

Approved Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

23 September 2009

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University 3:00 pm

1. **Meeting Call to Order:**
2. **Roll Call: Present:** Maureen Romine, April Kent, Kathy Jenkins, Jim Peters, Ken Bentson, David Lobdell, Daniel Martínez, Maura Pilotti, Stella Helvie, Julius Harrington; John Paul Martinez; Merritt Helvenston; Gilbert Rivera (VPAA, *ex officio*).
Also Present: Mary Jane Valdez; Dr. Susan Williams (Nursing).
Absent: David Argüello, Jayni Flores.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** Approved with one change.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** 9 September 2009: Approved with one correction.
5. **Communication from the Administration:** Dr. Rivera reported that the president is in the process of organizing an enrollment management committee; the retention committee established some years ago has been inactive. He spoke briefly about the problems of retention, and noted that the university loses too many students, and for the wrong reasons. He noted also the need for more comprehensive information about recruitment. Dr. Rivera then shared information developed by the Office of Institutional Research on the university's performance in certain key indicators of retention and other areas, and an e-mail from Dr. Hill to deans and others about students on campus who started as freshmen in 2004. There are 28 students who started in 2004 who could conceivably graduate, and Dr. Hill is urging faculty to encourage them to finish this year if possible. If they graduated, we would have a 6-year graduation rate of 24%. Of the 254 1st-time freshmen starting in 2004, only 33 have graduated. Dr. Rivera then fielded a number of questions on retention issues. He then asked why initial advisement was removed from faculty control and placed in Student Support Services? A lively discussion ensued about that particular decision.
6. **Communication from the Chair:** Dr. Romine reported on some concerns. She explained the need for an alternate to Dr. Jenkins to attend student Senate meetings when she cannot. Dr. Helvie volunteered and was confirmed. Dr. Romine reported on Dr. Hayes and the Academic Affairs Committee's efforts to get a Distance Education subcommittee up and going, in order to update the DE manual. Mary Jane is working to get Senate documents available on the website. She further asked for suggestions for other items that should be available from the FS homepage.

7. **Communication from Academic Affairs:** Dr. Bentson reported on the activities of the AA, including a subcommittee reviewing program review, a request for a review of the First Year Programs, no reports from the centers.
8. **Communication from Student Senate:** John Paul Martínez introduced himself and reported that the Student Senate was beginning to disburse funds to student clubs. He reminded the Senate that this is Homecoming week, and asked that faculty attempt to attend the game. He further reported on a scholarship program being established by the Student Senate, and provided Senate members with the eligibility requirements. Grad students are to be ineligible for this scholarship. The scholarship program is to be named after Gloria Brown-López, who passed away last spring. He further opined on the inutility of the First Year Experience course.

9. **Old Business:**

a) 100% online programs: Dr. Romine asked the members to solicit input from their colleagues about the advisability of having online programs. She then introduced Dr. Susan Williams, from the Nursing program, and asked her to comment. Dr. Williams noted the unique demographic of her program, and the changing nature of the college population. Nursing is in demand, but Dr. Williams expressed concern about the long-term sustainability of the program, given the limited number of nursing professionals in northern New Mexico. She noted the need for PhD-level nurses in the faculty, and observed as well that NMHU was the only program of its kind (RN-BSN) to still have face-to-face courses. She reminded the Senate that these were decisions properly made by the Faculty, but mentioned that at least some of the decisions would probably be made at the NM State Legislature. She then responded to comments by faculty. Dr. Peters then asked about the process whereby such 100% online programs could be organized and approved. Dr. Romine responded, noting that the discussion was starting at the Senate, but that it would eventually require AA actions. Dr. Rivera asked about what process had been followed by AMAP programs, the Business Program. Dr. Jenkins responded by recalling that the discussion began with an inquiry from the VPAA at the time, Dr. Davidson. AA Committee declined to review the process. Dr. Rivera then asked about the core curriculum; he saw the need for changes, and expressed his plan to go first to the affected department, and then to AA. Dr. Romine asked how to proceed, and Dr. Jenkins recommended that each unit discuss the question of online programs, and also the question of synchronous vs. asynchronous programs. Dr. Rivera reminded the Senators that the CHE team coming in November has someone coming who may be able to provide answers.

b) Governance issues—Faculty search committee function & faculty rights: Tabled.

c) **Certificate Programs—suggested charge from Kent Bentson:** Tabled.

10. New business:

a) **Vote on new strategic plan:** Tabled.

b) **Charges to Academic Affairs Committee:** 1) review and develop a recommendation concerning the consequences of not attending 70% of classes for an audit; also make a recommendation regarding the 70% attendance requirement for audits; 2) ascertain the current state regulations regarding online delivery of courses, particularly with respect to asynchronous versus synchronous instruction; 3) Review and recommend revisions of current program review procedures and uses, including the incorporation of unit-specific strategic plans in the process (nota bene: the Director of Assessment should be consulted as part of this discussion). Tabled.

c) **Charge to International Education Committee—review duties and responsibilities.** Tabled.

d) AAUP guidelines to faculty: Tabled.

e) Conversion of Outcomes Committee to Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Committee until Faculty Handbook membership language is changed: Tabled.

11. Adjournment: 4:00pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter S. Linder

Secretary/Treasurer, Faculty Senate.