

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
February 28, 2024  
Approved March 27, 2024**

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

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

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

	<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	X		

- 3. Approval of Agenda. Motion made and seconded to approve the agenda. Motion passed with 17 in approval; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**

**4. Approval of Minutes from February 14, 2024 (attachment). Motion made and seconded to approve the meeting minutes. Motion passed with 17 in approval; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**

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

- Provided several updates on Legislative Session, including:
  - 4% compensation increase looks like a done deal; disappointed given all the money sloshing around.
  - Everything else staying OK. Did well with cap ex. No real changes. Will ask Dave to send out information.
- Shared executing a transition plan. On leave starting Tuesday, March 5. Returning to campus in the first week of May. During his leave, in accordance with a revised succession plan, Dr. Roxanne Gonzales will oversee NMHU and carry out the day-to-day operations. Brandon Kempner is behind Dr. Gonzales. Conversing with incoming President Wolf on things.
- Talked about his budget priorities. Said sources of revenue are State Government I&G and then what we bring in on tuition and fees. That's it. We do grants and things, but not our core funding. Wants to give Business Office Presidential Priorities then see where things stand. Are we in compliance? Are we solvent? Are we going to have to move things around? These come into play with information. His priorities include:
  - Compensation \$300k
  - Expanded programs \$290k
  - Website upgrade
  - Website person to work with departments, schools, etc.
  - DPI and Sustainability \$25 each
  - \$70-80 to an Onboarding Specialist.
- Shared that there's a benefactor who wants to give gift for a teaching prize. She's also interested in scholarship prize. A cash amount related to teaching.
- Stood for questions.
  - JL asked why an Onboarding Specialist and Website Specialist? We've always had orientation through HR and D. Lepre was supposed to do unit marketing? SM responded none of it has worked. Not working well. We need someone that has that job.
  - KJ shared confusion by succession plan. Chief of Staff is a position you made up outside of faculty input and governance. *Wondering how that person can be in charge of university when no one reports to him?* SM responded that BK been involved in all of his meetings with Neil Wolf, most knowledgeable, best choice. Other executives know their things, but let's say does Kim know about legal challenges in Athletics, does Person X know about tenure dispute? BK has done a lot of good things. *What do you think?* KJ replied her respect and support of BK, but noted he is not in chain of command. No authority. SM said respects her opinion, but has reported this to the Board. Going with this.
  - E. Rodriguez. Echoed KJ's concern. BK only been CoS for 3 months. Concerned with BK's involvement in higher level administrative decision making.

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

- Report given by R. Gonzales. Senator questioned speaker not on approved agenda. *Do we need to make an amendment to the agenda?* **Motion made to retroactively amend agenda to list R. Gonzales as speaker for item 6. Communication from the Administration. Motion passed with 17 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**
- Reported that the Search and Screen continues for Dean, College Arts and Sciences. Good number of applicants (26). Search Committee will be moving forward.
- Shared that the Council on Education to redesign classifications. Will be adding new types of categories, such as rural and comprehensive universities. Will help us in terms of students, faculty we attract.
- Shared that she will not be attending HLC meeting in Chicago.
- Shared goal to of Summer 2024 to implement Explorance Blue. If test works as hoping, can start training in Spring, implement in Summer, go forward in Fall.

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

- Announced that we have a Faculty Lounge! Code was shared at last meeting. Any faculty is welcome to use at any time. Shared working on getting beverages. Grand opening on March 07 5:00-7:00 p.m. to coincide with Faculty Happy Hour. There will be booze.
- Shared that will give update to BOR re AVPAA-Forestry's 11/03 report on enrollment and nonexistent program at next meeting. Thanked faculty who assisted in gathering information.
- Shared that will report on Faculty's concerns, dissatisfaction with VP Marketing and Communications Lepre. Not working.
- KJ thanked for bringing this up. Lepre has apologized time and again but not improved. Rather, given promotion and more responsibilities.
- ER asked, *What can Regents do? Isn't the position under President Minner's purview?* KJ reminded that the VPAA Lepre issue is a carryon from last meeting. LF opined that the BOR can compel their direct reports, including Minner, to act.

