

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
February 24, 2021
Approved March 10, 2021

ZOOM - <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/91283810526>; **3:00 to 5:00 p.m.**

1. Called meeting to order.

2. Roll call.

Arshad, Ali (Business Administration); Buchanan-Farmer, Melanie (Education-Teacher Education); Chadborn, Daniel (Psychology); Fox-Hausman, Mariah (Media Arts and Technology); Garcia, Justine (Biology); Garcia-Nuthmann, André (Visual & Performing Arts); Gardner, Sandra (Nursing); Hayward, William (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Jeffries, John (Computer & Mathematical Sciences); Kent, April (Library); Koch, A. (Education-Counseling & Guidance); Lindline, Jennifer (Natural Resources Management); Massaro, Beth (Social Work); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Tamir, Orit (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Sedillo, PJ (Education-Special Education); Valenzuela, Norma (Languages and Culture); Villarreal, Ben (English & Philosophy); Williams, Steven (History & Political Science)

Absent: Education-Curriculum & Instruction Representative; Forestry Representative; Karaba, Robert (Education-Education Leadership);

Also in Attendance: K. Bogda, M. Buchanan, C. Duran, G. Gadsden, J. Gieri, B. Kempner, K. Knox, A. Ludi, R. Moore, V. Parboteeah, J. Rivas, R. Walker-Gonzales, C. Ulibarri, I. Williamson, P. Wilson

3. Approval of Agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously (18 votes recorded).

4. Approval of Minutes from February 10, 2021. Motion made and seconded to approve the February 10th meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously (18 votes recorded).

5. Communication from the President (S. Minner).

- Shared that NMHU doing well in terms of COVID 19 testing and reporting. San Miguel county doing well; remains in yellow (yeah!).
- Shared that the state has opened up practice and competition in some sports. NCAA requires 3 tests/week. NMHU has a local provider assisting with administration of tests. Will continue to comply with state and RMAC orders.
- Past half-way mark with legislation. A couple of notes: HB 2 = big budget bill. Bodes well for higher ed sector and Highlands specifically. Includes 1.5% increase in salary. Free College tuition initiative has high endorsement of Governor. Can punch the ticket for many of our students. HB 35 Legislative Study Committee. HB 87 Yazzie law suit would provide for additional resources for NMHU (counseling, housing, etc.). HB 289 College Faculty Minimum Wage Act would increase wages and conditions for adjunct faculty. Sets a minimum wage of \$5,500 for course credit hour (?).

- Reported happenings in Facilities. There have been some new upgrades in Wilson (windows, bleachers); Connor Hall (bathrooms, flooring, spaces); and Ilfeld (new roof).
- Shared that the NMHU Student Legislative Fellows will be involved in writing a bill; great experience.
- Shared that his office will be sending out call for involvement in NMHU campus green initiatives. Would like to see a sustained effort to be more sustainable in campus activities. May include a Campus Tree Plan, which we currently lack.
- Thanked faculty, sincerely, for efforts.

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

- Updated on CAEL (Council for Adult and Experiential Learning) 360; BK working to fill gaps that were identified in our operations and services to support adult learners. Invited volunteers to help on this document.
- Shared that submitting a grant with School of Ed for an Educational Opportunity to serve adult population and veterans of New Mexico.
- Reported that attending HED equivalency review AAS degree in Massage Therapy. Western NMU proposing a B.A. in Political Science (100% on ground) and an M.A. in History (100% on line). SW asked question about the review process; is it pro forma or is there chance for feedback? Said the proposed M.A. in History is not a true history degree. Also asked how are they able to propose a new program when NMHU programs have been told for years that programs too small.
- Shared that she met with P. Wilson today about a session that Consortium of Institutions across country that provides flexibility and back-forth agreements for students to take on line programs. Need to consider items that impact our offerings. Big piece how we define regular and substitutive interactions with our students. <https://upcea.edu/policy-matters-department-of-ed-issues-final-rule-on-distance-learning-regular-and-substantive-and-competency-based-education-august-2020/>.

7. Communication from the Chair (O. Tamir).

- Executive Committee members oversaw Department Chair selections and submitted results to appropriate Deans.

8. Communication from Academic Affairs (A. Kent).

4. Subcommittee Reports

- Undergraduate Appeals** – No pending appeal
- Graduate Appeals** – No appeals
- Ballen** – Forestry’s visiting scholar is deferred to spring 2022. Committee hopes to a call for new proposals sent out in fall 2021.
- Policy** – Auditing policy recommendation –
 - Concern about auditing students taking needed seats from degree seeking students.
 - Three changes to policy have been recommend.
 - Instructor’s permission required for all audits.
 - Remove number of weeks from policy and instead refer to the academic calendar.
 - Require dean’s permission for audits after the add period of registration.
 - Will be on next AAC agenda.

