

**Student Affairs Committee Meeting - Minutes**  
**New Mexico Highlands University**

Date: Nov. 2, 2018

Meeting called to order: 2:15 pm

Location: 138 Douglass Hall (and Zoom)

Meeting adjourned: 2:53 pm

Present: Dr. Juan Gallegos (Chair), Dr. Emmanuel Nkwenti-Zamcho (via Zoom), Dr. Edward Harrington (Secretary, via Zoom), Dr. Kyle Rose, Dr. Valerie Valles-Pedroza (via Zoom), Dr. Joseph Sabutis, Dr. Peter Buchanan

Not Present:

- 1) **Minutes** (of 10-5-18) and **agenda** (of 11-2-2018) were approved unanimously.
- 2) **Dr. Sabutis introduced a discussion of charges to the SAC made by the Faculty Senate.**
  - a) Learning Community Study: After discussion, the committee agreed that a survey document will be developed for the purpose of collecting responses regarding LC experiences from students and LC instructors. SAC members will bring survey questions to the next meeting for compilation into a survey instrument.
  - b) **Housing policies on the periods of time of open dorms prior to the beginnings of semesters and during semester breaks:** Dr. Harrington will report to the committee on the current Housing policy of dorms that are open during semester breaks at the next meeting. Drs. Valles-Pedroza, Sabutis, and Nkwenti-Zamcho will investigate the lengths of breaks and the impact on student retention, including consulting with Dr. Edward Martinez, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment. The survey instrument will include coverage of housing policies as well as LC topics.
- 3) **Drs. Nkwenti-Zamcho and Sabutis reported on a recent Title IX student hearing.**
  - a) Concern was expressed concerning a need for Title IX training for SAC members, Resident Assistants, Teaching Assistants, either online or to face-to-face events, and to be funded by the Office of the Dean of Students.
  - b) Discussion continued regarding the rights of Title IX respondents to not attend hearings.
  - c) The concept of Restorative Justice was illuminated by Dr. Valles-Pedroza in relation to the recent hearing.
  - d) Concerns were discussed regarding the apparent peripheral involvement in this conflict and hearing by Nick Leger, as Dean Blea conducted the investigation. It was noted that Mr. Leger was recently appointed to his post as Title IX Coordinator, and the question was raised regarding whether Mr. Leger addresses non-student Title IX issues. The question may be addressed by President Minner.
  - e) The subject discussion concluded with a brief discussion of restraining or no-contact orders, so that students involved in pending Title IX decisions may continue to attend classes on campus.
- 3) **Election of SAC Chair.**
  - a) Dr. Peter Buchanan accepted a nomination for the SAC Chair position, and was elected unanimously by the committee.
- 4) **Adjournment:** Motion and vote approved unanimously, and the meeting concluded at 2:53 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Edward Harrington*