

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2021
Approved April 14, 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, Andre (Visual and Performing Arts); Gardner, Sandra (Nursing); Hayward, William (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Jeffries, John (Computer & Mathematical Sciences); Karaba, Robert (Education-Education Leadership); Kent, April (Library); Koch, A. (Education-Counseling & Guidance); Lindline, Jennifer (Natural Resources Management); Massaro, Beth (Social Work); Sammeth, David (Chemistry); Sedillo, PJ (Education-Special Education); Tamir, Orit (Sociology, Anthropology & Criminal Justice); Valenzuela, Norma (Languages and Culture); Villarreal, Ben (English & Philosophy); Williams, Steven (History & Political Science); Wolf, A. (Education; Curriculum & Instruction)

Absent: Education-Curriculum & Instruction Representative; Forestry Representative; Garcia-Nuthmann, André (Visual & Performing Arts)

Also in Attendance: C. Duran, M. Earick, G. Gadsden, B. Kempner, V. Parboteeah, R. Walker-Gonzales, A.J. Warwell, I. Williamson, P. Wilson

3. Approval of Agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda with modifications. 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. Miner).

- Noted changes to prioritization of vaccine availability to include work-study students. San Miguel remains yellow, nearing green. Many counties moving to green and turquoise.
- Updated that the Legislation Session has been extended to consider cannabis legalization. HB2 (budget) was passed by both bodies to include 1.5% compensation and modest increase to I&G budget. Also includes a decrease in below-the-line expenditures, including athletics. Also includes increases in the lottery scholarship funding, which will equalize tuition costs throughout the state and has implication for NMHU identification as “affordable.” Will be receiving ~\$750k in infrastructure money. Budget for next year will prioritize moving lowest paid employees closer to \$15/hour rate and decreasing compression. Targeting \$800k.

- Shared that new Dr. Frank Sanchez and Christopher Ulibarri have been formally appointed to the NMHU Board of Regents.
- OT asked if Frank Sanchez is relation to Clarence Sanchez, former NMHU VPAA. SM unsure.
- Shared that they had a great Sustainability Committee kick-off meeting today, facilitated by L. LaGrange.

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

- Shared Las Vegas got a bit of snow; good day for cocoa and cartoons!
- MA in Criminology and CRM are now at the HLC level. There are several levels for approval; timeline is unclear.
- CTE Search & Screen Committee readying to interview candidates.
- Shared that there are several searches underway moving along which will bring our numbers up and fill long-standing positions.
- Shared that NMHU is member of UPCAA which serves adults with executive programming. Welcomes faculty participation.
- OT asked how to make some of our current classes/programs known to regional professionals seeking credits for continuing education? RG noted that's a good question that needs focused attention. Right now not in the budget to have separate advertising for continuing education from major degree programs. Often there are programs, like Nursing, where this kind of advertising is done by the faculty. OT responded that NMHU is missing this important niche and onus shouldn't be on faculty. RG responded that Campus Managers can assist with this effort. PW agreed that it is part of Campus Managers' job responsibility to know about courses and programs and outreach for the university. OT expressed frustration at this missed opportunity.

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

- Congratulated Chris Ulibarri on his official appointment as NMHU Regent.
- Shared that meeting next week with Denise Montoya about the Bookstore. Invited additional faculty participants. Noted good to have more voices, more participants.
- Shared that will be attending HLC meeting in April.
- Reminded that the next Faculty Senate meeting is April 14th.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs (A. Kent). Shared that there is no report. The AAC did not meet last week (Spring Break).

8. Communication from the Undergraduate Student Senate (C. Ulibarri). No report.

9. Communication from the Staff Senate (Black/Crespin/Gallegos).

- Shared that Workplace Quality Survey results are being analyzed.
- Shared that the Employee Recognition Banquet is scheduled for April 29th from 9:00-11:00. Stay tuned for details.

11. New Business.

a. Faculty Senate Officers Elections.

- B. Massaro elected unanimously as Faculty Senate Chair.
 - D. Chadborn elected unanimously as Faculty Senate Vice Chair.
 - J. Lindline elected unanimously as Faculty Senate Secretary.
 - W. Hayward and J. Garcia elected unanimously as At-Large Officers.
- b. Posthumous Degree Policy (attachment).** Motion made and seconded to approve the Posthumous Degree Policy. Motion passed unanimously; 17 votes recorded.
- c. Bachelor of Applied Science–General Business Proposal (attachments).**
- Motion made and seconded to approve the BAS–General Business Proposal. JL interjected with thoughts that this was a discussion item and that there would still be time for Faculty Senators to take proposal to their unit for input. DS shared that he would like to request a presentation by the School of Business. Agreed that need to go back to our departments to discuss the proposal.
 - DS made a motion to table the earlier motion (to approve the BAS–General Business proposal) so that Faculty Senators have opportunity to go back to their departments and discuss the proposal. Motion seconded.
 - AA shared that it is a very focused program that is designed for prospective students who have completed a technical degree at a community college. These students typically have AAS degrees and are employed and now seek a Bachelor’s Degree. If they go through regular route, none of their college credits are accepted. This has been created to facilitate this population’s receipt of a degree. The proposal uses the existing courses mostly. Described that students need to take 33 credits of core courses and 27 hours of courses in Business Administration unit. Question asked about the core. AA responded that the proposed degree does not waive the state mandated core. It does waive NMHU extended core and proficiency requirement.
 - RG spoke that this is a program directed at technical professionals. A lot of people want to complete a Bachelor’s degrees to teach, open businesses, and expand their professionalism. The Bachelor of Applied Science is a degree completion for folks with Associates of Applied Science that may have their own company. Some may want to go forward with Master’s degrees. It is not intended for our traditional student coming through the door. They need to take more General Education courses.
 - DS pointed out that taking a technical degree and using that towards an undergraduate degree is lowering of standards. Stated that we need to protect quality of 4-year degree and what it takes to get there. His understanding is that students are coming in with 2-year degrees unlike our traditional. To accept this coursework is an erosion of quality of education and NMHU’s reputation. Doesn’t see a Calculus requirement. Proposal looks great, but it is too easy. Does not support it.
 - AA said the proposed degree is not diluting a Bachelor’s requirement, unless you think that our current courses are weak. No, doesn’t require Calculus but neither do our other Business degrees.
 - BK shared that a BAS is a well-recognized degree path. The word “Science” doesn’t imply Math or Science. Students with Bachelor of Arts often aren’t under “Art” specialty. Noted that no one is getting out of any core classes. Incoming AAS students still have to take state core.

