

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**April 8, 2009**  
**3:00 pm, Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University**  
**Minutes - Draft**

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** David Lobdell, Jane Gorman (proxy for David Arguello), Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington, April Kent, Ken Bentson, Maureen Romine, Stella Helvie, Kathy Jenkins, April Kent, Orit Tamir, Lee Stauffer.  
**Absent:** Jim Peters, Julius Harrington  
**Others present:** Jessica Power
3. Approval of agenda – Agenda approved unanimously as amended – adding comments from Budget Committee to New Business under ‘b.’
4. Approval of minutes of March 11, 2009 – minutes approved unanimously.
5. Communication from the administration – no representative from the administration.
6. Communication from the Chair – Dr. Romine
  - President’s Advisory Council/Cabinet meeting – March 19, 2009
    - Staff Senate – will be hosting the NM Higher Education Staff Association conference; after forums will be taking the Staff Senate documents to BOR in April; elections to Senate in May; and have first meeting in July.
    - Legislative update – may have \$400,000 in capital outlay; lost \$26,000 from budget; \$100-150 million less in revenues in addition to \$582 million predicted for next year.
    - Enrollment – up 3.14% from the base year (2006) – enough to move to next enrollment band.
    - Student Center – 4 locations – (1) parking lot behind library and Mortimer Hall (2) Melody Park area (3) Beall’s area (4) Connor Hall Area – remove C-wing; funding will involve fee increases for students; architects on campus April 22<sup>nd</sup>, two firms involved; goal to take something to BOR by end of April. Changed in recent meeting (April 8<sup>th</sup>).
    - CSF – transfer options for students (pay in-state tuition) and programs (Creative Writing Program); might keep such programs in Santa Fe, city willing to help; may be for spring 2010. Task force set up by the Governor to figure out how to save CSF; report back by April 30<sup>th</sup> and might be considered in the special session.
    - Other
      - (1) No funding for increase in compensation; 1.5% shift of retirement responsibility to employees which would lower take-home pay.
      - (2) New student residence hall open in fall 2009; 95 beds available for current students to be chosen by a lottery on April 9<sup>th</sup> ( wing closest to Connor); other wing will be all freshmen.
      - (3) Melody will be a coed freshman hall.

- President's Advisory Council/Cabinet Meeting – April 8, 2009
  - Sharon Caballero – new Exe. Dir. For Advancement.
  - Nursing Accreditation Visit – met standards.
  - ACT scores – going to be required at high schools.
  - Higher Education Act and Online Courses – need to verify that students registering for courses are the ones actually taking the courses.
  - Retirement Plan Legislation – Alternative Education Retirement Plan – legislation signed that will allow people who have been on the plan for at least 7 years can switch to the state retirement plan – not sure if this is a one- time deal or not.
  - Tony Anaya appointed to chair committee to determine how the stimulus money will be used – Council of University Presidents meeting with Anaya on April 16<sup>th</sup> .
  - Udall on campus today and Ben Ray Lujan on campus April 17<sup>th</sup> – office in the Purchasing Building. Will be meeting with the Higher Education Committee for Capital Projects about the Felix Martinez and Student Center Projects – Location of Student Center- remove Connor Hall A&B wings(keep C wing) so center will face Central Park. Master Plan – architects on campus on April 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Other items – Task Force; NCA (proposed team, self study planning materials); BOR subcommittees meet on April 27<sup>th</sup> and BOR meeting on April 29<sup>th</sup>, agenda – not present for these items.
  
