

Approved Faculty Senate Minutes

Approved September 10, 2014

Faculty Senate Meeting

August 27, 2014

Sininger Hall, Room 100 - New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order: 3:03p.m.**

2. **Roll Call:**

Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Dominguez, Joseph (Student Senate – Graduate); Gadsden, Gloria (Social & Behavioral Sciences); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); Izaguirre, Ariadna (Student Senate – Undergraduate); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Karaba, Robert (School of Education); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business); Walker, Diane (School of Education); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williams, Susan (Nursing); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Absent:

Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work); Manafy, Abbas (History/Political Science/Language & Culture);

Also Present

Michael Rains, Registrar

1. **Approval of Agenda:** August 27, 2014 – approved with one addition

2. **Approval of Minutes:** April 23, 2014 - approved

3. **Communication from the Administration**

1. Dr. Aguilar was not in attendance, but provided a written report.

4. **Communication from the Chair**

1. Report from the Board of Regents Meeting of July 14th: New major in conservation management was approved. Post Office policy approved. Still down in enrollment by about 3%.

2. At the Special BOR meeting of July 29th, changes for sabbatical leaves and salaries were approved.

3. No trespass policy – forwarded concerns from Student Affairs Committee to Dr. Trujillo.

4. Graduate council – coordinators met to begin discussing duties and responsibilities

5. Academic Integrity Policy – will send out survey this semester
6. Senate Committees – membership changes and need to fill some vacancies
 - a. The executive committee will begin meeting with chairs of each committee individually

5. Communication from Academic Affairs

1. Convocation was not required, so some freshmen did not attend
2. +/- grading: proposal includes A+ but no GPA increase. No C- or D+/- or F+/- but motion was tabled in order to get feedback. Will forward their recommendation after their next meeting. Full faculty should vote on it.
 - a. It was suggested that a trial period of 2 years would start with next year's catalog in order to evaluate possible negative and positive outcomes
3. Finishing the English & Forestry Program reviews.

6. Communication from the Student Senate

1. Ariadna Izaguirre and Joseph Dominguez introduced themselves
2. Dr. Romine encouraged them to bring concerns to the Faculty Senate
3. They were able to fill all vacancies so they have a full senate this year.
4. Issues they will be discussing: budget, money to clubs, cap on requests

7. Communication from the Staff Senate

1. No representative, currently having elections

8. Old Business:

1. Election of Senate secretary - action item
 - a. Motion made to nominate Cheryl Zebrowski as secretary. Motion approved.
2. Graduation Honors – calculating GPA – possible action item
 - a. Michael Raine was present to answer questions.
 - b. He is proposing to not calculate transfer credits to bring NMHU in line with all other New Mexico universities. We also have no control over grade calculations and quality from other institutions. Most universities bring in transfer as credit, but no grade.
 - c. Faculty feel that we are punishing our students who do poorly the first year or two, but improve the last two. Suggestions were to only count last two years or only upper division classes.
 - d. Send back to Academic Affairs with Senate suggestions.
 - e. As this discussion was happening, the Senate realized that our residency requirements should be realigned.
 - . Motion made to send a charge to Academic Affairs to consider reducing the residency requirements from 32 to 30 credit hours to be in alignment with the new 120 graduation credits. Motion passed.
3. CTE (Center for Teaching Excellence) update

- a. Dr. Kempner reported that progress is being made. We should take the proposal to departments so that we could vote at our next meeting.
 - b. Should discuss with the Instructional Technology Committee their need for an online instruction design
 - c. Dr, Aguilar supports this and it is in the budget
 - d. What committee should oversee the CTE? It has been suggested that this would fall under the faculty development committee.
4. +/- grading update – discussed in conjunction with the Academic Affairs Committee report
9. **New Business:**
 1. Nomination of Ester Ofearghail and Patricia Martinez-Burr for the Student Affairs Committee – action item
 - a. Motion made to elect Ester Ofearghail and Patricia Martinez-Burr to the Student Affairs Committee. Motion approved.
 2. Changes made to the Dean Section of the Handbook to be discussed at the General Faculty Meeting
 3. Course minimum enrollment numbers - tabled
 4. What issues or activities should the Senate undertake for 2014-15? – tabled
10. **Committee Reports and Announcements**
 1. none
11. **Adjournment: 4:01 p.m.**