

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
January 26, 2022
Approved March 09, 2022

ZOOM: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/95589633634>
3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

1. Called meeting to order.

2. Called roll.

<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; Christopher Ulibarri		X	
Graduate Student Senate; VACANT		X	

Also in attendance:

N. Arfai, M. Earick, G. Gadsden, P. Linder, R. Moore, H. Romero, R. Sanchez, I. Williamson, P. Wilson,

3. **Approval of Agenda.** Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed with 18 in favor and 0 in opposition.
4. **Approval of Minutes from December 8, 2021 (attachment).** Motion made and seconded to approve the December 8th meeting minutes. Motion passed with 17 in favor and 0 in opposition.
5. **Communication from the President (S. Minner).**
 - Greeted faculty. Provided updates from several domains. Greetings. Updates in several domains.
 - Legislative session in full swing. and Minner is participating. Believes that we (all institutions) going to receive an I& G increase this year – funding for our core mission (teaching, learning, and making new knowledge). Modest increase 2-3%. Not going to get us back to 2008 funding but going in right direction.
 - Compensation. Lots of discussions. Some no longer relevant, like \$15/hr minimum wage which we reached. Suspects that this fiscal year will receive a 3-4% increase. The 3% would get faculty up to 10% which was NMHU’s aim. Acknowledge that this won’t get us to regional comprehensive peers, but good news nonetheless.
 - Reforestation getting talked about. There is a House and Senate Bill related to this, both in the several million dollars range. We’re still hoping for this congressionally directed funding in addition to private funding.
 - Closing fund is in discussion and bears on NMHU research realm. While we are a regional comprehensive school (not a research university), we are very productive in research and find ourselves often lacking matching funds for competitive grants. The Closing Fund would help address this area.
 - Endowed professorship. Attracting a lot of attention. The Governor and others want to develop these positions.
 - Center for Excellence in Social Work – betting that is going to happen. Some great ideas, compelling strands, like police reform training. Another is the role of social work in assisting people in climate change and other stresses.
 - Repopulation of main campus. Wants to hold a meeting that addresses “A Return to Campus: Challenges and Opportunities Associated with the Repopulation of the Las Vegas Campus of NMHU.” Involves improving enrollment but aims especially at repopulating the physical campus.
 - HLC – we continue to be in good graces with HLC. Ready for upcoming visit with one final forum this week. All have had opportunity to comment on the assurance document.
 - Personnel: NMHU has 55 job openings on Higher Ed jobs. Large number, considering a staff of ~150.
 - Slinger Building renovations aiming to be a beautiful. Will include outdoor learning spaces, student lounges, faculty-staff space and more.
 - Soon to be a vote on GreenGO comprehensive campaign. Consultant helping us to decide if this is something we do, recommend right now.
 - Considering what to do about renewal of lease on Rio Rancho Building (do not own). Critical for us. Since we don’t own it, we are ineligible for certain state funding. So, will continue to rent it with goal of purchasing to bring into I & G fold.

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

- Welcomed everyone back to the school year.
- Shared that looking to partner with Pritzlaff Ranch (global email this afternoon). Includes ~3000 acres to conduct research, outdoor classrooms, artwork, photography and more. There will be an open house on Monday, 01/31.
- Reported Dean Search for School of Social Work process started this morning. Aiming for a July 1 start date.
- Shared that Prescilla Ortega-Mathis will be retiring end February. Has been here for > 50 years (!). Hope to replace someone asap.
- Shared that will be doing a search for Ian's Admin Assistant position. More to come.
- Shared that putting in for an Upward Bound grant in collaboration with LCC.
- Noted that NMHU is providing 5 masks per week to faculty as reported in 01/26 email.
- Shared that Graduate Dean Council is reviewing the DNP proposal.
- Reported that intends to move on changing I. Williamson Interim Graduate Dean title to Graduate Dean. Has gone through Faculty Handbook to research parameters. Noted that Academic Dean (Schools, College) different that Operational Dean (Graduate Programs). Intends to move on this soon.
 - Question asked about intent to appoint IW. RG said IW is not an academic dean, but an operational dean. Very different and not covered under Faculty Handbook. Noted that without a Graduate Dean, we do not have a seat at Graduate Council. Also noted that administration has ability to appoint positions and is looking for recommendations from FS.
 - WH recognized that IW is an "operational dean." But noted that he oversees academic issues, like admissions. Can we create a sharper definition on that front? RG said that FH makes really good distinction between academic dean – overseeing School/College and evaluating faculty. Will cull info and share with FS for review.

