Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 10, 2025
ZOOM only
https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/95750063123
Approved September 24, 2025

1. **Call meeting to order.**
   G. Gallegos [acting in place of Chair] took majority of votes by nays, rather than ayes.

2. **Roll Call.**

	ATTENDANCE Present	Absent	Excused
Art & Music; Edward Harrington	X		
Biology; Maureen Romine	X		
Business Administration; Stephen Owusu-Ansah	X		
Chemistry; Steven Karpowicz	X		
Computer and Mathematical Sciences; **Gil Gallegos, At-Large**	X		
Education - Counseling; Diane Lacen	X		
Education - Curriculum & Instruction; Daniel Olufemi	X		
Education - Educational Leadership; Sheree Jederberg	X		
Education - Special Education; PJ Sedillo	X		
Education - Teacher Education; Angela Redondo	X		
English and Philosophy; Lauren Fath	X		
Exercise and Sport Sciences; Kathy Jenkins			X
Forestry; Michael Remke (he/him/his)	X		
History and Political Science; Bilgesu Sümer	X		
Languages and Culture; Norma Valenzuela	X		
Library; **Katie Gray, Secretary** (she/her)	X		
Media Arts and Technology; Miriam Langer [M. Hausman, proxy]	X		
Natural Resources Management; **Jennifer Lindline, Chair** (she/her)			X
Nursing; Siri Khalsa (she/her)	X		
Psychology; David Pan	X		
Social Work; John Tourangeau	X		
Sociology, Anthropology, and CJ; Gloria Gadsden	X		
President; Neil Woolf			X
Provost/VPAA; Dann Brown	X		
Staff Senate; Carlos Nevarez		x	
Student Senate; Lydia Okojie	X		

Also Present: Daniel Chadborn (Psychology), Elizabeth Holguin (Nursing), Gina Marie Medina (Staff Senate), Gerardo Moreira (Business Administration), Anna Nelson (Dean, Social Work), Seonsook Park (Curriculum & Instruction), Mike Petronis (Natural

Resources Management), Megan Shudde (Instructional Design), Ian Williamson (AVPAA/Graduate Dean), Chris Young (Nursing)

3. Approval of Agenda.

MOTION to approve agenda. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Minutes from August 27, 2025 (attachment).

Senator provided a correction to the minutes.

Senator noted that the Art & Music representative needs to be updated on the roll.

MOTION to approve minutes with corrections. Seconded. 18 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

5. Communication from the President (N. Woolf).
President Woolf was not present.

6. Communication from the Vice President of Academic Affairs (D. Brown).
Dr. Brown reported the following:

- The Strategic Plan is going out to constituents, and Dr. Brown would like the Senate to provide feedback
- Dr. Brown provided census date data, as follows:
    - 2741 students; 2688 previous year, constituting a 2% increase; the national trend is decreasing.
    - Increased to 62% of full-time students on campus; Have seen an increase in first year students, largest in many years; increase in transfer students; 128 more new students in first year and transfer students.
    - Overall, enrollment increases were the greatest in Las Vegas and online.
    - Centers: 745 last year, 701 this year, constituting an almost 6% decrease.
    - Online enrollment increased by 4%.
    - The Provost is trying to determine how to best proceed.
    - Undergraduate enrollment increased by 4% in Indigenous students and decresed1% in Hispanic students.
    - Residency is predominantly from in-state students. There are 97 international students compared to 85 last year.
    - CAS: 2% increase; Business: 13% increase; Social Work: 3%increase; Education: 1% increase.

Comment from a Senator thanking the Provost for the amazing numbers. Senator asked how that is going to translate into budgets and noted that the Language Learning Center is underfunded.

Dr. Brown stated that administrators were at the capital last Thursday and that they discussed uncertainty at the Federal level and how that will impact Higher Ed. Dr. Brown noted that the budget is determined on an annual basis and that increasing enrollment may result in a more modestly robust budget. Dr. Brown stated that his office is going to have more conversations about all student academic support services and how to sustain and fund them relative to demand. Dr. Brown stated he will have a call for a meeting to include ARMAS, writing center, language learning center, etc. and how to prepare for next year. Dr. Brown stated that he is trying to make adjustments to meet the needs of our students.

Question from a Senator concerning the legislative process that happens in spring and whether University Relations will be able to manage and organize all of that. Senator noted that their department had a huge ask for core classes and that the department scrambled to see if they could up enrollment. Senator requested better communication with departments who supply those courses. Dr. Brown noted that they are going to frontload more of HU's program for first year students.

