

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**October 25, 2023**  
**Approved November 08, 2023**

**Lora Shields 326 and ZOOM:** <https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/3145944449>

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

- 1. Called meeting to order.**
- 2. Called Roll.**

	<b>ATTENDANCE</b>		
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Excused</b>
Art & Music; Edward Harrington	X		
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 (Ian Williamson)	X		
Staff Senate; Cathryn Brooks			
Student Senate; Kayl Rainer		X	

- 3. Approval of Agenda.** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda with addition of Old Business (a). Consideration of Graduate Student Exam Language Changes (attachment) (G. Gadsden and I. Williamson). Motion passed unanimously with 14 votes counted.

- 4. Approval of Minutes from October 11, 2023 (attachment).** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes from October 11. Motion passed with 18 votes counted in favor; 0 to oppose; 3 to abstain.
- 5. Communication from the President (S. Minner).**
  - Announced punching through the DNP. We've had good endorsement from the HED, Secretary in favor of pursuing this program of study. Next is Finance Committee and Higher Learning Commission (regional accreditor). For programs of this type, site visit is required. Hoping to button up before his departure.
  - Shared that the Reforestation proposal remains under consideration.
  - Updated that university is still addressing human remains issue over in Sininger. Had to request, and received, additional monies to complete construction in light of remains.
  - Reported that gym floor in need of repair. Working to avoid delays in sports activities.
  - Reported that there are water quality and environmental issues with the pool's pump system.
  - Reported that named Brandon Kempner his Chief of Staff starting January 1, 2024 and continuing into and under the new presidency. BK thanked Senate, CAS, for support through challenging times. RG will begin the process of selecting new CAS Dean.
- 6. Communication from the Administration (I. Williamson).**
  - Reiterated progress in DNP through approval process.
  - Reminded Budget Listening Sessions next Monday, 10/30.
  - Encouraged involvement in unit Strategic Planning.
  - Shared that the OIER position is being searched. G. Gadsden in SS Chair.
- 7. Communication from the Chair (L. Fath).**
  - Shared that Presidential Search moving forward. Will be having Dean Kempner report at each FS meeting for remainder of term.
  - Offered that if on a committee or chair of a committee and having trouble writing AY2022-23 report, please reach out.
  - Shared that she will be giving the Faculty Senate report to the BOR on November 3<sup>rd</sup> in person at the Las Vegas meeting as well as at the December meeting. Positive changes to Faculty Senate procedures will be discussed along with some of the outstanding issues we are concerned with that remain unresolved.
  - Reported on ongoing issues re PayCom. While issues are largely under Faculty Association (not bargained), there are also Faculty Senate issues (sharing of information, contingent faculty time approval, biometrics, others. Said that if people come to you as a faculty member the answer is: The Faculty Association is working on this issue. Please send questions to Kathy Jenkins. Reminded that there is an FA meeting today and Paycom will be discussed. KJ noted that faculty members haven't authorized the sharing of their private information with a private data corporation. Faculty are also concerned about the use of biometric data. This is a Senate issue as well.
  - Thanked Thomas Brooks for organizing Gender & Women's Studies brown bag talks.

- Shared intent to use some of the Chair's Report time to report on exciting things that faculty are doing. Faculty should reach out to share accomplishments.

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

- Subcommittee reports were as follows: The Ballen Subcommittee met on October 19. The Policy Subcommittee reviewed the dual-credit handbook and recommended that HU establish the dual-credit program more thoroughly before writing a handbook. The Chair noted that a dual-credit coordinator has not yet been hired.
- Program Review subcommittee reports: Native American/Hispano Studies is under review; Biology is awaiting the Faculty Senate's decision; Conservation Management is working on a final report to be submitted soon. Chemistry MS, BA and BS minor final reports are presented and documents are headed to the Provost. The Political Science and History BA minors were requested to be delayed. The subcommittee reviewing the Sociology/Anthropology CJ BA/BS minor and Social/Behavioral Sciences AA of Arts finished their review and are requesting a meeting with the program representatives and the Dean.
- Registrar reports 1733 in undergraduate enrollments and 1109 in graduate enrollments 2842 total, for an overall 2% increase from last year. Spring 2024 enrollment will begin on November 6.
- Spring 2024 schedule was returned to department chairs, coordinators, and deans on October 17. Changes are due back to the Registrar by October 26 at 5:00 PM.
- Grades were released to students on Wednesday, October 11. Registrar thanks faculty for the timely submission of grades; they were able to roll grades the same day.
- Mandatory FERPA training has ended. The registrar's office will reach out to those who missed the deadline (October 6) to complete.
- Program revisions by consensus to School Counseling Certificate and Rehabilitation Counseling Certificate: deleted Rehabilitation concentration and revised Counseling 6360.

#### **9. Communication from the Student Senate (K. Rainer).** None reported.

#### **10. Communication from the Staff Senate (C. Brooks).**

- Shared that C. Brooks is the Staff Senate Parliamentarian and will be attending future Senate meetings as the designated liaison.
- Thanked LF for attending the Staff Senate meeting.
- Shared that the Staff Senate is getting a lot of feedback on holiday leave proposals.
- Shared that the Staff Senate has engaged with the two staff bargaining units of staff association re holiday leave. Specifically, staff would like to have Wednesday off for Thanksgiving and Juneteenth as well.

