

Approved Minutes

Approved April 10, 2013

Faculty Senate Meeting

March 27, 2013

Science Annex Building, Room 329 - New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order: 3:08 p.m.**

2. **Roll Call:**

Present: Braun y Harycki, David (School of Education); Burns, Jim (School of Education); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Flores, Jayni (School of Education); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Kent, April (Library); LeRoy, Peter (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business); Tahani, Hossein (Computer & Mathematical Sciences); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williamson, Ian proxy for Gloria Gadsden, Spring 2013 (Social & Behavioral Sciences)

Absent:

Gonzales, Margaret (*Staff Senate*)
Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work)
Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management)
Montoya, Gabrielle (*Student Senate, undergraduate*)
Rivera, Gilbert (VPAA)
Rowlett, Joseph (*Student Senate, graduate*)
Williams, Susan (Nursing)

3. **Approval of Agenda:** March 27, 2013 - approved with addition to new business

4. **Approval of Minutes:** February 27, 2013 - approved

5. **Communication from the Administration**

No representative

6. **Communication from the Chair**

1. Special BOR Meeting, March 20, 2013

2. President's Cabinet meeting on March 21, 2013

a. Student Union Building report– Bookstore is functioning, Einstein's opening on Friday, March 29th, and the grand opening is planned for late April 2013.

b. Legislative Wrap-up

- i. Although there are slight increases, the budget will basically be flat because of things like increased ERB contributions from the University.
 - ii. Small increase in funding for Forestry Institute and athletics. The 2.3 million for the Trolley Building is still in. Even with bond money (6 million), would still need more to complete the building renovations.
 - iii. CESDP – funding for teacher development and enhanced student learning.
 - iv. Lottery – may not have enough funds to be fully funded.
 - v. Endowments with State matching funds for Center for Teaching Excellence.
 - vi. Mileage – discussion about motor pool and mileage- any increase in mileage for personal vehicles would come out of department operating budgets.
 - vii. Email signature quotes.
 - c. The proposed Center for Teaching Excellence was brought up again. The president indicates he would fund the center.
 - i. Dr. Brandon Kempner said that the Teaching Excellence Committee of the Faculty Senate has met and will provide feedback on the president’s plan.
- 3. Department Chair Update. The Chair of Biology and Chemistry has been selected. The chair is David Sammeth.
- 4. The Financial Planning Committee is still looking at the minimum enrollment number required for a class to make. The committee is waiting on more funding information.
- 5. Ad hoc committees are meeting. This committee includes the Student Evaluations Committee and the Faculty Development Week Committee.
- 6. The Administration evaluations were sent out. The deadline is April 12, 2013. Survey Monkey was not used due to privacy concerns.
- 7. Ballen Endowment Visiting Scholar, Maureen Gosling will arrive next week. She will be here from March 31st to April 14th.
 - a. Campus Life has sent out a global email about the community events. Monday, April 1 is a film screening of “Smokin' Fish.”

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

- 1. See attached report.

8. Communication from the Student Senate

No representative

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

No representative

10. Old Business

- 1. Complete College America
 - a. Senate Action on 120 credit minimum degree requirement

- i. Discussion of concerns about students getting into graduate programs. Admission requirements vary by major. Some majors just look at degrees; other disciplines look at number of upper division credits earned in the major.
 - ii. Motion made
 - to not pursue the change of minimum credit requirement from 128 to 120.
 - 9 in favor; 3 opposed; 1 abstain – motion passes.
 - b. Senate Action on reduction of upper division requirements to 40 credits
 - i. Dr. Romine reported some more information on the history of the change in upper division requirements at Highlands University. One question is how many credits should come from Highlands to get a degree from Highlands.
 - ii. Motion made
 - To send to the Academic Affairs Committee the recommendation to lower the university upper division credit minimum requirement to 45 from 51 credits; individual majors may require more.
 - 12 in favor- motion passes.
 - c. Senate Action on co-requisite math and English courses
 - i. English is piloting one co-requisite section in the fall and will look at how well the pilot works. The pilot will be English 111 with English 135 added on to the class.
 - ii. Math is currently using workshops as the co-requisite. It has been successful for math.
 - iii. Lively discussion ensued. Math and English will report back on the success of the pilot programs. No action will be taken at this time.
- 2. Search Committee Concerns, Needs and Possible Solutions (cont.)
 - a. Concerns over delays at all stages of the search process that lessen the ability to hire quality candidates which is essential for student success.
 - b. Concerns over an increasingly bureaucratic hiring process with no rational. Need for streamlined process.
 - c. Need for more guidance and samples of screening forms.
 - d. Need for faster response time and more communication from Human Resources at all stages of the search process.
 - e. Possibility of forming a Faculty Hiring Committee as a subcommittee of Faculty Affairs to work as colleagues with Human Resources to come up with a more efficient and effective search and screen process.
 - f. Survey results were reviewed.
 - g. Motion made to proceeding with a dialog with administration, human resources, staff, and faculty. – motion passed.

11. New Business:

1. Progress on Current Faculty Searches Updates
 - a. Report from Dr. Rivera was reviewed. Report can be shared with department or school.
 - b. Questions about the Dean searches. The search procedure is not agreed upon by the president and the faculty. This issue is under discussion.
 - c. There is no update on the Vice President of Academic Affairs search. This search is not covered in the Faculty Handbook.
 - d. Lively discussion ensued.
2. Recommendation from the Instructional Technology Committee on Turnitin Plagiarism Software
 - a. Dr. Romine reported that due to the budget, the software could not be purchased right way.
 - b. The more expensive version that would be integrated into Desire2Learn is the recommendation of the committee. The different versions were discussed.
 - c. Motion made to recommend that the university purchase the Turnitin plagiarism software when funds are available. 11 in favor, 1 abstention – motion passed.
3. Recommendation from the Academic Affairs Committee on Scheduling Blocks
 - a. Discussion of Academic Affairs Committee recommendation. The needs of different departments were discussed. The different needs of core classes, major upper division classes, and graduate classes were discussed. The definition of flexibility was discussed. The ITV scheduling blocks was brought up.
 - b. The question of where the time blocks come from was raised including who sets them and who changes them. The role of faculty in setting the scheduling blocks was brought up.
 - c. Academic Affairs discussed the needs of individual departments at length and the need for local control.
 - d. Lively discussion ensued.
 - e. Motion was made for
The Senate to support the recommendation on the Scheduling Time blocks from the Academic Affairs.
- Motion passed
 - f. Other concerns will be pursued in the future.
4. Ideas for Faculty Involvement with University Birthday Party
 - a. Mr. Kerry Loewen proposed having students in his fall installation class interview faculty on their research to prepare a video for the 3D monitor in the lobby of the New Student Center. It would be displayed during the Homecoming week. The 3D monitor is interesting new technology and the video is a good project for students. The video could also serve as a recruiting tool.

5. Ideas for Faculty Contribution to Student Center Time Capsule
 - a. The Student Senate is organizing the capsule. The capsule is three feet by three feet by three feet.
 - b. The deadline is the grand opening of the new Student Center which should be mid-April. Dr. Romine will send out an email for suggest from faculty.

12. Committee Reports and Announcements

13. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 p.m.