

# General Faculty Meeting Minutes

January 31, 2024

Approved March 27, 2024

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

3:00-5:00 p.m.

1. **Call to Order.** Meeting called to order at 4:05 p.m. 30+ members in attendance (quorum).
2. **Approval of Agenda.** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting agenda. Motion passed with 19 in favor; 0 to oppose; and 0 to abstain.
3. **Approval of Minutes from September 27, 2023.** Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed with 16 in favor; 1 to oppose; and 6 to abstain.
4. **Chair Report (L. Fath).**
  - Gave update on her attendance at the 01/19 BOR meeting. Gave (1) statement about the faculty's support to maintain the swimming pool and (2) statement regarding violation of open meetings act at last BOR meeting and the presentation therein. Shared that BOR had open ear to concerns and requested follow-up to inaccuracies in AVPAA-Forestry's report on Forestry graduate student enrollment.
  - Shared that Emily Montoya is search chair for Director of ITS. Looking for 2 faculty members. Took nominations for the Search and Screen Committee. Nominations included Gil Gallegos, Rebecca Alvarez, and Amanda May.
    - Question asked about title -- *Will this be a directorship or a vice president title (and salary)?* Statement that we need ITS staff support, not leadership support. KJ we (Faculty Association) support the Faculty Senate choosing faculty representation on this S&S committee. J. Gieri has title of Chief Information Officer.
    - EH put forth that whoever we nominate can put together a bullet list of questions and concerns from teaching-service areas.
    - Motion made and seconded to call the question. 19-0-1.
    - Support acknowledged for nominees.
    - Question asked -- *how many committee members are we voting for?* Answer was 2 faculty representatives.

- Votes cast in support of Gil Gallegos (19), Rebecca Alvarez (3) and Amanda May (16). Gil Gall and Amanda May are FS representations on committee.
- Shared that the FS EC reached out to incoming president welcoming and inviting cooperation and communication.
- Shared that working on getting a key code to the Faculty Lounge in Student Union Building. Question raised about what will be served there – food, alcohol, other? LF no decision made, just a discussion of access. Noted that Sodexo does have license to serve alcohol. Perhaps will improve student evaluations (!).

## 5. Old Business.

- a. **Discussion of ongoing NMHU Faculty Concerns re APVAA-Forestry; status of IPRA requests.** Persistence in Gen Faculty and Faculty Senate. IPRA requests slow-walked or ignored. LF has spent countless hours trying to gather information about IPRA request responses. Boiling it down.
  1. AVPAA contract (salary, responsibilities, additional contracts). Did get that contract that it is a mess, contains mistakes, has omissions.
  2. All documents signed by JS (Academic Affairs, Registrar, Student Affairs, Human Resources). Has not been fulfilled.
  3. Want Spring 2022 HLC report. STILL NOT RECEIVED by faculty! Only excuses. Told by BOR at most recent meeting that cannot share b/c of pending lawsuits. FS feels could impact teaching, research, service, budgeting. Lacking full information and transparency.
    - LF suggested solution to IPRA all of the IPRA requests. BOR more receptive to Faculty interests.
    - Member (KJ) liked path. IPRA everything plus contract. Sam promised everyone last year that all of educational responsibilities been taken away from JS, yet we still see him embedded in academics. Reminder that contract sent was wrong one.
    - KJ important to keep item on agenda. Not about JS, but about Admin giving out titles and tenure to a faculty member for what appears to be a faculty position.
    - Know from our colleagues in School of Social Work and School of Ed that promotion has been giving to administrators. We NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT THIS DOES NOT HAPPEN AGAIN. We need to focus on making this stop. T & P isn't candy, it is a rigorous process that belongs to faculty.

- EH asked why is this the first time hearing about problematic names in HLC report? Are names blacklisted? Secretive nature of report very troubling. LF one of big findings has to do with HR. Maybe one of deficiencies in this area? Unclear as to the what's and why's.
- Question from NV about HR ticket submission. LF thanked and said will discuss response.
- KJ odd that individual named for responsible actions in HLC report. LF agreed. Confusing.
- **Motion made that FS Chair ask again, officially, to Sam and BOR, HLC Report through new and improved IPRA process. Motion passed with 23 in favor; 0 to oppose; 1 to abstain.**

#### **6. New Business.**

**Motion made and seconded to table items (a) and (b). Motion passed with 23 in favor; 0 in opposition; 0 to abstain.**

- a. **Understaffed Offices Impacting Student Life, Recruitment, and Retention.**  
Tabled.
- b. **Continued issues with PayCom.** Tabled.
- c. **NMHU Bookstore/Inclusive Access.** LF gave background on access to books on BS page and shuttering after course closed. Course sequencing. Students have to opt in multiple times. Problems with uninvited marketing pitches. Problems with understanding pros and cons. Problems with opt out rather than opt in.
- d. **Appointment of NMHU Government Relations Liaison.**
- e. **Artificial Intelligence in Academics.**

#### **7. Other.**

#### **8. Adjournment at 5:05.**