5. Program Reviews

- a. Ongoing reviews: Southwest Studies, Native American Hispano Cultural Studies, Health, Human Performance and Sports, BA, Minor, Human Performance and Sport, MA, University Studies, Education – Special Education, Social Work, BSW, MSW (CSWE Accredited), Mathematics, BA, BS, Minor, and Media Arts, MA, MS, BA, BFA, Minor, Certificate.
 - b. Education – Counseling and Guidance – final report to AAC. Sent to Provost.
- 6. **Biology Department – Program Revision, BS Wildlife Biology and Conservation – discussion /action item (Romine/Rivas)**
 - a. Motion passed to approve this revision.
- 7. **Mathematics & CS Department – New course, Survey of Mathematics (Math 1XXX) – discussion/action item**
 - a. Motion pass to approve this course.
- 8. **Senate Charge – Posthumous Degree Policy – discussion/action item (Gadsden)**
 - a. Motion to have the Chair should re-draft the proposal with recommendations from AAC and bring it back to the committee for discussion and possible vote.
- 9. **School of Education, Counseling – Program Name Change Request – discussion item (Glover)**
 - a. Dr. Glover presented the rationale for changing the name of the program to MA in Counseling. This program name is more up-to-date and will be clearer to licensing agencies.
- 10. **Department of Languages and Culture – Language Proficiency Policy Modification – discussion item (Valenzuela)**
 - a. The modifications proposed to the policy will make the process and options clearer to students and the registrar’s staff.
- 11. **Department of Sociology, Anthropology, & Criminal Justice – New Course, Gender and Crime (SOCI/CJUS/GNDR 3XXX) – discussion item (Rossetti)**
 - a. Ms. Rossetti present this course which has been taught as a special topics course. It would be offered every other year.
- 12. **School of Business – New Program, BAS in General Business; New Course, Communication Strategies for Leaders (BMIS 3XXX); New Course, Business Analytics in Decision Making (BMIS 4XXX); New Course Budget Management for Leaders (BUSA 3XXX); New Course, Leadership Ethics (BUSA 3XXX); New Course, Seminar in Leadership (MGMT 4XXX); New Course, Strategic Thinking for Decision Making (MGMT 4XXX) – discussion item (Peters, Sanchez)**
 - a. Ms. Carla Romero and others from the School of Business presented on this new degree program which is intended for students who transfer with an Applied Associated of Science degree. The BAS degree has a lighter business core than the BBA curriculum. This program will would allow for partnership with other institutions including the military.
 - b. Questions and Discussion about the new classes, need for traits on the syllabi, the role of Wiley with the new program, CAS classes that would support the new program, and for more feedback from Business faculty.
- 13. **Communication from Registrar (Romero)**
 - a. Review of important dates.
 - b. Enrollment is down by 2.8% from last spring. OIER is still finalizing the enrollment numbers.
- 14. **Communication from the Administration**
 - a. CTE position is posted.
 - b. Review of new degrees being reviewed at the state level. WNMU is proposing new distance MA programs, NMSU is proposing an Athletic Training program.
 - c. Trio grant for adult learner will be submitted by March 1.
 - d. Questions and discussion about proposed legislation about the state outsourcing high school diplomas. Currently only PED can issue diplomas. Community College assist with GED.
- 9. **Communication from the Undergraduate Student Senate (C. Ulibarri).**
 - Shared that Jaycie Loud, Student Development Center Director, joined in advisory capacity.

- Shared that the Student Senate is considering a memorial for Dr. Searcy who recently passed away.

10. Communication from the Staff Senate (D. Gallegos). Nothing to report.

11. Old Business.

a. NMHU webpage (O. Tamir).

