

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
January 25, 2023
Approved February 08, 2023**

SUB 321 and ZOOM: <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/3755944464>

3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Faculty Senate

1. Call meeting to order.

2. Roll Call.

	ATTENDANCE		
	Present	Absent	Excused
Art and Music; Edward Harrington	X		
Biology; Justine Garcia, At-Large	X		
Business Administration; Ali Arshad	X		
Chemistry; David Sammeth	X		
Computer and Mathematical Sciences; Gil Gallegos	X		
Education - Counseling and Guidance; Sulema Perales	X		
Education - Curriculum & Instruction; Ann Wolf, At-Large	X		
Education - Educational Leadership; Rod Rock, Chair (Spring 2023)	X		
Education - Special Education; PJ Sedillo	X		
Education - Teacher Education; Melani Buchanan-Farmer	X		
English and Philosophy; Lauren Fath, At-Large	X		
Exercise and Sport Sciences; William Hayward, At-Large	X		
Forestry; Blanca Cespedes	X		
History and Political Science; Steven Williams	X		
Languages and Culture; Norma Valenzuela	X		
Library; April Kent	X		
Media Arts and Technology; Morgan Barnard	X		
Natural Resources Management; Jennifer Lindline, Secretary	X		
Nursing; Sandra Gardner	X		
Psychology; Daniel Chadborn, Chair (Fall 2022)	X		
Social Work; Rebecca Moore	X		
Sociology, Anthropology, and CJ; Mario Gonzales	X		
President; Sam Minner	X		
Provost/VPAA; Roxanne Gonzales	X		
Staff Senate; Robert Anaya		X	
Student Senate; Karla Espinoza		X	

3. Approval of Agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously with 18 votes counted.

4. **Approval of Minutes from November 30, 2022 (attachment).** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed unanimously with 18 votes counted.
5. **Communication from the President (S. Minner).**
 - Welcomed faculty back. Noted increased enrollment for Fall and Spring and increased credit hour production. Data expected to show that we will exceed Spring 2022-Spring 2023 retention goals.
 - The CUP went in for 10% high education compensation increases. Looks like we'll land at ~4-5% enrollment increases, maybe higher.
 - Minner's stated goal to have highest paid faculty among comprehensive universities in the region and highest paid general employees.
 - IRG (core funding) increases not looking positive.
 - Big Legislative Session discussions around Opportunity Scholarship.
 - Some discussion around facilities improvements, bond items.
 - Noted some units, like Social Work, are flush with cash.
6. **Communication from the Administration (R. Gonzales).** None provided; technical difficulties.
7. **Communication from the Chair (R. Rock).**
 - Shared that issues with School of Business Dean are still being looked into.
 - Shared that Dr. Gonzales asked for FS EC to look at S&S policy.
 - Shared that EC members are looking into the Spring 2023 send-out of Accommodations Letters.
 - Shared that spoke to President about VPAA-Forestry. Minner is conducting an investigation and will follow up with us.
 - Had conversations about Athletics Committee; looking into the breakdown in communications that took place (FAR).
 - Talked about the Faculty Lounge. Moving forward, making progress in that area.
 - Shared that the Heritage Room (in administration building) is due for a new display. Rock spoke to members of School of Ed for ideas. Will follow up at a later date.
 - Thanked Daniel for his leadership on Faculty Senate.
8. **Communication from Academic Affairs (A. Kent).**

December 7, 2022, meeting of the AAC (Highlights)

1. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Undergraduate Appeals – reviewing five hardship petitions that deal with upper division credits and other matters. Conflicting definitions of hardship. Working with Dr. Ian Williamson on changes with procedure and effect on students. Recommending a change in procedure for waivers. Recommendation on revision to responses to students.
2. Communication from the Chair
 - a. AAC chair election will be held in February or March.
 - b. Faculty Senate has been requested to post online clarification on traits and objectives on syllabi. Dr. Gadsden will follow up with the senate on clarification about this requirement.
3. Communication from the Registrar

