

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
January 24, 2024  
Approved February 14, 2024**

**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. 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; Sheree Jederberg	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; Elaine Rodriguez	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; David Pan	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; Cathryn Brooks	X		
Student Senate; Kayl Rainer		X	

- 3. Approval of Agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve today's agenda. Motion passed with 13 in support; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**

**4. Approval of Minutes from November 29, 2023 (attachment). Motion passed with 14 in support; 0 to oppose; 2 to abstain.**

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

- Discussed President transition. In communication with incoming President Grouse. So more of that.
- Said Legislative Session in progress. Expressed disappointment that likely only receiving 4% compensation increase, despite there being so much money out there. Shared likely to get some pretty significant asks (maintenance, programs), especially those important to Y. Martinez. JL asked for clarification about program funding. SM responded programs like Education, Counseling, Social Work that would impact folks important to Y. Martinez.
- Updated on his campaign – we are now at \$5 million. Feel really great about that. Possibilities on the way.
- Shared that Reforestation is doing seed collection.
- RM commented on passing of HB 39 passed vote 7-2 .
- ER asked – *are they allocating resources for recruitment of Native American students to move us to the Native American serving designation?* RM responded, yes.
- ME (Dean SoEd) shared that the session is supporting funding for bilingual education to support bilingual faculty and students, CEDSP, and Language and Literature Department. It may change slightly as it leaves committee, but right now at > \$4 million including tuition for Native American students and student ambassadors.

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

- RG sent email (Fath, Lindline) right before start of meeting indicating inability to attend. Shared 2 updates:
  - The OIER candidates are on campus this week.
  - The CAS Dean search is underway with the plan to have a posting next week.

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

- Shared that FS EC intends to reach out to incoming President Woolf to welcome him and begin conversations. Having trouble getting his email.
- Presented 2 points at last week’s BOR meeting including (1) Faculty Senate’s statement to Administration in support of continuance of swimming pool for all of the reasons discussed, including it being an integral part of campus life and northern New Mexico communities; and (2) Faculty Senate’s statement regarding administration’s violation of open meetings act at last BOR meeting and the presentation therein.
  - Pool: Said Regent Smith asked how did this happen? Shouldn’t we have known about pool disrepair long before catastrophe? Shared that it was disappointing that the Student Legislative Fellows were going to Legislature and asking for money to repurpose the building to Outdoor Rec Center. FS supports the students, but disappointed at their focus outside of input.
    - ER shared that her group was led to believe that that decision was already made. Said she voiced concern, knowing that faculty and community didn’t support repurposing the natatorium but was told by VP Marketing and Communications D. Lepre that the decision was made. She had advised Student Legislative Fellows not to focus on “repurposing” building, but rather to raise money for equipment. Decide

where to house it later. Feels grave miscommunication. LF shared that faculty asked for input, gave input, but that input was disregarded. BOR was unaware of this break in communication.

- Reforestation report. AVPAA Forestry JS gave report for VPAA at previous BOR meeting. Data was shared and academic interest reported. Concerns discussed that an administrator was given time in front of Board at expense of other academic units. BOR asked for response about what was said, what was incorrect. LF is gathering data and will report to BOR accordingly.
  - Announced that there will be a General Faculty meeting next week 01/31. JL will send out agenda. Encouraged faculty to look for agenda and encourage attendance.
  - Shared VPAA Gonzales's preference to accept the Biology Program Review as is and the Faculty Senate rejection of that response, her ignoring concerns, and lack of action.
8. **Communication from Academic Affairs.** Tabled.
9. **Communication from the Student Senate (K. Rainer).** Not present.
10. **Communication from the Staff Senate (C. Brooks).**
- Deferred to Staff Senate President R. Anaya (Staff Senate President). He reminded Senators about Fall proposal from Staff Senate for additional staff holidays/leave. Received constructive feedback. Met with staff bargaining unit, which agreed to original request for 5 additional days off. Wanted to add Wednesday before Fall Recess. Also said that if not all 5 days for Spring Break approved, maybe break out / stagger days. Has support, has letters for total of 9 days, including Indigenous People's Day, Veteran's Day, Spring Break, Fall Break.
  - Senator offered appreciation for open dialogue among the Staff Senate and associated groups. Concerned about academic instruction. Acknowledged likelihood of all faculty supporting staff having more days off, but noted that Spring Break is the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half-week. Students enrolling in those courses are in need of faculty and staff support. Hesitant about impactful days. Need skeletal crew in place for intersession courses.
  - RA appreciated feedback. Acknowledged need for compromise for essential employees. Amenable to assure that university services are met. Thanked faculty for remarks. CB offered understanding by Staff of student needs. Coming up with a skeletal crew of half day compromise. Noted issues with "use it or lose it" with leave. Offices always busy. ER offered that lack of cross-training leads to lost personal days or super busy return days. Paperwork pileup is an issue.
  - **Motion made and seconded that Faculty Senate support Staff Senate proposal for 9 additional days off with understanding that student-faculty needs will be taken care of. Motion passed with 16 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**
  - RA thanked faculty for vote of support and comment for continued support of student-faculty needs. Noted that there have been several times in recent months of agreement between him and LF, including pool. Never wanted to repurpose building, only wanted equipment. Appreciate conversations.