- BOR Meeting
  - Representative from NMHU Foundation at front table at BOR meetings – Doyle Daves .
  - Elections: Chair, Leveo Sanchez; Vice Chair, Jesus Lopez; Sec/ Treas., Greg Rael
  - Subcommittees: Academic Affairs/Student Affairs Committee, Nancy Long and Greg Rael; Finance and Adm. Committee, Jesus Lopez, Pete Aguilar, Leveo Sanchez
  - NMHU had a clean audit
  - 2.5% reduction in current year's budget (\$850,000) – keep administrative positions open.
  - Felix Martinez Renovation Design approved – one-stop shop, better utilization of space.
  - Contract for Success students – started with 163 and currently have 137; end of fall semester 44%had 2.0 or better; biggest problem is lack of motivation
  - Naming frenzy – Don Gibson floor; Pete Compos Residence Hall; Springer Hall; Stu Clark lettering put back; Jerry Meyer Day (Head of the Chemistry Department in 1953)– Pres, Fries directed to develop a policy on naming structures.
  - Enrollment/Graduation – 72% fall to spring retention of freshman; 594 graduates, 50% from main campus, 47% graduate degrees
  - Sabbatical Leaves: Eddie Tafoya, Veronica Saunero -Ward, and Jean Hill.
  - Emeritus Designation: Bob Mishler.
  - Next BOR meeting – April 29th

- 3. Senate Joint Memorial 66, NM College Faculty Salary Study – Tom Gruszka, Faculty Senate President WNM
7. Communication from Academic – Dr. Bentson
  8. Academic Affairs – Ken
    - a) The committee approved the statement of Academic Dishonesty for the handbook.
    - b) Freshman experiences – the committee asked for additional information. Barbara Risch will be in charge of the program.
  9. Graduate Students Association – Jessica Power
    - a) The Graduate Students Association wants each professor to outline his/her policy regarding dishonesty and cheating.
    - b) The Senate is working on redoing the constitution.
    - c) The Senate will televise future senate meetings.
    - d) The Senate tries to get all the students' fees - necessary to run the meeting.
    - e) The Graduate Students Association will support faculty in getting fair labor practices and pay – will be willing to organize rallies in support of faculty.
  10. Student Senate – no representative was present.
  11. Old Business
    - a) A number of individuals volunteered and were nominated to serve as Faculty Marshals: Dr. Peters, Dr. Jenkins, and Dr. Kravitz volunteered. Jim may not be able to do it. Kathy Jenkins volunteered. In addition Dr. Ortega and Dr. Nelson were nominated.
    - b) Membership and election process for Faculty Senate, Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs, Research and Library Committees – The Executive Committee came up with new wording based. The language is based on the discussion during the last senate meeting. The new language requires vote by the faculty since this is a handbook change. Should be sent out to general faculty to review. Dr. Bentson added that International Education committee should be axed. Dr. Jenkins suggested talking with Dr. Newman about that committee as she is very active in it. Senate needs to look over membership of four more committee: Athletic Committee, Student Affairs, Faculty Grievance, and Financial Planning Committee. Send out now. Vote in fall.
    - c) Dr. Bentson – Webpage. Forestry wants to advertise on the web. Faculty needs more autonomy on layout of the websites which they cannot due to contract with ICC. A modern effective website is important with reaching students today. Sean Weaver will be invited to the next meeting to discuss the website.
  12. New Business
    - a) Evaluation of the Interim Department Heads and Administrator forms from last year. Propose to send out to appropriate people and return them all to Mary Jane. Can be sent electronically the question is who the forms should be returned to. All faculty not only tenure/tenure

track will be sent evaluations. Dr. Bentson would like to add a question to indicate support or non support for retaining people: "Do you support retaining this person in this position?" yes or no. Interim department head should be the wording for department chair evaluation.

- b) NMHU retired and emeriti faculty are asking for input from Senate. Senators feel adjuncts should not be including in this group; should only include retired and emeriti. This could be a huge governance issue and could undermine the faculty senate. C. Leo Martinez or a representative of this group will be invited to the next meeting to hear the Senate's questions and concerns.
- c) Collective Bargaining update from Kathy Jenkins.
- d) Ad Hoc Budget Committee Report update from Jim Peters via Dr. Romine. Next step to meet with VP Taylor and start a dialog. The meeting maybe put off and there is no rush as it too late to act on this year's budget.

Respectfully Submitted by

Orit Tamir, Ph.D.  
Faculty Senate Secretary