- a. Concerns about Banner migration, grades, intersession registration, Brightspace access during migration, and working conditions.
- 4. Communication from the Graduate Council
 - a. Dr. Gadsden reported that the council proposed a new set of exit documents which will be voted on by the Faculty Senate, working on a deferment policy, and policy for a written compressive exam.
- 5. Communication from the Administration
 - a. Dr. Williamson reported that the Social Work Dean Search Firm came to campus to interview Social Work faculty to get input on the search and advertisements.
 - b. VPFA job announcement is out. Working with Dave Lepre on better marketing this position.
 - c. Revisions to the Research Handbook are with the Faculty Association.
 - d. Various graduate policies are being vetted.
- 6. Counseling New Course Proposal
 - a. Motion to approve passed.
- 7. English Course Revisions
 - a. Motion to approve passed.
- 8. SSD Program Revisions
 - a. Motion to approve undergraduate revisions passed.
 - b. Motion to approve graduate revisions passed.

January 18, 2023, meeting of the AAC

- 1. Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Ballen Committee – Visit Feb 20-March 5 from artist Diala Al-Daghliise
 - b. Undergraduate Appeals – One appeal resolved. One outstanding
 - c. Graduate Appeals – no appeals.
 - d. Concern about in correct forms being used for appeals. Request to have Provost address issue with Student Success Coaches.
- 2. Program Review Subcommittee Reports
 - a. Ongoing: Native American Hispano Cultural Studies, Psychology, Biology, & Physics.
 - b. Postpone to spring 2023 now back on schedule: Conservation Management and Environmental Geology & Chemistry.
- 3. Communication from the Chair
 - a. Dr. Gadsden reminded committee about deadline: see below. Remind department members.
 - b. Submission Reminders
 - i. To be added to the Wednesday meeting agenda, materials must be submitted by 5pm MST on the preceding Thursday.
 - ii. Please submit materials to the AAC Chair and Secretary. Correct forms required.
 - iii. Any proposals requiring a catalog change must be submitted to the AAC no later than Thursday, February 23, 2023 by 5pm.
 - iv. Final day to submit materials to AAC during Spring 2023 - Thursday March 30, 2023 by 5pm
 - c. Accessibility office concern about letter procedure and letter format. Dr. Roxanne Gonzales and Dr. Ian Williamson will have a discussion with Ms. Natalie Bradley about this matter.
- 4. Communication from the Registrar
 - a. Dr. Romero reported spring 23 enrollment: 1,385 under; 1,064 grad; 2,449 total over 2% increase from last year. Fall 22 degree awards is closed. 204 student awarded degrees. 86 students are already cleared for spring or summer graduation. March 31, 2023 is the deadline to apply for spring or summer graduation.
 - b. FERPA training. Spring 2023 global compliance information will be sent out. Course will be required one a year.
 - c. WICHE passport will be first issued this spring. Communication about this will be sent out soon.
 - d. Commencement information out soon.
 - e. Thank you from Academic Affairs committee for quick response from registrar email account.
 - f. Discussion of impact of banner migration on workflow. Discussion of phase 2.
- 5. Communication from the Administration

- a. Dr. Gonzales reported February 3, 2023 BOR meeting hopefully will have many academic affairs action items on the agenda.
 - b. A few delays with Dean of Social Work search. Should be back on track soon.
 - c. Program review submitted to Provost office aside from biology are complete. Loop closed.
 - d. Meeting with Athletics, Provost, and Registrar will be scheduled to clarify exchange of information about specific athletes.
 - e. Workflow for faculty contract is a top priority.
 - f. Meeting with VP Baca on publishing software.
 - g. Sending two deans to military education conference.
 - h. Questions and discussion about early alert and intersession classes, number of students on probation or suspension (reports are being run now).
6. M.F. Degree Program
 - a. Dr. Cespedes reported that the program is working on additional information requested in December.
 7. Program Review: Postponements and Resources – A discussion with the Provost/VPAA
 - a. Dr. Gonzales reported that since 2016 we were not very often off track from the plan. COVID-19 is the main reason for the delays with the exception of a couple of programs who have consistently not follow through.
 - b. Questions and discussion about number of tenure track faculty; onboarding problems and solutions, OIER, outcomes data software, outcomes assessment in general, course releases for program review.
 8. SENATE CHARGE: Biology Catalog change
 - a. Errors in 2021 regarding Organic Chemistry need to be corrected.
 - b. New packet will be worked through AAC and FS as an action item.
 9. Policy Subcommittee Charge from AAC General Body
 - a. Examine the Appeals Process, including
 - i. A form letter, regarding the decision, with possible explanations from the VPAA's office?
 - ii. How to ensure consistency of decisions across colleges/schools?
 - iii. How to shorten the amount of time the process takes?
 - iv. Does the definition of hardship need to be expanded to include "class action hardships"; (i.e., institutional level hardships)?
 - b. The subcommittee will continue to work on these issues.

