

**Faculty Senate Meeting
February 25, 2009
3:00 pm, Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University
Minutes - Final**

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Orit Tamir, David Lobdell, David Arguello, Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington, Ken Bentson, Maureen Romine, , Kathy Jenkins, Jim Peters, Lee Stauffer.

Absent: April Kent and Stella Helvie

Others Present: Dr. Rivera, John Paul Martinez., Jessica Power.
3. Approval of the agenda – the agenda was unanimously approved as amended – add questions about dishonesty under new business.
4. Minutes – approved unanimously with one correction.
5. Communication from the administration- Dr. Rivera
 - Congratulations to the following faculty:
 - Dr. Emmanuel Nkwenti, Associate Professor of Business – received tenure
 - Dr. Jose Sisneros, Associate Professor of Social Work received tenure
 - Dr. Carol Linder, Assistant Professor of Biology – received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - Dr. Ian Williamson, Assistant Professor of Psychology received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - Dr. Daniel Martinez, Assistant Professor of English received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor
 - Dr. Donna Woodford-Gormley, Assistant Professor of English, received promotion to Associate Professor
 - Dr. Delores Ortega, Assistant Professor of Social Work, received promotion Associate Professor
 - Dr. Jennifer Lindline, Associate Professor of Geology, received promotion to Full Professor
 - The Democratic Policy Committee recently sent out an update on the impact of the stimulus package on the state of New Mexico. A number of items might be worth pursuing:
 - Under education and training in New Mexico
 - \$258.9 million –State Fiscal Stabilization Fund – to local school districts and public colleges and universities.
 - \$91.1 million – Special Education Part B State Grants
 - \$5.1 million in Educational technology.
 - \$106 million for Title I Education for the Disadvantaged
 - \$3.9 million for Vocational Rehabilitation
 - Under Protecting the Venerable in New Mexico
 - \$17.8 million in Child Care and Development Block Grants

- \$5.7 million in Community Services Block Grants

6. Communication from the Chair – Dr. Romine

- Joint meeting President Advising Council and Cabinet:
 - NMHU is within 200 credit hours to exceed the band.
 - President Fries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with 13 Native American tribes. The MOU calls for exchange of information and for three scholarships per tribe.
 - NMHU is trying to look at services and programs for veterans.
 - The 2009 Commencement speaker will be Ben Ray Lujan.
 - Capital projects were discussed.
 - The formation of NMHU's Staff Senate is in progress – staff members have a draft of a constitution and by-laws.
 - Dr. Hill delivered an NCA report.
 - NMHU expects a budget cut of 2.5% from the legislature. Most of the reduction will come from Research Public Service Programs.
 - College of Santa Fe – The House Education Committee had more support than the Senate.
 - BOR has no meeting scheduled.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs – David Lobdell

- Special Education had some changes to their program, adding courses to address severe cases.
- School of Business deleted a number of courses that have not been offered for a number of years.
- The Committee discussed program reviews and how to trim down the requirements.

8. Student Senate – John Paul Martinez

- \$50 left for clubs in the budget.
- The Student Senate will try to clarify and ratify the constitution – something that has not been done since 2001.
- 75 towels will be given to the first students coming to the next basketball game + 25 tickets. A number of concert tickets will be raffled too.
- Six student senators will go to HACU Conference in Washington DC.

9. Graduate Student Association – Jessica Power

- Only nine Senators are left in the Graduate Student Association.
- The Association is working on editing and revising the constitution.
- \$5,000 for the Association budget is not enough. The Association is seeking more funding

10. New Business

a. Ad Hoc Budget Committee – Dr. Peters

- Dr. Peters met with Eileen Bentley, NMHU's new budget director to discuss the budget process.
- This year's budget process started earlier than usual (Dr. Peters circulated a list of the budget cycle).

- Dr. Peters obtained a copy of the 08/09 Budget from the NMHU's web site in PDF file. He requested either a data base or a spreadsheet file version for the ad hoc committee to use for analysis.
 - A lively discussion ensued (Peter Linder ©):
 - Dr. Romine – faculty need to be involved in the budget process. How do we get into the process? How does Eileen Bentley think that faculty can be involved?
 - Dr. Rivera – Faculty involvement should happen before the budget hearing. What percentage of the ING budget is allocated to the instruction?
 - Dr. Jenkins – Faculty should be involved in the early Fall in budgetary discussions and have a say in how to divide the budget pie.
 - Dr. Bentson – How can we institutionalize the process of including faculty in the budgeting process? Budget should be part of strategic planning.
 - Dr. Peters will try to figure out systematic presence of faculty in the budget process.
- b. Faculty representatives to Student Senates meetings – Dr. Jenkins volunteered to represent the Faculty Senate on the Student Senate.
- c. Faculty Handbook
- Dr. Romine – our biggest problem is departmental representation on Senate, Academic Affairs, Faculty Affairs, and Library.
 - Dr. Jenkins – Perhaps departmental presentation should apply only to Senate and Academic Affairs.
 - Dr. Romine – we can consider removing the departmental representation from Library and Faculty Affairs.
 - Dr. Tamir – It is best to consult with our colleagues in order to determine whether the departments that we represent want to continue with departmental representation in Faculty Affairs and Library or change the formula to College/School representation. We can do the same with regard to the Senate and Academic Affairs.
 - Dr. Rivera – if you remove 'or Departments' from Section IV 3.b of the faculty Handbook you may have a formula for representation.
- d. Ken Bentson – Academic dishonesty
- An ad hoc Academic Affairs committee is in the process of assembling a "policy" and guidance document for faculty on academic dishonesty – to be included in the Student Code of Conduct. Dr. Bentson circulated a number of questions concerning Academic Dishonesty including:
 - Where should the faculty guidance go when completed?
 - What should be the roles of administrative offices in academic dishonesty process?
 - How do faculty members decide whether a punitive measure is just and is consistently and impartially applied?

- Is a legal review of academic dishonesty policies desirable or necessary?
 - What are just criteria for suspension or expulsion of students from NMHU for academic dishonesty?
 - Dr. Tamir – some or all of these questions can be referred to Student Affairs.
 - Mr. Martinez – NMHU may need a data base for cheaters.
 - Dr. Bentson – Does Student Affairs Committee need to be involved?
 - Dr. Rivera– Student Affairs is charged with process and procedures concerning disciplinary actions.
- e. Responses from the Faculty Affairs Committee on charges were tabled.

Respectfully submitted by

Orit Tamir, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary