

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

September 25, 2019

4:00-5:00 p.m., Sininger Hall 100

Approved 12/11/19

Zoom <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/456531>

- 1. Call to Order.**
- 2. Approval of Agenda. Motion, Second, unanimous approved**
- 3. Approval of Minutes moved to next meeting as we have nothing to approve.**
- 4. Chair's Report (O. Tamir).**

Faculty handbook violations submitted to president, will investigate but no report is in. Provost is in charge of the investigation. She told me at the time, she will report by next meeting. We are two meetings removed and over a month since letter and still no report. FA has also been sent new documents obtained about violations and a join meeting was had with the president.

Main concern was Provost investigating information that concerned her was a problem and she should be removed from the investigation.

KJ: Investigation on documents, using emails and contract information and clearly showed search occurred after it had been hired. No records of how many people applied. Even advertised jobs on Indeed which was no cost and did not go out to faculty especially as it was the only place. Dr. Minner was listening to the concerns.

RK: Deadline?

OT: We can vote on an actionable deadline.

OT: Last week, Dean involved in these prior issues, was about to violate again, they were stopped. There was an “exchange” with Provost involvement, it was adjusted following the handbook. A clear handbook violation.

Bookstore

Brought options other than vendors as usual. Was a prior favorite that had a strong proposal years ago. President is open to this and changing things as is. Too late now, will need some patchup work, but additional options looking into moving forward.

Course Evals

Breach discussion in Senate (students can see grades before evaluations, not illegal, just not helpful) led to reports last December, we have addressed it, but admin finally moving on it now. This led to a discussion moving to feedback rather than evaluation purposes. Discussed with President Minner, is open into looking at a new direction. We will get back to in the next meeting but the Faculty Association has to be involved as well

KJ: we would talk as a whole faculty and take proposal to the bargaining table. Roxanne asked how we do this, KJ suggested at meeting we all come together to come up with a proposal to bring to Senate and Association.

3rd Party Vendors

- The Provost invited me to participate in 3rd party vendors presentation of online program services.
- The Senate was left out of the development of the RFP last semester, and therefore David and I declined to participate in the screening of vendors during the summer (I was also not the Senate Chair, and not on contract = I need to use my own time and dime to attend meetings).
- I attended one presentation that started 15 minutes late and in which I was the only one present (the deans and I were the only invitees). I missed the next presentations due to scheduling conflicts (I have a day job). I asked for a link to the recording over two weeks ago. I finally received the link on Monday night but there was a caveat: I was not to share it without telling a certain person on campus. I declined to use the link for the following reasons:

- (1) The senate was not asked to participate in the development of the RFP.
- (2) David and I made it clear that we will not participate in a screening process the senate did not help initiate.
- (3) we are not on contract during the summer and you didn't offer any compensation for our work and travel.
- (4) As a faculty senator and Chair of the Faculty Senate, I cannot operate in secrecy. Shared governance demands full transparency.

Higher Education Summit – ABQ

- I attended the event last Wednesday in ABQ along with members of NMHU's administration.
- Governor announced her free tuition initiative at the event.
- It was a great opportunity to connect with old acquaintances and meet new folks.
- I had to leave at 12:45 in order to make it on time to present a new proposed program at AAC and participate in EC meeting.

Main Street De Las Vegas

- Hotel Castaneda event that also honored Leveo Sanchez, the Chair of the BOR. I was a guest of President Minner. Kathy Jenkins and Mary Jane Valdez also joined me at the table.

5. New Business.

a. Letter from President Minner

We sent a letter about reorg last May, he responded over summer. May want to respond to it?

Thoughts?

- How is this going to save money?
- We the faculty are concerned with reorg increasing enrollment and up quality of education, to his concerns
- Lots of hidden costs with reorg, had issues with launching 4 course codes confusion, imagine swapping colleges.
- No evidence said reorg will bring in students
- No cost savings, 4 to 2 deans, but they need directors in charge or assoc deans, will likely filling in for that saved costs. Bigger departments mean more Chair responsibility.
- First response is it won't have anything to do with enrollment, that is our concern.
- Recommending a structure that had been tried and failed.
- Hard to respond to the little we have been given.
- More lively discussion was had.

- Faculty have read and discussed his letter and we still do not agree with any reorg. How does lowering number of Deans flatten the organization?
- Our identity in the state focuses on the success of the professional schools and combining them into one harms the university identity.

Respond back with a consistent response. *We read your letter with interest we still feel/ hold position we don't support reorg, our focus should be on enrollment and quality programs and that the harm to the institution will outweigh any hypothetical benefits.*

Social Work: faculty were not opposed necessarily, but we were opposed the process, we were supposed to have visits to different faculty or speaking with us to gather ideas. Lack of shared governance in this process.

Committees that did look into it and said no reorg and those task force recommendations were not accepted by the Provost, they had to do it again, recommended no change, no seemed savings and loss of identity and it was ignored and pirated and misrepresented. Time was even donated by faculty but was rejected. Very little benefit was agreed by all and even cost neutral, it causes stress to the university.

While faculty is not inherently opposed to the idea, after several task forces, committees, and meetings the faculty had determined the main focus of the institution is enrollment and quality academic programs which in our opinion was not conclusive as the benefits were at best cost neutral and the stress it puts on the institution

Matter will be sent to the EC to draft a letter based on discussion to draft a letter and submit it to the faculty. Seconded, unanimous.

b. Bookstore

- Problems, seen by president.
- Change is going to be made, Sodexo is tied to issues with going back to status quo after complaints, similar worry with bookstore issues.
- Solutions: barnes and noble, others...

- Current solutions patchup work for next semester and then look for new options.
- Future meeting making statement, as the popup idea isn't working including paper and pencils.
- We are actually required to use the bookstore and this ignores the fact that in Social work the books are listed a semester in advanced and other freedom and issues with faculty.
- A 1950s model in a 2020 world is the president's focus.
- We need to change policy.

6. Adjournment.

Motion, seconded. Unanimous.