

**General Faculty Meeting
Approved Minutes
Wednesday, 25 August 2004
3:00pm in Kennedy Lounge**

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** 3:10pm, a quorum being present.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** Approval without change.
3. **Minutes from 24 March 2004:** Moved and seconded, then approved unanimously.
4. **Deans' Positions:** Dr. Hill provided a brief summary of the situation, pointing out that the positions have been advertised nationally, a technical violation of the Faculty Handbook. Also, there have been no search committees formed, and job descriptions have not been provided, though they are available on the university's website. The discussion was suspended by unanimous consent upon the arrival of President Aragon.
5. **Remarks by President Aragon:** Dr. Hill introduced the President upon his arrival, and President Aragon explained to the faculty his vision of the university and the central importance of the strategic plan. His address proved thought-provoking. Computational engineering and Spanish language immersion were among the topics raised. He made analogies with the national presidential race and the situation at the University of New Mexico. He also expressed concern about the slow pace of change, and noted that the university could expect at least some new resources for the implementation of the strategic plan. He observed that the faculty needed to cooperate and work together more cohesively in order to make the university advance; he demanded faculty accountability. He noted that the new provost, Dr. Chavez, had the kind of background to help students succeed, and argued that—for New Mexico Highlands University, at least—mere survival was not an option. The president then fielded questions from an attentive faculty, addressing such diverse issues as language immersion, faculty's lack of information about initiatives mandated or encouraged by the strategic plan, and the process of partnerships with two-year institutions. There was some apparent excitement about some of the assertions made by the president.

After the president fielded questions, Dr. Hill turned the floor over to the provost, who fielded questions dealing with the dean searches. Dr. Hill then asked for guidance from the general faculty about a response to the dean search procedures. The consensus seemed to be to wait until the provost had a chance to investigate and report to the faculty. A lively discussion ensued.

6. The meeting was adjourned, amid tumult, at 4:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter S. Linder
Secretary/Treasurer, Faculty Senate

