

General Faculty Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2018
Approved Date February 28, 2018

Call to Order at 4:00 p.m. Note: quorum obtained (35+ voting Faculty attendees; 26 needed for a quorum).

1. **Approval of Agenda.** MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve the agenda. Motion passed.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve meeting minutes from September 27, 2017. Motion passed.
3. **Approval of Minutes:** MOTION MADE AND SECONDED to approve meeting minutes from November 29, 2017. Motion passed.
4. **Chair's Announcements (M. Romine)**
 - a. Ian Williamson was serving first year of elected term as Faculty Senate President. With appointment of IW as AVPAA, Faculty Senate held elections. Tom Ward elected to serve term through August 2019. David Sammeth elected Vice Chair and serving term through August 2018.
 - b. Faculty Senate Academic Vision Survey is open through Friday 01/26. Please respond and encourage department members to do so.
 - c. Faculty Senate is looking at its Strategic Plan.
 - d. Faculty Senate endowments need attention:
 - i. Ballen for Visiting Scholars is active; faculty is asked to consider nominees.
 - ii. Pino for faculty development is not active; working on constituting a committee.
 - e. Department Chair selection process soon underway; number of Department are functioning with Interim Chairs or Chairs with terms ending Spring 2018.
 - f. Faculty Handbook language approved by FS, GF in Fall was approved by the BOR during 12/16/17 meeting covering *ex-officio* committee membership and moving faculty grievance purview to Faculty Affairs Committee.
 - g. Tenure-promotion process underway.
5. **Provost's Update (VPAA/Provost Gonzales)**
 - a. First issue of Academic Affairs Roundup Newsletter sent out; newsletter developed in response to concern that important information not getting out to university community.
 - b. Provost Council in development; Council will meet first Friday of every month from 9:00-10:15 and include Department Chairs, Registrar, others. Chance for dialogue.

- c. Provost Office looking at automating schedule entry; currently doing by hand and taking extraordinary effort. Automation will be cost-saving effort, but *what are implications?*
- d. Developing a policy for accepting transfer credits from StraighterLine (a U.S. educational company that offers low-price, on line higher education courses). Not accredited, but endorsed by American Council on Education. RG says we do not have a policy in place for accepting StraighterLine credits, but do have somewhere written that we accept ACE endorsed courses. RG wants to there to be a policy to support the practice. Questions raised: *is StraighterLine accredited?* (no) and *Could we partner with this school to facilitate transfers* (yes).
- e. Reported that Task Force kickoff occurred on Monday, 01/22. Directed by President, once off HLC probation, to hit ground running on new initiatives (develop focus groups, gather market research data, etc.) to improve enrollment and retention and other university facets. RG looking forward to recommendations from Task Forces during short timeline (March 01 deadline).
- f. Entertained questions/concerns from faculty.
 - i. Grades were released too soon and potential impacts on faculty evaluations.
 - ii. VP Finance sweep of departmental budgets.
 - iii. Disenrollment sweep.
 - iv. Registrar is questioning and stopping paperwork that was approved at the department and college levels.

6. HLC Update (B. Kempner)

- a. HLC site visit team relayed that probable for NMHU to be off probation by June. Consultant is now monitoring our activities and continued progress. Expect another HLC visit in 2 years.
- b. Summarized points in 2-page handout.
 - i. In 2012 there was a big pivot from accessibility and enrollment to retention and graduation. HLC looking at Strategic Enrollment Plan and yearly reporting. Retention efforts should involve faculty, coaches, advisors – all be able to access, discuss, and utilize retention data.
- c. Encouraged constant diligence by Faculty Senate for HLC data collection, reporting, and monitoring.

7. Discussion Items

- a. **Academic Vision/Adult and Online Learning Forums** (tabled)
- b. **LFC Evaluation of Higher Education** (tabled)

8. Adjournment at 4:55.