

Faculty Senate Meeting
February 13, 2008
Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University
3:00 pm

1. Call to Order
2. **Present:** Maureen Romine, Chuck Swim, Mary Romero, Orit Tamir, David Lobsell, Merryl Kravitz, , Peter Linder, John Jeffries, Yongseek Kim, Merritt Helvenston, April Kent.

Absent: Daniel Martinez. There was no ITV connection with Julius Harrington.

Others Present: Dr. Gilbert Rivera, VPAA; Nora Ngafeeson, Student Senate; and, Ashley Ramirez Graduate Student Association.
3. Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved as amended unanimously.
4. Approval of Minutes – minute approved unanimously.
5. Communication from the Administration: Dr. Rivera
 - Faculty searches are underway. NMHU received 253 applications. Some positions attracted many applicants others have not. Dr. Rivera anticipates that about one half of the searches will succeed.
 - Enrollment increased by 5 students. Last year many of students added classes after census day.
 - NMHU made an effort to get as many of the students cleared (with regard to tuition) before census date. The tuition of students cleared after census is also counted.
 - Admissions –completed admissions has been on the increased – about 30% of students who had been admitted to NMHU actually enrolled.
 - Deans' Searches – Dr. Rivera met yesterday with Orit Tamir and April Kent (Executive Committee representatives) to discuss the administration of the Education and the College deans' searches. The goal is to have an offer made an offer by May 3rd.

- Preliminary academic calendar revision – the administration is considering the elimination of Fall Break and the completion of the Fall Semester a week early. The administration is also considering having faculty start Spring Semester a week early in order to be available for student advisement.
6. Communication from the Chair: Dr. Romine
- Promotion and tenure: there was a discussion on whether faculty members who come up for tenure in the fall can apply for promotion in the spring. There were a number of such cases in the past.
 - Dr. Rivera indicated that past special arrangements for individual faculty members did not set precedent since they did not involve change to the Handbook.
 - Distance Learning and Centers Committee will address the faculty during the next General Faculty Meeting.
 - The Ballen and Pino are due on February 15th.
7. Communication from Academic Affairs: Dr. Jeffries
- Academic Affairs approved policy and procedures booklet for Program Review. The deadline is March 31st for the programs that are to be reviewed this year: computational Engineering, Native American Hispano Studies, and Forensic Science.
 - Social Work's Clinical Supervision was approved.
8. Communication from the Student Senates – Nora Ngafeeson and Ashley Ramirez
- The Student Senate did not discuss the proposed Grading system changes.
 - The Student Senate had a retreat last weekend – training on leadership.
 - Dr. Linder attended the inauguration of the Graduate Students Association. He indicated that he cannot attend both senates. Dr. Linder will attend the meeting of the Graduate Students Association and Dr. Kravitz will attend the meeting of the Student Senate.

9. Old Business

- a. Grading system survey – April Kent provided an updated draft of the survey that will be placed on Banner. A lively discussion about whether C- should satisfy course or program requirement ensued (© Peter Linder). April Kent made the following motion regarding changes to the draft that Merryl Kravitz 2nd :

1) *Which of the following grading scales do you think is the best fit for Highlands University? Note: For a course that requires a passing grade to be a C or better, C- is not considered a passing grade.*

a. *A, B, C, D, F*

b. *A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, F*

2). *Additional Comments:*

- The motion passed with one abstention.
- b. Centers Policy Issues – tabled unanimously until after General Faculty Meeting
- c. Topics/issues for future meeting tabled unanimously.

10. New Business

- a. Charge to Student Affairs Committee:

Organize a 'summit' to address safety and property issues regarding NMHU students. Include in the discussion the Vice President of Student Affairs, Student Senates representatives, Campus Security, Centers representatives, and representatives from the Las Vegas City Police and City Council.

Merryl Kravitz motioned to approve the charge and Peter Linder Peter 2nd – The motion passed unanimously.

- b. Removal of the Institutional Review Board and the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee from the Handbook. The committees will stand alone and report to the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs and to the VPAA. Peter Linder moved to approved Merritt Helvenston 2nd . The

motion

is subject to later amendments to the Handbook . The motion passed

with 1 opposed and 1 abstention.

- c. Can Faculty members with 50% administrative release time serve on Faculty Senate committees? According to the Handbook Faculty with 50% release time can serve on Senate Committees.