

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**March 27, 2024**  
**Approved April 24, 2024**

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

**3:00 to 4:00 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>VACANT</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 Rodriquez	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 (E. Novikov proxy)	X		

- 3. Approval of Agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda.** Discussion. Question about new news regarding space allocation (Agenda item 12). **Motion passed with 14 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**

**4. Approval of Minutes from February 28, 2024 (attachment). Motion made and seconded to approve the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Motion passed with 15 in favor; 0 in opposition; 0 to abstain.**

**5. Communication from the President (B. Kempner).**

- Shared that there are 2 faculty opportunities:
  - Emergency operations. ISC training for events, command structure. Good thing to learn and put on your cv.
  - Transition team. If you like parties – this is the committee for you! Need to start setting meetings, introductions up. Formal with Senate and informal at gatherings. Faculty, staff, student, alumni needed to serve. We want Neil to be able to meet and hear from as many people as possible. Let the conversations happen. BK will send something to LF next week to get these mechanics going.
- Shared that the BOR putting together a retreat with Neil and Sam together in mid-May. There may be opportunities for participation.
- Shared that the Legislative session has ended. Dave Lepre will be sending out a summary of outcomes.
- Informed about tuition discussions taking place. Given Opportunity Scholarship, Governor concerned about tuition increases. Burdened shifted from student to governor. WNMU charges +1400 than NMHU. Interesting to consider what results from these differences.
- Informed about General Obligation Bonds. One goes directly to Libraries and one goes to Capital Outlay Projects. There is a lag between putting buildings on list, requesting funds, receiving approval, and implementing project.
- Reported on skeletons that were found during Sininger Hall construction project. Historical plan has been to keep skeletons in basement. Discussions about what to do moving forward.

**6. Communication from the Administration (R. Gonzales).** None provided.

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

- Reported that the Annual Evaluation of Administration is live; n=33 as of today. Open until April 1<sup>st</sup>. Will send out reminder email with links to survey of administration and deans/chairs. Let's get 100%!
- Reported that the Faculty Lounge had its grand opening on February 29<sup>th</sup>. Chair Fath is personally supplying some items. Shared room code: 24312.
- Shared that elections will take place next month for Faculty Senate Executive Committee and Faculty Senate Committees. We need to get those elections rolling and seats filled.
- Shared update on her BOR report at 03/21/24 meeting.
  - HLC report. Issued to NMHU in Spring 2022 but only released to Faculty Senate in February 2024 through IPRA request. Numerous areas met with concerns. Interesting that BOR members had not received the report.
    - EH shared notes from report where stated that NMHU “acted unethically, irresponsibly, and without integrity.” *Why hidden? Who hid?* Let's find out these details. Much revolved around employee pay, employee benefits, and SS payments. Faculty has been told that this will be rectified. These payments have been happened for YEARS. *Why mistakes? Why need for corrections?*

- JL shared that discovered the passing of a retired NMHU family member – Margaret McKinney. There’s been no announcement, no ability for community to come together and grieve.
  - KJ opined that this is related to HLC report. Highlands is less of a family than it has ever been. President Miner has deteriorated the family structure of NMHU. Suggested that FS take EH recommendations and diver more deeply into it. Recommended having 30 minutes set aside at next meeting to discuss. Is the BOR as concerned as we are with the HLC report?
  - RMoore reminded that there is a timeline for HLC response. FS should investigate whether there was a response. If so, what was it? We should dive deep into this. BOR needs to have the report. NMHU has an appointed HLC communicator.
- Government Liaison Appointment. Chair of BOR said Mr. Lepre any comments, none.
8. **Communication from Academic Affairs (S. Jederberg) (attachment)**. Shared that AAC will be holding elections for Committee Chair and Secretary.
9. **Communication from the Student Senate (E. Novikov)**.
- Reported that Student Senate is productive this term. They have approved funding for numerous student conference attendances and student club activities.
  - Shared that the SS is planning a Spring Fest for April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
10. **Communication from the Staff Senate (C. Brooks)**.
- Shared “Pony Express” publication highlighting “Home Grown”. Said sent out via ... and as a Global. Some faculty asked for copies.
11. **Old Business.**
- a. **Call for Grievance and Conciliation Committee Members**. LF shared that the Faculty Senate is still looking to reconstitute that committee. FS EC decided to invoke Faculty Handbook (p. 5-1) provision – “In the case of unfilled committee seats, e.g., where no faculty member volunteers to fill a committee vacancy or a faculty member resigns from a committee during an academic year; the Executive Committee has the authority to draft a slate of nominees for approval by the Faculty Senate.” Said that tenured faculty on less than 2 committees may be notified about their nomination to slate. Stay tuned.
12. **New Business.**
- a. **Academic Affairs Program Approvals.**
- 1) **Criminal Justice Major reorganization (attachment)**. G. Gadsden gave brief synopsis about motivation behind reorganization. **Motion made and seconded to approve the program changes. Motion passed with 15 in favor; 0 to oppose; and 0 to abstain.**
- b. **Capital Outlay Report (S. Baca). (3:25 p.m.)**.
- Gave Power Point presentation. Will share with Faculty Senate.

- Gave background on how Capital Outlay Projects benefit everyone.
- Shared that renovation for Sininger is underway. Deterioration was more extensive than expected and discovery of human remains was not anticipated.
- Gave information about how Capital Outlay projects are prioritized.
- Posted table with NMHU's project requests.
- KJ asked why so many infrastructure upgrades, repairs. SB responded that there is a backlog of deferred maintenance because of length of process and other factors. Also mentioned that NMHU is an historical campus, challenges with proposing and implementing capital projects.

**c. Allocation of space in Lora Shields Building. (3:35 p.m.). Tabled.**

**d. International Education Committee Report (attachment). Tabled.**

**e. Response from Athletics (attachment). Tabled.**

**f. Department chair election outcomes.**

**13. Executive Session.**

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

**15. Adjournment.**