- AA stated that the proposed BAS is rigorous, relevant. The target population often has 20, 30, 40 credits in technical degree that really don't transfer in to 4-year degree. Trying to ease that transfer into 4-year degree.
- DS noted that students with technical background chose that path. If it takes more time to complete a Bachelors degree, then so be it.
- AA commented that the SoB is finding more routes for students to complete their degree.
- VP stated that the program is only accepting previous credits from community college or military units.
- GG a lot of these issues came up in Academic Affairs Committee. Business School did remind that the word "applied" does not necessarily mean Science or Math. They assured that there are no short cuts; the core must still be met, as well as upper division requirements.
- DS asked why making these trade areas transferrable now? Why commodifying education? We are not a business; we are a state funded institution of higher education and must shoulder the responsibility of ensuring that our degrees mean something. Fears that this type of degree will not pose our students to be competitive with other 4-year degree granting institutions. AA responded that the proposed degree is providing a service, not commodifying. Facilitating a smooth transition. Previously students with AAS had to take a variety of courses that were missing from their program.
- DS shared that not questioning NMHU course quality. Questioning depth and breadth of courses that the students are coming in with and using towards their degree.
- RG shared that courses coming in are from regionally accredited community colleges with HED, HLC and, in some instances, professional accreditation. We take those credits because have same learning outcomes and same transferability. Have to assume rigor and quality. Reminded that we are an open institution serving New Mexico population providing access to higher education. Yes, you can get a job with an Associate's degree, but a Bachelor's degree opens up opportunities and enhances lives.
- DS acknowledged that we are an open enrollment school, but continued to pose that technical classes are not equivalent to university classes.
- IW shared that the degree speaks for itself. A BAS is very different from a BA or BS. We don't have one currently but shouldn't rule it out if it can advantage our students.
- VP pointed out that the SoB garnered a number of letters of support from community colleges. They are excited for the pathways that this opens up.
- SW remains unsure about what the difference is between the student with the BA and the BAS degree. Seems that BAS will be taking fewer academic credits? AA responded that BAS students will be graduating with 120 credits. SW still asked for distinction between academic versus technical credits. RG said we have practitioner courses at NMHU. Seems that this discussion is challenging practitioner courses. Even Community College welding courses have theoretical components. We have to know that what we think about as an academic construct differs by discipline. The assumption here is that practical pieces are not valid pieces. Feels that these still require critical thinking and problem solving. Almost everything that our counterparts do at Community Colleges have academic traits that we look for in our Gen Ed, embedded in those constructs.

- JL mentioned that still unclear about how the proposed degree eases transfer. If extended core and upper division courses still required, what is waived to facilitate pathway to degree? Will look at proposal thoroughly.
- PJ called the question.
- Motion made to keep the item tabled until next week so that Faculty Senators can share proposal with their units. Motion passed with 16 in support; 1 in opposition; and 1 to abstain.

d. Quality Matters Administration Proposal (attachments).

- RG brought forward information several weeks ago with a Quality Matters (QM) rubric so that there is continuity in our online shells. Proposal put forward is that NMHU adopt QM for our standardization in course development.
- MH asked *if there is a standard, what does that mean? How do our technical classes fit into this rubric?* RG responded that QM is the state and national standard for course development. Our Instructional Designer is QM certified. Several NMHU English faculty members have participated in QM training. QM doesn't control content; does control face of course. Sets parameters for faculty on where they put assignments, how they post discussions, and other course elements. QM provides consistent tools and platforms for course presentation. Data shows that adoption of QM helps with student retention.
- BV shared that when he hears standardization of course presentation, it does impact content. He and other faculty have unique ways in which they present their courses that impact the overall uniqueness of their course delivery. RG shared QM is standardizing the outside of our houses, not how we furnish and decorate the inside.
- JG piggy backed on what BV said that QM shells do affect course delivery. Investigating QM links and asked about the membership costs. Asked about how much that involves. Asked, too, what training would QM entail for her and other faculty. RG said NMHU will support QM training and consider the membership fee if that is warranted.
- DS said quality does matter, but so does diversity. Interested in looking at and using what works with option of adopting course structures. Doesn't like being told what to do.
- BM shared that she participated in a workshop and that the shell is very useful for instructors and very helpful for students. AW also reinforced that QM provides a good platform for courses and does not impact content.
- RG shared that QM is the university standard.
- Motion made that faculty consider adopting QM in their course platform, but not require it. Motion passed with 9 in support; 4 in opposition; and 5 to abstain.

e. Student Feedback Process. (postponed)

12. Executive Session.

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

14. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn at 5:10 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.