11. **Old Business.**

- a. **Appointment of NMHU Government Relations Liaison.** LF reminded group of past conversations, disappointment of DL's past and continuing lack of performance, especially program promotion.
- Senator shared continual frustration in statements, lies, poor performance.
  - Senator agreed, remembered DL was going to come to our departments. Didn't. Asked about why only one department getting focus and he said he'd do better. Hasn't. What we are instead seeing is ridiculous emails with lack of oversight and lack of care. Examples included making mistake in ticketing system and weather delay announcements. These two emails brought flood of complaints. Senator adamantly opposed to new responsibilities since giving such poor product in current responsibilities.
  - Senator offered that website is in emergency situation.
  - Senator stated that problems ongoing from previous holder (SW) to current. The position was Director of University Relations. Now it is Vice President for Marketing and Communications with the add on responsibilities of Government Relations Liaison. Then they invented the Chief of Staff position. Why not create a Chief of Graphic Arts to get out materials out???
  - Senator expressed concern about proliferation of administration titles and bundling of responsibilities, including Dean of Students Kim Blea to Vice President of Student Affairs.
  - Senator voiced that website issue goes back 20 years. Falls on deaf ears. Problems continue. Same people with new titles, higher salaries. Why not more hires and spreading, cross-training of responsibilities?
  - Senator reminded that they elevated University Relations position to Vice President b/c person was supposed to be taking care of IPRA requests. Yes, university has had to outsource that work.
  - Senator noted that K. Blea was promoted right before Sam leaves. We, as faculty, have a right to discuss how the salary pie is divided. The creation of so many administration positions is troublesome. Classroom computers don't work, services not met, yet more positions with higher salaries are being created. Remember, VP Finance Baca given elevated titles, additional responsibilities his last years. Suggested charging Financial Planning committee to investigate proliferation of positions and listing of responsibilities.
  - Motion made to charge the Faculty Senate Financial Planning Committee with collecting information about administration position additions, title changes, and salary changes over last 5 years so that Faculty can get a handle on what is taking place. Motion passed with 16 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.
  - EH expressed concerns about FP – is it a functioning committee. LF listed names, noted charges. SK reported that group is regularly meeting and VP Finance is attending.
  - SJ asked for a justification of new positions. JL thought maybe ask that of the administration. Senator expressed wanting motion to stay with FP committee. Open, public information. Once FP Committee reports back, then FS can review and comment with any concerns regarding student needs and academic quality. Would like to see FPC get info and then Senate give response.
  - SK appreciated comments. Encouraged patience.

## 12. New Business.

### a. Election of Faculty Senate Academic Affairs Committee Liaison.

- Nomination made for Sheree Jederberg to serve as liaison. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed with 15 in support; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.

### b. Election of Members to the Faculty Senate-elected Committees:

#### a) Athletics Committee.

- Nomination made for Gerardo Moreira to serve on Athletics Committee. Motion made and seconded. Motion passed with 15 in support; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.

#### b) Financial Planning Committee. No nominations made.

#### c) International Education Committee.

- b. Issue brought up regarding membership/ representation. Discussion ensued. High interest committee. Motion made and seconded to accept Jacob Avery and Donna Woodford-Gormley as members representing CAS (already sitting, already working). Maintain committee as is. GG offered this mention of Math/Science makes her group cringe b/c SocAnthCJ Department does not fit either side. KJ responded that's where the unit landed when College was divided into two branches. Motion passed with 14 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.

#### d) Student Affairs Committee. No nominations made.

- c. SAC Chair Harrington shared concern that there is not a member from the Student Senate. LF suggested that he reach out to Student Senate Chair Kayl Rainer.

### c. Academic Affairs Program Approvals

#### a) Program Addition; Addictions Counseling Certificate (Counseling Department, School of Education). No representative from the School of Education. Question asked about whether Faculty Senate wants to vote without a representative to provide a synopsis. **Motion made that we table proposal and ask representative from School of Education to advocate for proposal next meeting. Motion passed with 14 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 in favor.**

#### b) Program Revision; Counseling Program as Approved Distance Program (Counseling Department, School of Education). Tabled.

### d. Faculty Lounge Access.

- d. LF shared that met with President Minner about access. Could issue key, but a punch code preferred. However, questions arose -- *Who gets the code? Can a faculty member bring in a group of graduate students for a meeting?* One member offered all faculty.
- e. One member offered all faculty; no graduate students (sensitive conversations).
- f. Question arose about the code – who gets and who administers the code? LF said she and President discussed that Faculty Senate Chair, Secretary, Administrative Assistant would get code.

g. LF asked for volunteers to serve on an ad-hoc committee. No volunteers. LF asked for Senators to take issue back to department and gather opinions (usage, access). Anyone with opinions, bring back for next week for developing guidelines.

**e. Bookstore Inclusive Access Program.**

- Discussion occurred, Senators brought up issues about:
  - Students not having a text (physical or electronic) after class ends.
  - Students needing to opt out rather than opt in. Program fees attached without complete understanding.
  - Faculty having difficult working relationship with bookstore.
  - Faculty having unclear understanding about how system works, how students charged, how limited access impacts ongoing learning.
  - Faculty having issues with poor service, poor quality.
- LF offered that Senators gather issues so that the FS EC can develop compendium. Motion made and seconded to take issue back to department. Motion passed with 14 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.

**f. Discussion of Artificial Intelligence in Academics; Session II.**

- Discussion began about developing syllabus statement about use of AI in course so that there is an understanding about what's allowable. Bar is always moving.
- RA said that UNM is allowing faculty to decide individually. Asked, isn't that academic freedom?
- KJ responded, sharing that academic freedom is important, but so is academic integrity. Encouraged a discussion to include all faculty, including the bargaining unit. Crosses into issues of academic quality. If someone plagiarizes, making all faculty jobs harder with maintaining academic integrity.
- KG shared that UNM has a great Lib guide for AI syllabus statements.
- G. Moreira stated his support of AI so that students learn its beneficial use in industry. Offered to give help to faculty.

**14. Executive Session.**

**15. Action and Statements as Necessary on Executive Session Discussion.**

**16. Adjournment. Motion made and seconded to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.**