy that allows accepting on-line credits from Straighterline, but that the Academic affairs Office is seeking formalization of this policy. Faculty Senator raised concern that hearing disparate information from VPAA Gonzales. Says she doesn't want 100- and 200-level courses at NMHU to be on line; wants freshmen and sophomores enrolled in on-ground classes. Now she is pushing to contract with Straighterline to teach 100-

and 200-level courses online (?). Another Faculty Senator raised concern that this is an attack on tenure. NMHU faculty will have no control over course content or CBA workload issues for contributing faculty.

- Informed Faculty Senate to expect a recommendation on reorganization by January 2019.
- Shared that President is very concerned about the web page. Laughter heard, sighs let out, and eyes rolled around the room.
- Shared that VPAA's planned forum (Academic Vision) was postponed from October 3 to October 31. Costumes required.

10. Communication from the Student Senate. None provided.

11. Communication from the Staff Senate. None provided.

12. Old Business.

- a. Filling vacancies of Faculty Senate Committees.
 - Athletics Committee: Donna Vigil (Business), Rodney Rock (Education) and Monica Rossetti (Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice) were nominated for the committee. Majority hands voted for Donna Vigil and Rodney Rock to fill 2 open positions.
 - Financial Planning Committee: Kevin Barnas (School of Social Work) and Joshua Sloan (Natural Resources Management) were nominated for the committee. Majority hands voted for Joshua Sloan to fill the committee.
 - Student Affairs Committee: Kyle Rose (Natural Resources Management) and Valerie Valles-Pedroza (School of Social Work) were unanimously elected to fill 2 of the vacancies.

13. New Business.

- a. Additional charge(s) for Student Affairs. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED that the Student Affairs Committee be charged to: (a) Determine the optimum number of days between the opening of dorms in the Fall term and the first day of classes and (b) Investigate the length of winter break and its impact on student retention, i.e., Does a shorter break result in better retention? Motion passed unanimously.
- b. Proposed change to Faculty Handbook (drafting of academic calendar). Idea raised that new language in the Faculty Handbook (Section V. I. Faculty Affairs 5. Duties and Responsibilities) include "Provide recommendations on the academic calendar three years prior to the start of that Fall term such that the academic calendar for the next three years is proposed." Senators requested to consider for next meeting.

14. Executive Session.

15. Public Action as Necessary on Other Closed Session Discussions.

16. Adjournment at 5:10.