Approved Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting
26 August 2009
Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University 3:00 pm

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** 3:03pm.

2. **Roll Call: Present:** Dr. Romine, April Kent, Kathy Jenkins, Jim Peters, Stella Helvie, Ken Bentson, David Lobdell, David Arguello, Daniel Martínez, Maura Pilotti, Gilbert Rivera (VPAA, *ex officio*), Merritt Helvenston, Julius Harrington.
   Also Present: Mary Jane Valdez**.**
   Absent: Lori Rudolf (question about whether she will be available).

3. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved with limited changes.

4. **Welcome, New & Returning Members.** Dr. Martinez and Dr. Pilotti were recognized and welcomed as members to the Faculty Senate.

5. **Approval of Minutes of 12 August 2009:** approved with minor corrections.

6. **Communication from the Administration**: Dr. Rivera deferred his remarks until the upcoming General Faculty Meeting.

   Communication from the Chair: Dr. Romine reported on the development by the Executive Committee of a suggested process for the selection of department chairs. She also reported on her communication with Mr. John Coca about the question of changing audit to F, as per the discussion at the last Senate meeting. The position of the Registrar is that an audit normally changes to a W, rather than an F. Mr. Coca noted that it might be possible to make the changes online. Dr. Rivera will investigate further, but asked what the will of the faculty would be. A number of viewpoints were expressed, but a majority of the members were comfortable with the ability to change the audit to a W. The Executive Committee will consider the issue at its next meeting, and formulate a charge to Academic Affairs. Dr. Romine also commended Mary Jane for her hard work on the completion of the online version of the Faculty Handbook. Dr. Romine also noted that the Senate would at an upcoming meeting hear from the International Education Committee.

7. **Communication from Academic Affairs:** Ken Bentson reported on the previous week's meeting. Apparently Dr. Hayes was reelected as chair of the committee, but there is some question about his willingness to serve. The meeting of the previous week was chaired by Dr. Brandon Kempner. Dr. Linder will e-mail John Hayes to ask if he is continuing to chair the

committee. If not, the first order of business for Academic Affairs will perforce be the need to elect a new chair.

8. **Communication from Student Senate/Grad Student Association:** No representatives present. Dr. Linder has not been successful in contacting anyone. Kathy to attend the next scheduled meeting of the Student Senate, and if possible given her schedule, she will serve as representative.

9. **Old Business:**

   a. Strategic/Master Plan: Dr. LaGrange: This item was deferred to the General Faculty meeting.

   b. **Election of Dr. Jennifer Lindline to Student Affairs Committee:** Dr. Lindline was elected to the committee. Dr. Linder will contact her, and attempt to get a meeting called as soon as possible.

   b. **Expanding the Faculty Handbook to cover adjunct faculty:** Dr. Rivera noted the need for a policy manual for the adjunct faculty, and there was some discussion about how best to proceed. Dr. Bentson made a motion to charge the Faculty Affairs Committee with developing language. The motion carried with one abstention.

   c. **Ad Hoc FYP committee report**: Dr. Linder gave a brief report on the recent meeting of the committee (8/25/09). The committee's discussions have focused on the learning communities, and the creation of an honors program. Dr. Jenkins asked about structured tutorials, an issue for Criterion 3 of the self-study. Dr. Rivera spoke about his perspective on efforts to revamp the First Year Programs in the service of improved retention. A number of other faculty members noted the need for more such programs for upper-division and transfer students, and the generalized need to provide more support and opportunities for the transfers.

   d. **Shared governance issues:** Tabled.

   e. **Dean Selection Timeline:** Tabled.

10. **Meeting Adjourned:** 3:55pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peter S. Linder