

General Faculty Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2019
Approved April 24, 2019

4:00-5:00 p.m., Sininger Hall 100

1. Call to Order.

2. Approval of Agenda. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED TO APPROVE AGENDA with modifications. Item 6.b. was an action item in Faculty Senate that will be reported by Chair under item 4. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes from January 23, 2019. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Chair's Announcements (D. Sammeth).

- Shared that the Faculty Senate was charged with coming up with a plan for the Strategic Planning process. The following motion was approved at this afternoon's Faculty Senate meeting and will be shared with President Minner.

MOTION MADE AND SECONDED for the Faculty Senate to provide the following recommendations for the development of NMHU's new strategic plan.

The current mission and vision statements are on target but would benefit from small adjustments and editing that would increase specificity. The inclusion of well-defined objectives, e.g., best in class..., would allow a more direct connection between actions and budgeting priorities. The final mission statement needs to be developed with input from all stakeholders. We recommend that the committee include students, staff, faculty, administration, and community members.

Mission

New Mexico Highlands University is a public comprehensive university serving our local and global communities. Our mission is to provide opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students to attain an exceptional education by fostering creativity, critical thinking and research in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions within a diverse community.

Vision

Our vision is to be a premier comprehensive university transforming lives and communities now and for generations to come.

Motion passed unanimously.

- Reported that at last BOR meeting, read to group that the FS did not support academic reorganization. Several faculty members spoke and made their voices heard. Understand that the Provost made her recommendations to the BOR which are now under review. There are rumors that reorganization plans are being considered for March 01 BOR meeting. The March 01 BOR meeting is being called a retreat with the #1 priority being enrollment. Not sure if reorganization is on the agenda, and not sure what is happening with the possibility of new Regents being put into position.

KJ – informed people about possibility of reorganization; it can happen behind these closed sessions, retreat.

OT – encouraged people to come to March 01 BOR meeting, voice opinion. It is not that we are against reorganization, but we need a road map, need way points.

JL – shared concern that given the Provost's presentation to the General Faculty in December, the "shared governance" box has been checked and that the administration is moving forward with reorganization. Concerned that administration may think that new names, new packaging will solve the enrollment crisis.

DS – noted that the faculty voice is important; tenured and tenure-track faculty should come and share their opinions.

KJ – noted that hundreds of students have decided to not come back, not because of academic programming but because of business office hiccups. For example, university took 5 weeks to honor employee tuition waivers. Not acceptable! Sharing that the Exercise Sport Science program spoke as one voice.

DS – agreed that there are a lot of issues, administration doesn't realize. Agrees with KJ that many of our retention issues are service-related (e.g., scheduling out of the blocks, waiving time conflicts). He has heard from

several faculty members about systemic problems with 2-day week schedule conflicts.

OT – expressed “Stop the bleeding!”

DC – noted that hard data would be helpful. Chairs could possibly compile a list with schedule issues or service issues to present to the General Faculty or to the Faculty Senate to present to administration in a yearly report. Need to communicate the issues we have been having.

KJ – shared that it was just a few years ago that we were reported as being rated highest in the state on student satisfaction. Then, university hired a customer relations specialist (?). Encouraged Faculty Senators to go to departments, collect list of students, problems and report. Too many new signatures offices in administration that slows down process.

CH – not saying that everything is rosy, but need to know how we are doing compared to other universities. Need to address both sides: customer service and customer acquisition.

DS – encouraged by web site forums. Need common sense ideas about academic leadership.

Several faculty members expressed excitement about new webpage and importance about input and change in attracting and retaining students.

MR – Shared that during her Faculty Senate chairship, they took surveys and had data to share with BOR. Consider doing surveys and have data to inform the BOR.

KJ – opined that lack of faculty engagement is #1 problem at the university. Need to get engaged, to attend meetings, to understand issues.

MR – everyone has problems at the Registrar’s Office. Need specific data, voices to relay problems.

KJ – reminded that Evaluations of Administrators is coming up. Maybe consider including questions about service offices. Definitely encourage colleagues to participate.

5. Old Business.

- a. Updated undergraduate advising manual. MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the undergraduate advising manual. Motion passed unanimously.

6. New Business.

- a. Response to Drop in Enrollment.
- b. Plan for process to develop new NMHU strategic plan.

7. Adjournment at 4:54.