

Faculty Senate Meeting Agenda
March 23, 2022
Approved April 13, 2022

ZOOM: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/95589633634>
3:00 to 4:00 p.m. Faculty Senate

- 1. Call meeting to order.**
- 2. Roll Call.**

<i>ZOOM</i> - https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/95589633634	ATTENDANCE		
	Present	Absent	Excused
Biology; Justine Garcia	X		
Business Administration; Ali Arshad	X		
Chemistry; David Sammeth	X		
Computer and Mathematical Sciences; John Jeffries	X		
Education - Counseling and Guidance; Sulema Perales	X		
Education - Curriculum & Instruction; Ann Wolf	X		
Education - Educational Leadership; Rod Rock	X		
Education - Special Education; PJ Sedillo	X		
Education - Teacher Education; Melani Buchanan-Farmer	X		
English and Philosophy; Benjamin Villarreal	X		
Exercise and Sport Sciences; William Hayward, At-Large	X		
Forestry; Blanca Cespedes	X		
History and Political Science; Steven Williams	X		
Languages and Culture; Norma Valenzuela	X		
Library; April Kent	X		
Media Arts and Technology; Morgan Barnard	X		
Natural Resources Management; Jennifer Lindline, Secretary	X		
Nursing; Sandra Gardner	X		
Psychology; Daniel Chadborn, Vice Chair	X		
Social Work; Beth Massaro, Chair	X		
Sociology, Anthropology, and CJ; Mario Gonzales	X		
Visual and Performing Arts, Edward Harrington	X		
President; Sam Minner	X		
Provost/VPAA; Roxanne Gonzales	X		
Staff Senate; Inca Crespin/Doris Gallegos/Veronica Black	X		
Undergraduate Student Senate; K. Espinosa	X		
Graduate Student Senate; VACANT			

- 3. Approval of Agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously with 20 votes counted.**

4. **Approval of Minutes from March 9, 2022 (attachment).** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously with 16 votes counted.
5. **Communication from the President (S. Minner).**
 - Shared that new HR Director in place and getting grounded.
 - Updated on Sean Weaver's replacement; getting close in search.
 - Shared concerns about Opportunity Scholarship. The OS will factor into student enrollment. We will need ~8% more students to keep status quo.
 - Referenced the Faculty Association's vote of no confidence. Received it naming him and another administrator. Shared that it was communicated with the Board of Regents. Apologized for disappointing so many. Offered his resignation but it was not accepted by the BOR. Shared that he is putting Highlands first.
6. **Communication from the Administration (R. Gonzales).**
 - Updated everyone about DNP that went before Graduate Council Faculty on Monday. Voted on MFP. IW had suggested hold-off on DNP until all council members present. Challenges from larger institutions about competition for students. Responded that NMHU is trying to solve problems with rural placements. Our students are projected to stay in Mora, LV and serve our community.
 - Announced that her office has not received any volunteers for WICHE (Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education) Passport project. Really needs faculty input for what remains in the Spring and into the Summer Semester.
 - Announced that her office still needs Faculty Marshals for graduation ceremonies. Asked faculty to share with their Deans about which ceremony they identify for participation (Thursday 05/13 Rio Ranch; Friday 05/14 Las Vegas; Saturday 05/15 Las Vegas).
7. **Communication from the Chair (B. Massaro).**
 - Solicited volunteers for WICHE Passport involvement.
 - Solicited comments about the tuition increase proposal; directed people to zoom recording of presentation by VPAA Baca (https://nmhu.zoom.us/rec/share/ffkHznk0DSZsHW8RxFGWWEniqCB0Ltmkdxe26BFwhqP_TN9LMtmF5PFGac62lC77.nuAgv_w_TUxQB5vf).
 - Reminded Senators about 4:00 General Faculty meeting and gathering at the Skillet (informally) at 5:30.
8. **Communication from Academic Affairs (A. Kent).** None reported (Spring Break).
9. **Communication from the Undergraduate Student Senate (K. Espinosa).**
 - Introduced herself and shared enthusiasm for serving for remainder of the semester.
 - Shared it is her last semester, happy to serve.
10. **Communication from the Staff Senate (B. Rivera).**
11. **Informational updates from NMHU Invited Speakers.**
 - **Vice President Theresa Law re Strategic Enrollment Management Plan.**

- Gave a presentation about the draft Strategic Enrollment Strategic Plan. Asked for review and feedback.
- Reminded that E. Martinez initially in this role and developed an initial plan with wide goals which came to an end during COVID-19 period.
- Working under a state deadline to incorporate any feedback from Faculty, Staff, and Student Senates.
- Noted that new plan is shorter and more focused on what SEM office is doing to move enrollment forward.
- Shared screen with SEM Strategic Plan Draft
 - Enrollment decreases are almost entirely on undergraduate side, specifically first-time freshmen.
 - Retention numbers at an all-time high, thanks to increased engagement and high-quality offerings.
 - Continue in low 20th %ages with 6-year graduation rates.
- JJ asked why the continuing 12-year decline in enrollment. TL responded from big to small. First it is a national trend. Also, we're behind the national best practices in how we manage enrollment as an institution. Behind in technology, slow to adapt to electronic admission process. New Mexico, especially northern New Mexico (our primary demographic) has lost high school age populations. All of the regional high school populations have decreased significantly. So, looking at more distal areas (Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Texas) for prospective students.
- Asked about efforts to recruit Native American Students. TL said NMHU is oriented to serving Native American Students. Hopes to recruit more.
- Welcomed feedback.

12.Old Business:

- **Academic Hardship Definition (G. Gadsden) (attachments).**
 - G. Gadsden gave overview of and background to language.
 - BV asked about coverage to areas outside of language. GG said only specific to defined hardship areas.
 - JG asked about “documentation.” GG responded that kept it vague so that a student can gather the documentation relative to their situation to justify their hardship.
 - WH shared issues within his department.
 - DS made a motion and seconded to take the Hardship Language back to their departments for input. Motion carried with 18 in favor and 2 in opposition.
- **Discussion of processes for Senate.**
 - BM brought up a few items that have come up this year – Roberts Rule of Order, Faculty Handbook Revisions, Chat Room Discussion, Meeting Shared Screen. Roberts Rules of Order are supposed to “rule” in conjunction with the Faculty Handbook.
 - DS offered that RRO are meant to change through time; time and history reflect changing practices. Offered that perhaps maybe develop a working document for reference.

- GG noted that it is difficult to change the FH, but easier to change, add, subtract and addendum.
- AK noted that 4D FH Section does describe bylaws. Been a while since we have looked at it (2012?).
- DS suggested that FS EC be open for suggestions, all look at the handbook and consider how to move forward with areas and ideas for “best practices.” Offered a soft deadline of Tuesday, 03/29.

13. New Business:

- **Retro Add/Drop Policy changes from Academic Affairs (G. Gadsden) (attachment).**
 - GG gave some background and described that trying to clean up the process. Discussion ensued around whether faculty signature is for approval or acknowledgment. GG said committee kept it as an “approval” because want instructor weigh-in. Motion made with edits to comment box for instructor. No seconded. Motion made and seconded for Faculty Senators to take document back to their departments for review. Motion passed unanimously with 18 votes counted.

14. Adjournment.