

Faculty Senate Meeting
October 22, 2008
3:00 pm, Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University

Minutes

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Orit Tamir, David Lobdell, David Arguello, Peter Linder, Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington, April Kent, Ken Bentson, Maureen Romine, Stella Helvie, Lee Stauffer, Kathy Jenkins.

Absent: Jim Peters, Merryl Kravitz

Others present: Dr. Rivera and Genevieve Torres.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved unanimously.
4. **Approval of the minutes** – the 10/8/08 minutes approved unanimously.
5. **Communication from the administration** – Dr. Rivera
 - Home Coming is this weekend.
 - The Faculty Handbook still provides the guidelines for grievance of faculty vis-à-vis the administration. A collective bargaining article concerning grievance of faculty against administration will require faculty approval. Proposed revisions to the Handbook need to take this into account.
6. **Communication from the Chair** – Dr. Romine
 - Report from the President’s Advisory Committee
 - Security Poles were installed on campus. Security cameras are also in the process of being installed as well as deadbolts in classrooms.
 - The President’s inauguration will be on Friday, October 24th at 2:00 pm in Ifeld Auditorium.
 - Staff Manual is in being looked into.
 - The next regular BOR meeting is on Nov. 14th.
 - Max Baca will deliver a report during the General Faculty Meeting on the current economy and its affect on NMHU.
 - Faculty positions –New positions or positions that were not filled last year are not likely to be filled. However, current positions that become vacant will be filled.
 - Faculty membership was updated on the university’s website.
 - The concern regarding the soccer club was addressed by the Faculty Athletic Committee.

7. **Academic Affairs** – Dr. Lobdell
 - Faculty Senate charges to Academic Affairs Committee were tabled until next semester. The committee must first address program changes, a process that will continue until February.

8. **Communication from Student Senate** – Genevieve Torres
 - The students are preparing for Home Coming Week.

9. **New Business**
 - a. President Fries suggests a streamline version of the strategic plan committee structure. A lively discussion ensued (Peter Linder ©), yielding a suggestion for a strong steering committee can that will examine previous strategic plans and consider the major issues that NMHU needs to address. There is also a need for a follow up mechanism for the Strategic Plan.

 - b. Faculty Handbook revisions
 - Financial planning committee – Dr. Jenkins: The committee lost its ability to get information from the previous administration. The Committee should examine the operating budget of the university, and a person from NCA can help faculty analyze the budget. Dr. Romine – we may want to look at the duties and responsibilities of the committee. Dr. Linder – are there faculty members willing and able to do the necessary analysis? Dr. Bentson – faculty need to have more input in the planning process.

The reminder of the agenda was tabled at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by

Orit Tamir, Ph.D
Faculty Senate Secretary