

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**October 11, 2023**  
**Approved October 25, 2023**

**SUB 321 and ZOOM:** <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/3145944449>

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

- 1. Called meeting to order.**
- 2. Rolled Call.**

	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Art & Music; Edward Harrington			
Biology; <b>VACANT</b>		X	
Business Administration; Gerardo Moreira			X
Chemistry; <b>VACANT</b>		X	
Computer and Mathematical Sciences; Gil Gallegos	X		
Education - Counseling; Sulema Perales	X		
Education - Curriculum & Instruction; KwangJong Park	X		
Education - Educational Leadership; Rod Rock		X	
Education - Special Education; <b>Mariana Ulibarri-Horan, At-Large</b>	X		
Education - Teacher Education; Angela Redondo	X		
English and Philosophy; <b>Lauren Fath, Chair</b>	X		
Exercise and Sport Sciences; <b>Kathy Jenkins, At-Large</b>			X
Forestry; Blanca Cespedes		X	
History and Political Science; Steven Williams	X		
Languages and Culture; Norma Valenzuela	X		
Library; Katie Gray	X		
Media Arts and Technology; Mariah Fox Hausman	X		
Natural Resources Management; <b>Jennifer Lindline, Secretary</b>	X		
Nursing; Siri Khalsa	X		
Psychology; Thomas Brooks	X		
Social Work; <b>Rebecca Moore, At-Large</b>	X		
Sociology, Anthropology, and CJ; <b>Rebecca Alvarez, Vice Chair</b>	X		
President; Sam Minner	X		
Provost/VPAA; Roxanne Gonzales	X		
Staff Senate; Robert Anaya		X	
Student Senate; Kayl Rainer	X		

- 3. Approval of Agenda.** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed unanimously with 13 votes counted.

**4. Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2023 (attachment).** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed with 11 in approval; 0 to oppose; 2 to abstain.

**5. Communication from the President (S. Minner).**

- Gave prepared statement about the war between Israel and Hamas. History of the world written in blood, mostly innocent blood. Admitted that it is well past time for his acknowledgement of the event. Stated, as steward of NMHU, we stand with Israel and condemn those actions. Best weapon in our arsenal is reason and intellect, finding connections between our similarities rather than differences.
- Received comments from the gallery including, *How talk to our students?* Suggested to take advantage of community spaces to connect with those impacted.

**6. Communication from the Administration (R. Gonzales).**

- Remarked on the remarkable situation our world is in.
- Shared that H. Tilson, Director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, is retiring. Getting JD posted and proceeding with search and screen, Chaired by G. Gadsden.
- Shared that looking forward to HED meeting on 10/18 and positive outcome to DNP presentation and HED's recommendation to Higher Ed Secretary. If make a recommendation (which thinks they will) goes to other levels Finance, HLC.
- Shared that a number of Research and Public Service Project Requests to NMHED in the queue, including for SSW to develop doctorate program like nursing, SOE to do mental health counseling utilizing faculty in counseling. NMHU also has a number of extension for funding requests, like reforestation and watershed institute and continuations, like forestry.
- Reminded that before faculty spend any money – get pre-approval!
- Announced that Outcomes Assessment Reports are due to OIER (Heather Tilson) on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Requested that Chairs cc her and K. Tucker on submission.
- Shared that her office has a grant for computer technology to improve distance education. Can be using to improve/upgrade computers in the classroom.
- Announced that Department Budgets due October 30<sup>th</sup>.
- Shared that there is a “Faculty Lounge” with really nice space, furniture. Will look into how to access (often locked).

**7. Communication from the Chair (L. Fath).**

- Shared that faculty have reported that students with required accommodations are expected to pay for services. *Is this an isolated incidence? Is this widespread?* Please reach out and inform the FS.
- Shared that at the last General Faculty meeting, the FS EC was charged to write to the administration (Minner, BOR) to let them know that administrator evals were not properly distributed last spring as should have. We will restart that process in spring 2024 in accordance with Faculty Handbook.
- Shared that President Minner approached her about a lectureship series. Wants input for faculty about what that will look like. A lecture that will come with an honorarium (several thousand dollars). Not a visitor; rather, a Highlands faculty member (!). Senators were asked to take item to departments for consideration about service on a subcommittee.

- Requested real hands for votes; cartoon hands for wishes to speak.

## **8. Communication from Academic Affairs (M. Fox Hausman).**

### **October 4, 2023 meeting of the AAC**

#### 1. Subcommittee Reports

- Ballen Committee is starting planning meetings.
- Undergraduate Appeals. One appeal was resolved. No new appeals.
- Graduate Appeals. Nothing to report.
- Policy Subcommittee met on revised auditing policy; they will recommend a form change to address concerns.

#### 2. Ongoing Program Review Subcommittee Reports

- Native American Hispano Cultural Studies, Conservation Management, Sociology/Anthropology are underway.
- Biology. Awaiting decision from Faculty Senate.
- Chemistry. Will present Final Report next AAC meeting.
- Political Science, History departments requested delays for their program reviews.

