

Approved Minutes

General Faculty Meeting

8-25-2010

Kennedy Lounge - New Mexico Highlands University, 4:00 pm

1. Call to Order: 4:12pm

Greetings by the Chair

2. Approval of Agenda 8-25-2010: Approved. Thirty-one voting Faculty contributed to the outcome. Quorum ≥ 31

3. Approval of Minutes 10-28-2009: Approved with no changes, unanimously. No abstentions.

4. Welcome & Information Items – President Fries

President Fries thanked the Faculty for attending the meeting. He then discussed a number of issues, including enrollment and retention figures. President Fries reported positive increments in enrollment (5%), and credit hours (4%). He indicated that the statewide centers were to be considered primarily responsible for these increments. He also remarked that although the number of continuing students increased, the number of freshmen did not. A lively discussion ensued regarding a number of issues, including budgetary concerns, the need to improve the NMHU website, the option to rely on *Facebook* as a recruitment tool, faculty attendance at Faculty meetings, changes in the composition of the Administration and related search processes, availability and use of parking spaces and permits, status of construction projects, and naming of new buildings.

5. Faculty Association Information & Update – Kathy Jenkins

Dr. Jenkins reported that the revised collective bargaining agreement would be sent to all union members for ratification shortly. Members would have a week to cast their vote.

Dr. Jenkins reminded the faculty that documents pertaining to annual evaluations should be sent to the department chairs by September 10.

6. Senate Activities – Maureen Romine

Dr. Romine described to the audience the activities accomplished by the executive committee during the summer, her report to the Board of Regents (July 26), and the task the senate would undertake during the fall semester.

In regard to the work that the executive committee completed during the summer, Dr. Romine mentioned that revisions to the faculty handbook included changes pertaining to procedures (e.g., chair selection process), reorganization of senate committees (e.g., abolition of the grievance committee and formation of new committees), and alterations demanded by the collective bargaining agreement. Dr.

Romine indicated that the executive committee planned to present the changes to the senate and to the full faculty for review during the fall semester.

Dr. Romine then mentioned that several important issues would be addressed in the fall by the senate. Among those cited were the chair selection process, the re-organization of senate committees, the identification of traits of an effective senate, catalogue revisions, and governance issues. Dr. Romine discussed two ad hoc committees, learning platform (chaired by Dr. Peters) and web site (chaired by Dr. Petronis), and their functions. Other topics of discussions included the review of flagged programs and the persistent difficulty of obtaining a quorum at general faculty meetings. The latter motivated Dr. Bentson to present a motion to suspend the quorum requirement temporarily.

The assembled senate moved to approve the following motion:

We temporarily suspend the quorum requirement for regular faculty meetings until the new section of the faculty handbook is completed.

Vote Tally:

19 yeas

5 nays

3 abstentions

The motion was approved

6. Announcements

None

7. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Maura Pilotti

Secretary/Treasurer