7. Communication from the Chair (B. Massaro).

- Wished everyone well.
- Informed that we would continue on Zoom throughout Spring 2022 term. Reminded that we did attempt to return on-ground in Fall but it was challenging to have discussions with masks.
- Shared that hopes to have outside faculty gatherings in the Spring (like Fall semester) as a traveling show (Las Vegas, Santa Fe, other).
- Invited people to reach out with any concerns.

8. Communication from Academic Affairs (A. Kent). Gave written and oral report provided, to include:

January 19, 2022 meetings of the AAC

1. Subcommittee Reports

- a. Undergraduate Appeals: 9 appeals under review.
- b. Graduate Appeals: 0 appeals received.
- c. Ballen: Subcommittee will have announcement out soon.
- d. Motion passed for the policy subcommittee to review the dean's signature on various forms.

2. Program Review Subcommittee Reports

- a. Ongoing program review: Health; Human Performance and Sport, BA, Minor; Human Performance and Sport, MA; Education – Special Education; Media Arts, MA, MS, BA, BFA, Minor, Certificate; Teacher Education; Native American Hispano Cultural Studies; and Mathematics.
 - b. Social Work, BSW, MSW (CSWE Accredited) program review should be presented at the next AAC meeting on February 2, 2022.
 - c. Subcommittee for the new spring program reviews were formed. The programs include: Chemistry; Music; Psychology; Biology; and Environmental Geology.
 - d. Forming a subcommittee for Southwest Studies (Anthropology) was tabled so Dr. Gloria Gadsden could get more information from the department on how this program should be handled.
- 3. Communication from the Chair**
- a. Dr. Gadsden reviewed the dates of key AAC deadlines.
 - a. Submission Reminders
 - i. To be added to the Wednesday meeting agenda, materials must be submitted by 5pm MST on the preceding Thursday.
 - ii. Please submit materials to the AAC Chair and Secretary. Correct forms required.
 - iii. Any proposals requiring a catalog change must be submitted to the AAC no later than Thursday February 24, 2022 by 5pm.
 - iv. Final day to submit materials to AAC during Spring 2022 - Thursday March 31, 2022 by 5pm.
 - b. Gloria Gadsden's term as chair is up after this spring. She will remain on the committee, but will not continue as chair.
 - c. Katie Gray's term as secretary is up and she will be leaving the committee.
 - d. Committee members were asked to think about nominations and self-nominations for these positions.
- 4. Communication from the Registrar**
- e. Dr. Henrietta Romero reported that the call for fall and summer schedules will be sent chairs soon.
 - f. Chair will receive the call for edits to the catalog soon.
 - g. Enrollment report: from spring 2021-2022, undergraduate enrollment is down 11%, graduate enrollment is up 9%; and overall enrollment is down 3%.
 - h. Fall intersession update: 15 section were offered which served 159 students. 34 of these students were student athletes.
 - i. Question about vaccine mandate on enrollment. 55 students were dropped on January 13, 2022 due to the mandate. Success coaches worked with students to comply with mandate.
 - j. Another drop is scheduled for January 24, 2022. Student success coaches have been working with students. The re-enrollment process has been working smoothly.
- 5. Communication from the Graduate Council – no report**
- 6. Communication from the Administration**
- a. Dr. Gonzales reported that students have appreciated support from faculty.
 - b. Student petitions have shown that online only classes have proved to be a stumbling block for many freshmen and sophomores.
 - c. Dr. Gonzales asked faculty to review the draft HLC document.
 - d. The Office of Academic Affairs is understaffed. Please be patient with slow processes. A new administrative assistant will be hired soon.
 - e. Dr. Cristina Duran is retiring at the end of June 2022. Faculty Senate chair has been notified which is the first step in the search process.
- 7. School of Education, Special Education - Program revision, MA, Special Education Certificate Leading to Licensure - discussion/action item**
- a. Dr. Mariana Ulibarri-Horan gave the update for Dr. P.J. Sedillo. The program has a letter from NMPED approving NMHU going forward with this program. Dr. Sedillo will provide additional information at a future meeting.
 - b. Item table until future meeting.
- 8. Biology Department - discussion/action item**
- Major/minor deletion, BS in Biology with Concentration in Teaching