## 8. Communication from Academic Affairs (S. Jederberg).

### Academic Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes from February 21, 2024

1. Subcommittee Reports (see attached subcommittee list)
  - a. Ballen Committee (Subcommittee chair: Sheree Jederberg)

A call for proposals will be going out next week after approval from the committee.
  - b. Undergraduate Appeals (Subcommittee chair: Mike Petronis); Nothing to report
  - c. Graduate Appeals (Subcommittee chair: Geri Glover); Nothing to report
  - d. Policy Subcommittee (Subcommittee chair: Gloria Gadsden)

Subcommittee will meet Monday morning next week.
2. Program Review Subcommittee Reports (see attached subcommittee list)
  - a. Native American Hispano Cultural Studies (Subcommittee chair: Geri Glover)
    - Waiting for revised report from program.
  - b. Biology (Subcommittee chair: Kristen Munyan)
    - Waiting for the decision from VPAA. Dr. Romine shared that there may be a resolution forthcoming soon.
  - c. Software Systems Design (Petronis); Nothing to report

- d. Business Administration MBA, BBA, Minor, Certificate(s) (Chair: Jederberg); Nothing to report
3. Communication from the Chair (Gadsden)  
The Chair announced that elections for the AAC Chair and Secretary will take place in March. The current chair and secretary have exhausted their terms on the committee after the Spring 2024 semester.
  4. Communication from the Registrar (Romero)  
\*See below
  5. Communication from the Faculty Senate (Jederberg)  
\*See below
  6. Communication from the Graduate Council (Gadsden)  
Nothing to report. Council meets this Friday.
  7. Communication from the Administration (Gonzales)  
No administrative representative was present.
  8. Dept of Forestry – M.S. in Natural Science w/ Concentration in Forestry Revised Proposal (Falkowski; discussion item)
    - Dept of Forestry - New Course: 6XXX Concepts and Principles in Forest Ecology and Management (Falkowski; discussion/action item)
 Forestry and NRM meet. Forestry has revised their proposal to create an “overlap” in core course with NRM. Registrar had some additional questions for Forestry and will email them to the program. All revised paperwork should be submitted for review by the next meeting.
  9. Criminal Justice Studies Major Reorganization (discussion/action item; Gadsden)  
The department chair explained the reorganization and fielded questions from AAC members at the last meeting.  
Motion to approve. Seconded. Approved by consensus.
  10. Dept SACJ - 2 Courses Proposed for Gen Ed Core (discussion item; Derkas)  
Erika Derkas explained the two proposed courses and fielded questions from AAC members. Members have been asked to bring the proposals back to their departments for discussion.
  11. Social Work - Program Revision for Advanced Standing (discussion item; Barnstone)  
Judy Barnstone explained the program revision and fielded questions from AAC members.
  12. Adjournment

Submission Reminders

- To be added to the Wednesday meeting agenda, materials must be submitted by 5pm MST on the preceding Thursday.
  - Please submit materials to the AAC Chair and Secretary. Correct forms required or documents will be returned to program.
  - Any proposals requiring a catalog change must be submitted to the AAC no later than **Thursday February 22, 2024** by 5pm
  - Final day to submit new materials to AAC during spring 2024 - **Thursday March 28, 2024** by 5pm
9. **Communication from the Student Senate (E. Novikov).** Updated on the following Student Senate activities:
    - Supporting student attendance at conferences (American Chemical Society, Black Engineers).
    - Organizing a Spring Fest in April for all students.
    - Organizing an event related to St. Patrick’s Day.
    - Coordinating Student Clubs to participate in university community events.
    - Encouraging students to attend Student Senate meetings to have a voice.

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

- Gave background to amendment to include Juneteenth in Staff Holidays.
- Provided update to 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of staff newsletter *in progress* and prioritizing staff recognition.

## 11. Old Business.

### a. Graduate Council Recommendations.

#### 1) Clearance form requirements (attachment).

- KJ requested examples for ... form as written is too vague. Name what graduate paths do/do not need the form.
- LF asked if any programs support internships as field projects.
- IW shared that the Graduate Office keeps list. Suggestion for language that programs work with GO and Registrar for who requires/ doesn't require.
- **Motion made to send it back to Graduate Council from whence it originated. include a comprehensive list of the Capstone Experiences that are included in clearance forms. Discussion ensued. Clear language is important. What needs what in terms of process needs to be documented long past our tenure. Motion passed with 18 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**

#### 2) Definition of graduate faculty (attachment).

- Question about alignment of Faculty Handbook and Graduate Handbook.
- Interest in maintaining paragraph: *Graduate faculty members are approved and recommended for this status by their Department Chair and the Dean of the College or School. The Dean of Graduate Studies grants final approval.*
- ER clarified why paragraph was removed. Said Graduate Council didn't want Dean to be able to appoint or oversee the process. That's what happened in past to her department.
- KJ said doesn't mention Graduate Dean having any duties or responsibilities involved in this. When we send this back, wants Graduate Council to really think about this point. Make sure they are recommending the correct approval points.
- KG shared point that FS should give GC direction about which paragraph (6-1 or 6-4) we want them to include re definition of Graduate Faculty.
- VPAA v. Graduate Dean
- Inclusion of Emeritus Faculty
- GG defers to Faculty Senate for guidance.
- KJ reminded that we invite members to listen, take notes, take time. Questions about approval process and Emeritus Faculty. Inconsistency problem should be addressed, should be cleared.
- BC asked for perhaps integrated definition.
- JL responded yes, the proposed definition is an integrated definition.
- KG shared as records keeper, doesn't want to see a 3<sup>rd</sup> definition, rather asked for corrections, consistency.

