Faculty Senate Meeting
September 10, 2008
3:00 pm, Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University
Minutes - Draft

1. Call to Order

2. **Present**: Orit Tamir, Lee Stauffer, David Lobdell, David Arguello (late), Merryl Kravitz (late), Peter Linder, Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington, Jim Peters, April Kent, Ken Bentson, Maureen Romine, Kathy Jenkins, Stella Helvie.

   Absent:

   Others present: Mbiatem Ndip Gordon Godlove – Graduate Student Senate Representative

3. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved unanimously.

4. Approval of the minutes – minutes approved as corrected – 13 for, 1 abstention.

5. Communication from Administration – There was no representative from the Administration.

6. Communication from the Chair – Dr. Romine
   - The BOR will have a retreat on Friday September 12th in Kennedy.
   - Representative from the Senate will attend the BOR subcommittees.
   - Regular BOR meeting will be on Sep 26th.
   - Student Affairs Committee has been working on the charge on safety issues
     - Dr. Helvenston – Campus security is putting lots of efforts into installing more lighting and intercoms to a dispatcher around campus. NMHU's security policy manual is undergoing revisions. Judy Cordova and Chief Scarborough attended the committee's meeting.
   - The Athletic Committee is working on scheduling. Yongseek Kim was unanimously approved to serve on the committee.
   - Dr. P. Linder will represent Faculty Senate on Student Senate Dr. Kravitz will be the Senate's representative on the Graduate Student Association.
   - The injured players issue was resolved.

7. Academic Affairs – David Lobdell

- John Hayes was elected as chair.
- Revisions to the catalog should be submitted ASAP.
- Re-send the Senate charge to Academic Affairs to John Hayes.

8. Graduate Students Association - Mbiatem Ndip Gordon Godlove

- Nothing to report.

9. Old Business

a. Cheating – Dr. Peters - Cheating is common. According to Dr. Peters cheating is worst at NMHU compared to other campuses that he had taught at. There is little emphasis in the handbook on cheating. Students at NMHU are not asked to sign a statement that they read the code of conduct. The issue of cheating needs to be more visible at NMHU. There is no process for dealing with cheating. Faculty need spelled out centralized process for dealing with cheating.

- A lively discussion ensued (Dr. Linder ©)
- Dr. Bentson – We need to check other universities' models that address dealing with cheating.
- Dr. Stauffer – Turning cheating to a hearing board is a copout.
- Dr. Jenkins – Faculty should have the option to give cheating students an 'F.' NMHU's grade appeal process is good and fair way for students to address perceived grading unfairness. Perhaps the Senate can ask Academic Affairs to revisit the issue (it was discussed a few years ago). What type of data base can we have to track serial cheaters and serial accusers?
- Dr. Tamir – NMHU needs to subscribe to sites that students use to purchase papers.
- Dr. Linder – the issue should be referred to Academic Affairs. The problem is not with the mechanism but with consistency. Many faculty members will not deal with cheating for a variety of reasons.
- Dr. Kravitz – some students don't understand that they can't cut and paste from the web. NMHU needs some sort of mechanism to deal with cheaters. The students need to know what the mechanism is.
- David Lobdell – without the support of the administration this will not work.

- April Kent – what is the legal liability?
- Dr. Romine – We need to check minutes of Academic Affairs to see what were the recommendations regarding cheating. Concurrently senators should check with their departments/schools about concerns regarding cheating.

b. Emeritus Faculty
    - Tomas Salazar is concerned that faculty members are not aware regarding of the procedures for nominating individuals to Emeritus status. The Executive Committee will work on a letter informing department heads about the procedures for Emeritus.

c. Distance Education – Dr. Arguello
    - Distance education is cumbersome with the move to Sininger.
    - Dr. Stauffer – the administration is pushing for distance education but does not provide the mechanism.
    - The topic was addressed in a previous Senate meeting and sent in a form of a charge to Academic Affairs Committee.

10. New Business

a. Faculty input NCA report – Do we want the survey sent again? A short discussion ensued.
    - Dr. Linder – there is the danger that we end up like teachers spending lots of time proving that we are doing what we suppose to do. On the other hand, we have to collect the data for NCA.
    - Dr. Kravitz – what will the survey be used for exactly?
    - Dr. Tamir made a motion that was 2nd by Dr. Linder
        - The Faculty Senate will send the original NCA questionnaire through the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research along with the original explanation paragraph.
    - The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Orit Tamir, Ph.D.
Faculty Senate Secretary