

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
March 26, 2008
4:00pm/Following General Faculty Meeting
Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University

1. Call to Order: 3:30pm
2. **Present:** Ian Williamson (Proxy Orit Tamir), Jane Gorman, Mary Romero, David Lobdell, , Merryl Kravitz, Daniel Martinez, John Jeffries, Yongseek Kim, Peter Linder, Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington, April Kent; Mike O'Brien (late).

Absent: Orit Tamir, Nora Ngafeeson, Ashley Ramirez

Others present:
3. **Approval of Agenda:** approved without amendment.
4. Approval of Minutes of March 12, 2007: #7: 3 new courses approved, rather than 2. Approved with one change, with 2 abstentions.
5. **Communication from the Administration:** no member of the administration was present.
6. **Communication from the Chair:** Dr. Romine reported on the BOR meeting of 14 March; noting also that the issue of campus security & safety had been raised, as well as a discussion of the issue of arming the campus police. Also noted election of officers; (vice-chair, regent Long, sec/treas. Regent Salas). Also discussed was a bond issue, fee for student orientation, fee for student housing. Also noting that two students addressed the BOR about their concerns re food service and the vendor for food services, ABL. Also discussed and approved was an increase in tuition. She then fielded a number of questions. One question was regarding the recent announcement that the budget for the coming academic year would be flat.
7. **Communication from Academic Affairs:** Nothing to report; no meeting.
8. **Communication from the Student Senate:** No member of the Student Senate or GSA was present; hence, no report.
9. **Communication from the Graduate Student Association:** No member of the Student Senate or GSA was present; hence, no report.
10. **Old Business:**

- a) **Evaluation of administration:** Dr. Romine mentioned the issue, and asked for opinions. A lively discussion ensued. Eventually, the Senate voted to table the matter until next meeting, with instructions to the chair to contact the deans and find out whether they intended to follow the evaluation process spelled out in the *Faculty Handbook*.
- b) **Answers to students' question about the change in the grading system:** Dr. Romine distributed preliminary responses to questions from Nicole Parra-Perez. The preliminary responses were drafted by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, after soliciting information from the chair of Academic Affairs and other faculty members who were involved in the initial proposal. A lively discussion ensued, and responses to each question were crafted. The response on question 3 was put to a vote, and by a vote of 7-6, the language drafted by the EC was approved. On question 4, the vote was 10-3 in favor. On question 5, a motion was made to eliminate the 2nd sentence; by a vote 2-9, with 2 abstentions, failed. It was moved and seconded to retain the language; with the insertion of "may, but will not necessarily."
- c) **Topics/issues for future meetings:** Dr. Harrington raised the question of having a forum or dialogue on the issue of race, raised by Barack Obama in a speech last week.
- d) **Nomination for faculty marshals:** Carol Linder was nominated and approved for faculty marshal..
- e) **Committee membership vacancies update:** **Dr. Romine asked for senators to help get the word out to fill vacancies in Faculty Senate committees.**

11. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 4:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter S. Linder
Vice Chair/Secretary Surrogate