- DP if looking to guide Graduate Council to do something, if Emeritus are listed, should stay. We can also guide them to say make the Graduate Handbook align with Faculty Handbook.
  - KJ shared respect for opinions given. If going to make a one sentence change, then why not make all proposed changes. What do you want it to say? Asking to make a change but it is a long process. Do you like the way X, Y, Z are worded? Do you want to make a change? Why don't we work on whole section rather than a sentence?
  - **Motion made to ask the Graduate Council NOT to wordsmith the proposed language but to make recommendations for changes to Faculty Handbook re definition of Graduate Faculty. THEN bring GH in alignment with FH.**
  - **Motion passed with 14 in favor; 3 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**
- b. Call for Grievance and Conciliation Committee Members.**
- LF shared that sent out another solicitation. Requested Senators to encourage participation among their department peers.
- c. Evaluation of Administrators (D. Chadborn).**
- Shared screen with draft Qualtrics Evaluation of Administrators using free version. Most secure site for distributing surveys and most easy and efficient way for tabulating data and conducting statistics.
  - Senators gave DC a round of applause.  
**Motion made to implement Qualtrics Evaluation of Administrators. Motion passed with 17 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**
  - DC mentioned that once a Faculty Senator sets up an account, he can easily import/share.
  - **Motion made and seconded to charge the Faculty Senate EC to distribute evaluation by end of Spring Break. Motion passed with 17 in favor; 0 in opposition; 0 to abstain.**

## 12. New Business.

- a. Academic Affairs Program Approvals.**
- 1) Program Revision, Sociology, Anthropology, and CJ, AA in Social and Behavioral Sciences (attachment). Proposal was developed to address credit hour deficiencies and course overlaps. **Motion made and seconded to approve. Motion passed with 16 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**
- b. Returning service members (H. Romero) (attachment).**
- Registrar Romero described the proposal. NMHU undergoes regular audit to enroll returning service members and provide them educational opportunities. Final opportunity to close out DoD audit. Hopes for faculty support.
  - **Motion made and seconded to approve the proposal. Motion passed with 16 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**
- c. Add/drop/withdraw policy (attachment).**

- Registrar Romero gave super brief synopsis of the proposal. Motion made and seconded to approve the proposal. **Motion passed with 16 in favor; 0 to oppose; 0 to abstain.**

**d. Committee nominations/elections:**

**1) FSEC at-large member (nominations from the floor).**

- LF gave brief synopsis of EC meeting schedule and responsibilities. Opened floors for nominees.
- Motion made and seconded to nominate Norma Valenzuela. She did not accept the “Nomination.”
- **Motion made and seconded to table item. Motion passed with 17 in favor; 0 in opposition; 0 to abstain.**

**2) Financial Planning Committee (Ram Adhikari, nominations from the floor).**

- **Motion made and seconded to move Ram Adhikari as nominee. Motion passed unanimously with 17 in favor.**

**3) Student Affairs Committee (Alap Dixit, nominations from the floor).**

- **Motion made and seconded to move Alap Dixit as nominee. Motion passed unanimously with 17 in favor.**

**e. Student Support Service Survey (R. Maestas).**

- RM gave description of First Destination Survey (where landing, where working, etc.) that has historically been distributed after graduation. Typically gets a 23-25% completion rate. Has learned that if distribute before graduation, can get greater return. See where going, what outcomes are. Data can help give in-house support. Piloted Fall 2023 graduating class. Went from 22 to 35% completion. Aiming for higher response rate. Wanting to make as a graduation requirement.
- Question asked – *how require?* RM responded with intent to implement a graduation checklist within Registrar’s Office.
- LF asked how coordinate with OIER? Recommended a soft handoff ... to make more useful to faculty.
- Registrar Romero expressed concern about an office making a graduate requirement without Registrar support staff to implement.
- **Motion made and seconded to continue this discussion. Motion passed unanimously with 15 in support.**

**Motion made and seconded to table remaining items and adjourn meeting. Motion passed unanimously.**

**f. Capital Outlay Report (S. Baca).**

**g. Allocation of space in Lora Shields Building (K. Blea) (attachment).**

**h. HLC Update (K. Tucker and/or A. Kent).**

- i. Discussion of Artificial Intelligence in Academics; Session II.**
- j. Staff Senate Request for Faculty Senate Endorsement of June 19<sup>th</sup> Holiday.**
- k. Highlands Email Policy and Recall Request.**

**13. Executive Session.**

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

**15. Adjourned meeting at 5:05.**