- OT summarized issues that faculty members have shared over the months including difficulty in navigating, poor readability, unsatisfactory homepage, focus on undergraduate students and defocus on graduate students.
- SW proposed a new home page. Currently designed for prospective students to consult on their cell phones, not designed for general public. This body asked for data as to whether this design is supported by numbers.
- OT and JL mentioned frustration with Online Documents search.
- DS mentioned information that is outdated or in .pdf format. Menagerie of issues that require asking what are goals and are they being accomplished? Are their data to support the webpage as a recruiting tool or an informational tool?
- OT emphasized the out-datedness of information. For example, new faculty are still not in the directory.
- DS proposed an internal webpage for information needed only by faculty and staff, and homepage for information for recruitment.
- JG suggested a prioritized list of what do we want, what needs improvement. Noted that M. Earick has a template for a proposed intranet site.
- OT mentioned that some worried about an internet adding extra clicks, extra noise to faculty operations. Noted that there are important issues that need to be addressed before moving forward with an intranet presentation and implementation.
- SW shared that there are micro issues (intranet) and macro issues (what should the homepage look like?). Seems the 2nd is an important issue that previously did not involve any faculty input. Would like to see a redesign of the homepage and substantial resources channeled to S. Weaver so that he has the resources (finances and personnel) to do this right.
- AK mentioned need for a Webmaster. Perhaps we as a body can put together a letter to the administration stating our issues.
- AK made a motion that the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate starts to draft a statement about need for resources in University Relations to address webpage look and content. Brief discussion. AK withdrew her motion.
- DS mentioned that with end of pandemic and changing face of higher education, we have an opportunity to launch something that meets new landscape.
- SW agreed that S. Weaver needs resources but he also needs direction. Moved that there be an ad hoc subcommittee to discuss the web page issues (macro and micro) and to workup a tentative proposal for the FS EC and FS body. Withdrew motion.
- WH said we really need to look at how important an adjustment to the webpage is versus the nuts-and-bolts of is functioning. Know there are issues and problems, but where does it fall. Need to work expeditiously.

- OT charged Faculty Senators to go back to their units and ask what their issues are. These will be culled so that the FS can make a motion at the next meeting that includes faculty broad opinion.

13. New Business.

- a. **Wiley – handbook compliance issues.** OT shared that several faculty have brought forward issues about programs being pushed for online modality and Wiley support. There are also issues with Deans and Contingent faculty proposing new programs where such need to be proposed by tenured/tenure-track faculty. Mentioned that it is not clear in the contract that Wiley is only being contracted for asynchronous programs. Her understanding was that Wiley can support synchronous and hybrid programs. RG clarified no, Wiley is only on contract to support asynchronous programs and limited residency/synchronous students.
 - OT brought up that there are remaining issues that only tenured/tenure-track faculty propose new programs. Asked faculty if they are concerned about who leads new program proposals through Academic Affairs.
 - DS offered that we at NMHU continue to run in circles with mixed goals for on line versus on ground offerings. Perhaps we need to separate out the working groups.
 - RT commented that we as a university have been looking at this (putting degree programs on line with industry support) since 2018. We brought in academic partnerships and went through the RFP process. Contract was vetted for well over a year. We are following the standards and requirements outlined in the CBA Article 40. Wiley is only going to take programs that we want them to take and what they think will have volume. The Deans had discussions with their units about what they wanted to be supported by Wiley. This is not new and NMHU is protected. The model is for an adult population of working professionals who cannot come to campus.
 - OT countered that the process was not completely transparent and that faculty are unsettled with possibility of emerging asynchronous programs putting some equivalent programs in jeopardy.
 - GG mentioned that it seems like the deal was changed. She thought that the new MA hybrid program in her unit would be considered for Wiley marketing. RG responded the Wiley requirement has always been for asynchronous programs.
 - OT expressed concerns of internally duplicating programs. Noted it is a requirement in the state that universities avoid duplication. Yet, we are duplicating our own programs with both on line and on ground equivalents.
 - RG reminded that Wiley is looking at a new market sector to increase enrollments at NMHU. The only reason that we are sitting decently compared to our sister institutions is that we have an asynchronous teacher licensure program for adult learners. Is there some duplicity? In some ways, yes; in some ways, no. Going for new populations outside of the on ground or on line synchronous.
 - DS said that the paths that we choose will impact us today as well as tomorrow.
- b. **NMHU Bookstore.**
 - SW mentioned issues with ordering books and having supply in early weeks of semester.

- OT mentioned disdain that issues discuss earlier in the year were never communicated to Bookstore personnel. Shared problems with data that they use from previous semester enrollment numbers to guide book orders.
- SW gave background with the current company having best proposal. Shared that thought issues with financial aid and other roadblocks to student book buying would be addressed by Dean of Students Blea.
- JG proposed getting rid of bookstore; brick and mortar stores are outdated.

c. Proposal for Marketing Academic Programs from Academic Affairs Committee (attachment).

- Motion made to approve the proposal. OT opened up for discussion. DS offered that marketing relates to issues with web page. OT said each program has own unique needs. Some programs need generalized marketing, some need niche marketing, some need other approaches.
- DS mentioned that we have a VP Strategic Enrollment Management. The person/office collected data about markets. *Shouldn't we use that information?*
- GG shared that proposal meant to get the ball rolling. Authors wanted more marketing and equity in the marketing that is done.
- DS asked to have Terri Law come to talk about what her office is doing to market programs.
- Motion passed; 14 favored; 2 opposed; 0 abstained.

14. Executive Session.

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

16. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 4:53. Motion passed unanimously, including a “woof” from Zeno (April’s dog)!