#### **11. Communication from Presidential Search Committee (B. Kempner)**

- Reported:
  - The search committee is still in the confidential stage.
  - A robust number of applications have been received, the exact number is still confidential.

- The search committee meets every 2 weeks. Search closes on Monday. On October 30, the committee will be ranking the applicants and winnowing them to 10 semifinalists.
- All semifinalists will come to Albuquerque for “airport interviews.”
- Good engagement from the committee; all 13 members will participate in airport interviews mid-November.
- Next day after interviews 5 finalists and 3 alternates will be chosen.
- The last week of the semester and finals week are designated for on-campus interviews/candidate forums.
- At least 4 forums (Faculty, Staff, Students, Community) will be held; the feedback will be given to the Regents, who will make the final decision.
- KJ asked LF’s opinion on the Presidential Search Committee. LF responded that Rod Rock and Rebecca Moore are also on search committee and that faculty are very involved. Faculty have been listened to and Brandon has facilitated the conversation well. One of Lauren’s priorities has been to make sure that faculty interests are represented.

## **12. Old Business.**

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

- Discussion occurred. When students are completing degrees, they need to be enrolled in 1 credit. Faculty Senate asked the Graduate Council if 1) that credit needed to be a graduate-level credit, and 2) does it need to be in the department issuing the degree? G. Gadsden noted that Graduate Council had a discussion about the issues.
- Motion made and seconded to approve the proposed language changes. Motion passed with 13 in favor; 0 to opposed; 0 to abstain.

## **13. New Business.**

### **a. Call the question re rescind of election of International Education Committee member.**

- Discussion re election of B. Sumer to the IEC at time when not a faculty member. To protect the faculty member from working without a visa, we must rescind the election of Dr. Sumer.
- Motion made and seconded to call the question. Motion passed unanimously with 15 in favor; 0 in opposition; 0 to abstain.

### **b. Vote re rescind of election of International Education Committee member.**

- Motion made and seconded to rescind election of B. Sumer to IEC. Motion passed unanimously with 16 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.
- Senator noted that though an ex-officio member of the Senate, Dr. Gonzales did not provide the information to Faculty Senate that Dr. Sumer was not employed at the time of election to the International Education Committee.

### **c. Academic Calendar 2024 (R. Gonzales).**

- Senator noted that the Registrar is an ex-officio member of the Academic Affairs committee.

- Motion made and seconded to charge the AAC to examine the academic calendar proposal and report to the Faculty Senate. Motion passed unanimously with 15 in favor; 0 to oppose; and 0 to abstain.

**d. Report from Athletic Committee (M. Zollner).**

- Reported that Melanie Zollner was chair of the AC from 2022-2023. Ben Bencomo is the new chair.
- Reported that then Athletic Director, Andrew Ehling contacted the FAC to let them know that Dr. Hayward was taking leave of absence and an interim FAR was needed. FAC made a mistake and Dr. Hayward was reinstated as FAR after Andrew Ehling left the University. Dr. Minner then appointed James Deisler and Shanna Halalilo as co-directors.
- Reported that the FAC has followed the duties and responsibilities outlined in the handbook. KJ noted that the FAC is being guided by both the Athletics Department Manual and the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Handbook may be outdated on such matters as scheduling games in collaboration with the Athletics Department.
- Reported that FAC is not being included in discussion of issues with the administration such as introducing a women's wrestling team to Highlands.
- Motion made and seconded to charge the Faculty Executive Committee with investigating the Faculty Handbook policies that are assigned to the Faculty Athletics Committee. Motion passed unanimously with 15 in favor.

**e. Discussion of prospective Endowed Speaker Series for NMHU faculty (L. Fath).**

- Reported that there is a \$100,000 pot of money for a Faculty Speaker Series. Money available to award honorariums. The Ballen Scholar Award is a similar type of an award (\$5k per scholar). LF noted that faculty would need to rotate out the committee membership and be sure that there is continuity with oversight of the program. The President wants faculty to decide how the program will work.
- KJ shared support of program being housed within Faculty Senate as a standing committee.
- Motion made and seconded for senators to take this issue back to their departments and discuss. Motion passed unanimously with 16 in favor.

**f. Discussion of Governance Issue/Program Review (Biology Program).**

- Discussion re Biology's submission of a report that exceeded the maximum length, then did not amend the report after being directed to by Academic Affairs Committee. The department had an opportunity to work with an AA subcommittee to revise the report but instead sent the report to the Provost.
- Motion made and seconded to charge the FS Executive Committee with developing a proposal for action to take on the above matter to send to Senators at least a week in advance. Motion passed unanimously with 15 in favor.

**g. Discussion of Artificial Intelligence in academics; Session II.**

- Motion made and seconded to table discussion of AI until next meeting. Motion passed unanimously with 14 in favor.

**13. Executive Session.**

**14. Adjournment.**

- Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously with 14 in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:00.