Question about status of weather delays language. Dr. Gadsden will follow up with new senate chair.

9. Communication from the Student Senate (S. People).

10. Communication from the Staff Senate (R. Anaya).

11. Old Business.

a. NMHU Faculty Concerns Update.

- JL asked about status of Minner acting on demands in December letter re AVPAA-Forestry. RR said that Minner is gathering data, looking into issue and RR will report at a later date.
- NV reminded about Faculty Senate concerns about changes in staff without notice, communications.
- MB shared that there are typically no faculty attendees or faculty comments at BOR meetings. Public comments are an opportunity to get a voice in. Being present very important, an opportunity for issues to be brought directly to them. GG offered that, while not an excuse for poor attendance at BOR meetings, in the last 1+ years the public comment portion has been minimized or omitted entirely.
- GG asked about issues with HR. RR responded that he will work with FS EC on a letter to Minner outlining our concerns.

- b. University Relations Operational Update (D. Lepre).** Postponed; unable to attend.

12. New Business.

- a. Inclement Weather Class Cancellation Policy (attachment).** Motion made and seconded to approve the policy.

- Long discussion ensued about interpretation of the proposed policy.
- Some expressed confusion whether proposed policy includes online synchronous and asynchronous.
- Question asked if “compressed schedule” was considered. GG responded that yes, it was. Given the number of different course time blocks in the schedule, it was complicated. The AAC had no recommendations.
- Motion failed unanimously with 19 votes counted.
- Motion made and seconded to take information discussed, send to GG/AAC, and request updated language. Motion passed with 19 votes counted.

- b. Accommodations Letter.**

- JL asked for feedback from Senators re letter, any reactions that they had after receiving accommodation letters from students during first week of semester.
- DC shared that in mid-fall, he had a long conversation with Natalie as FS Chair. Conveyed that the content in the letter is all required by law. The practice (student versus office send-out) is new. His reaction upon receiving one was unprofessional, questionable.
- AA shared that a letter he received was mathematically incorrect and confusing. Has not received a response from Natalie Bradley, Coordinator for Disabilities Services.
- EH shared his concerns re the math for extra time and the rigidity of the SSO in correcting it.
- GG expressed concerns about portions of the letter, like meeting with instructor to discuss your medical condition. – no!
- JL said that while not impossible, improbably that none of her current 50+ students are not eligible for accommodations (usually would have 3-7 notices by now).
- Fath and Lindline working on letter to Bradley to state Faculty Senate’s concerns.

- c. Athletics Survey (feedback solicitation) from Student-Athlete Success Coordinator (attachment).**

- Discussion ensued about issues about the letter that was sent out in December re some (not all) student-athlete’s course performance (FERPA violations, ambiguity (what is “participation”?), equity (focus on sports eligibility not all athlete academic support, and others).
- RR summarized that there are breakdowns in communication and asked for input from FS about how to move forward.
- LF made a motion to invite Rhett Butler to next Faculty Senate meeting to discuss faculty concerns re letter. Motion modified to include Andrew Eherling (Athletic Director) in meeting invitation. Motion seconded.
- Registrar Romero provided information re FERPA. An agent can seek information if there is “legitimate educational interest.” She (Romero) did not see a legitimacy in the

letter and advised faculty to not respond to the request. She sent her concerns to VPAA Gonzales and waiting for response to guide how to determine legitimacy and respond. Motion passed unanimously with 18 votes counted.

13. Executive Session.

14. Adjournment.