- a. Dr. Jesus Rivas discussed the proposal with Dr. Elizabeth Valenzuela from the School of Education. The School of Education does not support the proposed deletion, but recognizing the right for biology to control its curriculum.
- b. It was recommended that biology and education work together to come up with a revised pathway for STEM teacher degrees.
- c. Lively discussion ensued.
- d. The motion to delete this program did not carry.

9. Natural Resources Management Department - discussion/action item

- Program revision, B.S., Minor, Certificate in Environmental Geology
 - New course, Fundamentals of Geospatial Information Science and Technology (GEOL 4/5XXX)
- a. Dr. Jennifer Lindline summarized the proposal and noted that geology faculty meet with forestry faculty to discuss.
 - b. Forestry will add the new proposed new course as an either/or with their GIS course for their program. Geology will use substitutions for other GIS classes, but do not support cross listing GIS classes. Lively discussion ensued.
 - c. Motion to approved new course passed.
 - d. Motion to approve major revision passed
 - e. Motion to approve minor revision passed.
 - f. Motion to approve certificate revision passed.

10. Appeals Reports - discussion item

- a. Dr. Gadsden will follow up with each academic dean on appeals. Ian Williamson no longer oversees these.

11. Dean signatures on forms - discussion item (Gadsden)

- a. Question about why dean signatures are on the AAC forms and the role of deans.
- b. Acknowledgement that deans should be kept in the loop.
- c. Agreement that deans should not approve or disapprove proposals before coming to the AAC.
- d. Need for better instructions for forms.

12. Definition of hardship - discussion item – tabled.

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

10. Communication from the Staff Senate. No report.

11. Old Business:

- **Report from the new faculty classification committee.** Motion made and seconded to move this item to end of meeting for discussion in Executive Session. Motion passed with 20 in favor; no oppositions.
- **Retro add/drop policy.** Motion made and seconded to approve the policy. Motion passed with 19 in favor and 0 in opposition.
- **New Program approval policy. (Beth Massaro)** The Faculty Senate charged the Academic Affairs Committee with the task of developing a policy to address the need to review new program proposals after they have been approved within New Mexico Highlands University but are subsequently changed in the external approval process by outside entities. AAC submitted a proposal to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. The EC has amended the language in the proposed policy for clarification and is submitting the following policy to be reviewed by the Faculty Senate.

All changes to new academic programs which are proposed by internal or external bodies after the Faculty Senate's approval of the new program, must be resubmitted to the Academic Affairs Committee and be subject to the standard program approval procedures of New Mexico Highlands University.

