

Student Affairs Committee Minutes

11/8/21

Committee Members Present:

- Edward Harrington - Chair
- Jeannette Baca
- Lewis Borck
- Emmanuel Nkwenti-Zamcho
- Joe Sabutis
- Other attendees: Dean Kim Blea
 Ruth Mariampolski

Review and Approval of Agenda – motion from E. Nkwenti-Zamcho to approve today's agenda, seconded by L. Borck. Passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of Minutes from 10/25/21 – motion from E. Nkwenti-Zamcho to approve SAC minutes with edits made to title, seconded by L. Borck. Passed unanimously.

Online Code of Conduct Review & Discussion

Recommendation by E. Nkwenti-Zamcho that the code of conduct state that it applies to synchronous classes.

Review of K. Blea's comments and suggestions from last year. Discussed differentiating between code of conduct and online expectations. Changed name of document to Online Conduct Expectations.

Discussed being inclusive of all online environments not only synchronous, but ensuring expectations apply to asynchronous and hybrid.

J. Sabutis brought up issues of students waiting online for professor to show up for class. K. Blea clarified that there is currently nothing written in NMHU policy about this.

E. Nkwenti-Zamcho recommended Online Conduct Expectations be added to the current Student Code of Conduct. K. Blea clarified current process if a student is disruptive during an online class, a referral from an instructor can be made to K. Blea. The Online Conduct Expectation document specifically brings attention to students' conduct and behavioral expectations of the online learning environment. If the document is approved by faculty senate, it would need to be reviewed further by K. Blea's office and university legal counsel prior to being added to the current Code of Conduct.

J. Sabutis made a motion to send the edited document to Faculty Senate. Seconded by E. Nkwenti-Zamcho. Unanimously passed.

Advising Manual Review & Discussion

E. Harrington made edits to manual: removed all the highlights, took out language that says the manual will be updated every year, rewrote some sentences for clarity, and attempted to update various contact people and links within student resources. Discussed appendix 10 – deliberately didn't edit this section related to course numbers changing from 3 digits to 4 digits and alignment with HED.

SAC thanks E. Harrington for making changes and edits.

J. Sabutis made a motion that committee approve current version of advising manual and send it to Faculty Senate for their review. E. Nkwenti-Zamcho seconded the motion. Unanimously passed.

Possible agenda items for next meeting discussion

J. Sabutis asked about revisions to Title IX and changes to hearing process and voiced concern about taking out the faculty input in the process and policy related to Title IX. J. Sabutis states SAC has an obligation to students who are expelled or suspended. Concern about due process for students. E. Harrington also shares these concerns.

K. Blea and R. Mariampolski shared how Title IX applies equally to faculty and students and that hearing issues related to faculty are outside the scope of SAC. The hearing procedures were developed to be equally applied to faculty and students and there was opportunity during the development of the procedures for public input. Title IX policy has more heavily procedural guidelines with less flexibility for how universities apply it. All Title IX rules must be carefully followed as they are federal laws, not advice or recommendations. There is a narrow definition of what is appealable and NMHU's responsibility is to ensure we are complying with the federal rules

There may be revisions to the faculty handbook to address the issue that Title IX student appeals will not be heard by SAC.

Make this an agenda item for our next meeting.

Possible items for next SAC Meeting set for 12/6 at 1 PM.

- Review minutes from 11/8/21
- Discuss concerns brought up at end of last meeting regarding appeal process for students following Title IX disciplinary action of suspension or expulsion.
- Review any feedback from Faculty Senate regarding Online Conduct Expectations and Student Advising Manual
- Review any new charges for SAC

Action Items:

- Chair will send Online Conduct Expectations and Student Advising Manual to Faculty Senate.

Adjournment –

L. Borck made motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by E. Nkwenti-Zamcho. Passed unanimously.