3. MART 4670 Character Animation new course approved. Old course deleted, MART 3670.

4. SENATE CHARGE: Dual Credit Handbook. Review charged to Policy subcommittee.

#### 5. School of Counseling Activities (Discussion items)

- Revisions: School Counseling Certificate, Rehabilitation Counseling.
- Deletion: Rehabilitation Concentration. The VPAA encouraged a timeline for teaching out currently enrolled students. Registrar asked to be notified when the teach-out is complete so they can cancel the course code.
- Course Revision - COUN 6360

#### 6. SACJ Department Course Revision (Discussion) – Terrorism

#### 7. Communication from the Registrar (Romero)

- Fall 2023 enrollment: Overall 2% increase from same time last year
- Total UG – 1729; Total GR – 1113; Total overall– 2842
- Spring 2024 schedules will be sent to departments on October 17. Edits and changes due back to Registrar by October 26. Timely submission avoids delay in schedule publication.
- Midterm grades, Short-Term First Half Final Grades were due October 11, 2023 at 10am

8. Communication from the Faculty Senate (Hausman) No report because she was just appointed as Faculty liaison.

#### 9. Communication from the Graduate Council (Gadsden)

The Graduate Council discussed exit documents, international students, definitions of the graduate faculty and other matters. The Chair invited others to attend future meetings. Next time, they will discuss the redistribution of graduate assistants.

## **9. Communication from the Student Senate (K. Rainer).**

- Shared that not too much going on. Looking for events for Halloween.
- Shared office location – SUB 316. No particular office hours. Faculty is welcome to email him with inquiries at [krainer@live.nmhu.edu](mailto:krainer@live.nmhu.edu).

**10. Communication from the Staff Senate (R. Anaya).** No report.

## 11. Old Business

### a. Consideration of Graduate Student Exam Language Changes (attachment) (G. Gadsden and I. Williamson).

- L. Fath gave synopsis of last FS meeting discussion. Asked G. Gadsden if it was reconsidered by the Graduate Council. Important – one graduate level credit within the program. G. Gadsden will be sending revised language to FS for consideration and vote.

### b. Review of Faculty Senate Strategic Plan (attachment).

- L. Fath gave synopsis of Strategic Planning at NMHU. Last posted unit Strategic Plan from the Faculty Senate was in 2018 (!?!). Senators are asked to review the old plan and consider new goals for the Senate that are aligned with the university's strategic goals and tied to a budget.
- SK asked for clarification on some matters.

### c. Discussion of Artificial Intelligence in academics; Session I.

- L. Fath introduced need, given > 50% input from Senators and own anecdotal data that there are issues with permitting/prohibiting AI in the classroom. *Is AI a nuisance or learning tool? How figure out end goal for Faculty Senate statement about usage at NMHU?*
- M. Fox Hausman said that her unit is developing a seminar about AI for producing information relevant to the discipline.
- S. Williams said been following conversation nationwide. Situation bad for his discipline Chat GPT can easily plug in questions and return answers – awesome answers. Students easily plug and chug without thinking. How develop thinking among our students? How “catch” cheating? You know they are doing it but unable (another dimension) to identify it.
- Several faculty shared experiences with their unit.
- Many agreed that AI can be used as a learning tool.
- R. Alvarez empathized with colleagues' situation. Offered that she allows using AI to edit paper and requires submitting all of their edit logs.
- K. Gray shared that important to keep in mind to use AI as teaching tool, *but what about privacy? Are students using NMHU info or personal info?* If requiring to use in the classroom, you are requiring students to do uncompensated labor for that company. If something is free, you are the commodity. Shared, too, that the government does not copyright AI generated materials.
- Importance to using as a learning tool. Importance of working with it not avoiding it. AI not going away.

## 12. New Business.

### a. Election of members to the International Education Committee. Nominees:

- **Dolores Ortega; School of Social Work.** Motion made and seconded to approve Ortega's membership. Motion passed unanimously with 14 counted.
- **Debalina Maitra; At-Large.** Motion made and seconded to approve Maitra's nomination. Motion passed with 2 counted in favor; 0 in opposition; 2 to abstain.

- **Emmanuel Nkwenti-Zamcho; School of Business.** Motion made and seconded to approve Nkwenti-Zamcho’s nomination. Motion passed unanimously with 14 counted.
  - **Bilgesu Sumer; College/Humanities and Arts.** Motion made and seconded to approve Sumer’s nomination. Motion passed unanimously with 14 counted.
- b. Memo from AAC re: student resources for acclimation (attachment) (G. Gadsden).**
- Discussion ensued about limited capacity of International Office (one person – Tina!). Limited resources among our students to buy coats, support their stay. Is it the university’s responsibility? International Student Club has historically been a hub for students to learn about Highlands, Las Vegas, and the country. One offered that we consider acclimation for all. Whether an international student or out of state student, challenges with attending small, rural, comprehensive university.

**Motion made and seconded to table 12.c. Motion passed unanimously with 14 votes counted.**

- c. Discussion of what constitutes being “present” at FS and GF meetings.**

**Motion made and seconded to move to Executive Session. Motion passed unanimously with 14 votes counted.**

**13. Executive Session.**

**Motion made and seconded to leave Executive Session. Motion passed with 12 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**

**Motion made and seconded to adjourn.**

**14. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**