- Opened was opened for discussion. DS shared concerns about taking too much guidance from external bodies and not keeping NMHU as the final say in NMHU curriculum.
- MG asked if we make changes to an externally approved program, do we have to go back to accrediting body for re-approval?
- BV asked if there is ever a situation where not taking recommendations of an external body resulted in loss of accreditation. None that anyone knows/remembers.
- AK noted that issues pertains to both accrediting bodies and educational boards.
- RG noted that academic programs put their proposals together to meet external criteria. There can be questions or requests for a change (such as in delivery) and then the Academic Affairs Office considers the major versus minor nature of requests to determine if have to go back to unit for internal review.
- BC mentioned importance of re-review for any recommended changes in order for Registrar to recognize and implement the changes.
- WH asked what is it we are really trying to achieve?
- DC emphasized importance of check-balance of internal review for any changes.
- Motion made and seconded to table this item for Senators to take back to their departments for consideration. Motion passed with 20 in favor; 0 in opposition.

12.New Business:

- **HU Cares Policy**
 - DS asked what motivated change? BM responded new hires and office restructuring.
 - Motion made and seconded to approve the new language.
 - BV asked is the title new (Director of ...). RG said it is a new total, new office structure.
 - BM reminded that request for faculty to input information into syllabi without Faculty Senate approval has happened in the past.
 - Motion passed with 20 in favor/0 in opposition of new policy.
 - DC opined the need for more communication and context on the HU Cares restructuring.
 - JL supported having Dean Blea come to a FS meeting to inform about the changes so faculty can best represent HU Cares services to students.
- **Adding an at-large member to Executive Committee.**
 - BM shared interest of EC in having an additional at-large member.
 - Motion made and seconded to add Ann Wolf as an At-Large member to the 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Motion passed with 20 in favor; none in opposition.
- **School of Business New concentration and courses.**
 - A. Arshad gave a PowerPoint presentation synopsis of proposal.

- DS asked, *With so many new courses, do you have the faculty to offer/schedule classes to meet student timelines?* Quite a number of new courses.
 - A. Arshad noted only 3 new courses and shared plans for hiring adjunct faculty.
 - DS offered support of this new MBA program but shared concerns about lack of tenure-track faculty.
 - RG agreed that tenure-track faculty positions are needed to teach, manage online classes and programs.
 - AK called for a vote to approve the program. Motion seconded and passed with 21 counted in favor of proposal; 0 in opposition.
- **Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice proposal for:**
 - **Concentration deletion.** Motion made to approve Concentration deletion. Motion passed with 19 in favor and none in opposition.
 - **New concentration.**
 - EH expressed concerns about new programming in Social Justice. He supported teaching a class on SJ, but not one on advocacy for it. Interpreted this is an activist program. A discussion ensued.
 - WH asked if we can take in information going on in the world to inform what we do at NMHU? Recognized that it is a very large point of discussion.
 - PJS asked to call the question.
 - DS asked if possible to have Erika Derkas (program lead) come to FS to best inform next steps.
 - GG responded that this is a Department-led program. Welcomed a conversation with EH. Said department considers SJ to include issues of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, disability and other characteristics in curriculum.
 - JG commented that she sees broad based theory and coverage in proposal.
 - Vote taken. Motion passed with 19 in favor and 1 in opposition of the new concentration.
 - **New minor.** Motion made and seconded to approve the new minor. Motion passed with 18 in favor and 1 in opposition.
- **Biology Department Program Revisions**
 - JG went line by line on revision. Noted ~ 10 course revisions to ensure that catalog descriptions accurately reflect curriculum.
 - AK requested that FS meeting minutes list out individual courses for the record.
 - Motion made and seconded to not approve course change package.
 - Discussion ensued.
 - DS commented on lack of Chemistry in Biology curriculum. Shared that it is a must in the Biology field to have foundational chemistry. Students are being put at a disadvantage to go through portions of the Biology curriculum without Chemistry.
 - Motion made and seconded to table the discussion. Motion passed with 17 in support of tabling.
- Social Work Program revision and new courses

- School of Education/Special Education – Changes in Minors
- English Department
 - 3 new courses
 - Addition to extended core

13. Adjournment. BM Moved for meeting adjournment at 5:10 p.m. Motion made, seconded, and passed unanimously.