

Approved Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

28 October 2009

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University 3:00 pm

1. **Meeting Call to Order:** 3:10pm
2. **Roll Call: Present:** Maureen Romine, April Kent, (Pete LeRoy, proxy, Kathy Jenkins), Jim Peters, Ken Bentson, David Lobdell, Maura Pilotti, Julius Harrington; Daniel Martínez;; Stella Helvie; Merritt Helvenston Gilbert Rivera (VPAA, *ex officio*).
Also Present: Mary Jane Valdez; Maxine Salas, Sheri Nsamenang (GSA).
Absent: David Argüello, Jayni Flores.
3. **Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved without change.
4. **Approval of Minutes:** 14 October 2009. The minutes were approved with several minor revisions.
5. **Communication from the Administration:** Dr. Rivera reported on the Board of Regents' vote to approve the new strategic plan at their meeting of 28 October. He provided the Senate with further updates on the upcoming visit of the team of consultant/evaluators from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, the process underway for the selection of department chairs, and the initiation of the new Tenure/Promotion Committee's functions. He then stood for questions from the members of the Senate.
6. **Communication from the Chair:** Dr. Romine delegated the report to Ms. April Kent, who reported on the Board of Regents' Academic & Student Affairs subcommittee meeting, and Dr. Linder, who reported briefly on the meeting of the Regents' Administrative and Financial Affairs Committee.
7. **Communication from Academic Affairs:** Dr. Bentson reported on the recent resignation of the committee chair, Dr. Hayes, and discussed the Academic Affairs Committee's efforts to address Senate charges dealing with academic dishonesty and the audit policy, and noted that the committee had also reconstituted a subcommittee to study distance education policy.
8. **Communication from the Graduate Student Association representative:** Sheri Nsamenang reported on the recent activities of the Graduate Student Association, and noted that the president of that body is now Simon Cao. A brief discussion then focused on the upcoming NCA visit.
9. **Old Business:**

a) AAUP statement on Government of Colleges and Universities: Dr. Romine asked Dr. Helvenston to provide a brief discussion of the AAUP statement. Discussion ensued, in which a number of faculty expressed concern and asked for clarification on precisely what issues relating to shared government faced the Faculty Senate.

b) Governance issues – Faculty search committee function and faculty rights: Tabled.

c) Charge to Faculty Affairs committee – Handbook language covering non-tenure-track faculty: The Faculty Senate passed a motion to charge the Faculty Affairs Committee to discuss modification of the Faculty Handbook to incorporate language to cover non-tenured/adjunct faculty explicitly.

d) AAUP – “Faculty Handbooks as Enforceable Contracts: A State Guide:” Dr. Romine provided a brief overview of an article from the AAUP, and urged members to review it.

e) Changes to Faculty Senate committee membership: After a brief discussion, this item was tabled pending additional information.

10. New Business:

a) Ad hoc committee to determine information to include at departmental web sites: Dr. Romine introduced the issue, noting a recent meeting of the Faculty Senate with Sean Weaver & Rick Loffredo of University Relations. Dr. Romine proposed sending out a request from the Faculty Senate to the general faculty for volunteers to constitute such a committee. A motion was made and seconded to make such a call for volunteers, and the motion passed unanimously.

b) Ad hoc committee to review the current learning platform (Ideal NM) for delivery of online content and to recommend a future course of action: Once again, Dr. Romine proposed sending out a request from the Faculty Senate to the general faculty for volunteers to constitute such a committee. A motion was made and seconded to make such a call for volunteers, and the motion passed unanimously.

c) Constitutional change to reduce the quorum for General Faculty Meetings/Discussion of online voting system: Dr. Romine noted the ongoing difficulties involved in trying to get a quorum at General Faculty meetings, and asked senators to discuss with their constituents a change in the constitution to decrease the quorum as an alternative to the current situation.

11. Adjournment: 3:59pm

Respectfully Submitted,

**Dr. Peter S. Linder
Secretary, Faculty Senate**