7. Communication from the Faculty Senate Chair (G. Gallegos).

Dr. Gallegos reported the following on behalf of J. Lindline:

- There are 2 vacancies on Faculty Senate Executive committee for Vice Chair and an At-Large member.
- Dr. Gallegos noted that Human Resources will be holding a benefits fair.
- Dr. Gallegos reminded Senators about the evaluation for Professional Development Days.
- Dr. Lindline met with Linda Lagrange, who is amenable to provide training for the Faculty Grievance and Conciliation Committee.

Secretary lost connectivity for a few minutes at this point due to a power outage on campus.

8. Communication from Academic Affairs Committee (G. Gadsden).

Dr. Gadsden reported the following:

- The AAC met briefly and elected a Chair.
- Remainder of the meeting agenda was tabled with the exception of the communication reports from Graduate Council and the Provost.
- AAC is still in need of a Senate liaison.

9. Communication from the Student Senate (L. Okojie).

Ms. Okojie was not present at the time of her report.

10. Communication from the Staff Senate (C. Nevarez).

Mr. Nevarez was not present.

11. New Business

a. 7000-Level Course Proposal (discussion item) (attachment) (S. Park/D. Olufemi).

Dr. Seonsook Park gave an overview of the proposal. Dr. Park reported that the document was drafted with Social Work, Curriculum and Instruction, and Nursing. Dr. Park noted that there are comparison tables on page 3.

Dr. Olufemi asked the Faculty Senate for support of the proposal.

Senator noted that this is a discussion item and recommended that Senators take this issue back to the faculty for input.

Question from a Senator about students who complete a Master's degree and then proceed to the Doctorate and how this plan accounts for that given course requirements.

Comment from a Senator that it is their understanding is that students cannot use the same courses in multiple degrees but need that confirmed by the Registrar.

Comment from a Senator that some courses are listed as repeatable. Comment from a Senator that it is their understanding that that is within a degree. Comment from a Senator that the doctoral program is 60 credit hours toward the EdD but those do not count towards the Masters at all.

E. Holguin noted that there will not be any impact on Nursing and that it will help the program move forward; the program would like to start in January. Comment from a Senator that there is no way this will happen by the spring, as it might have to go all the way to the HLC and it will have to go through all the governance structure to the Board of Regents.

MOTION for Senators to take the proposal back to their faculty for input for further discussion at subsequent Senate meetings. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

M. Remke noted that the proposal that made it through AAC but was not signed by the Graduate Dean. I. Williamson stated that he recently signed it.

S. Khalsa asked what nursing needs to do and whether they need to use 6000-level numbering to start courses in the spring. Comment from a Senator that the department has to go to their Dean and that the Senate cannot tell them what to do.

b. Graduate Council Proposals (attachments) (D. Pan).

i. GPA-Provisional Status Policy Change

D. Pan provided an overview of the proposal. Dr. Pan stated that the changes that are being made have to do with changes to the graduate catalog and relate to how the university determines if a student will be admitted as regular status or provisional. Dr. Pan reported that students will get off provisional status if they get a 3.0 on first 9 credits.

ii. Transcript Policy Change

Dr. Pan provided an overview of the proposal. Instead of requesting that official transcripts be sent in from all institutions, the proposal would now just ask for transcripts from the granting institution.

Dr. Gadsden noted that the Graduate Council looked at what comparable institutions do, and HU's policies are atypical; this would make it easier and less costly and would streamline the process.

Comment from a Senator that the new language states "excluding any remedial credits," but that HU does not use the term remedial any longer and instead use "developmental." Dr. Gadsden stated that that term came from the Registrar and is used on the statewide level.

MOTION to take proposals back to faculty to review for discussion. Seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

c. Faculty Senate Committee Charge Development (discussion item).
Dr. Gallegos opened the floor for anyone who would like to put forth charges for the Faculty Senate for the coming year.

Senators asked for clarity on the item.

Senator commented that section 5 of the handbook discusses charges for individual committees.

Secretary Gray stated that the Executive Committee is looking to know if there are any particular items or concerns that the Senators would like to address in the academic year.

Question from a Senator about when committees might expect an email about charges. Secretary Gray noted that the Chair is drafting an email to be sent to all previous committee Chairs but that the Executive Committee is still waiting for election results from some campus bodies.

Question from a Senator about the makeup of committee rosters. Secretary Gray reported that most committees are well-populated and that the most current vacancies are on the Research Committee.

MOTION to leave this item on the agenda for the next meeting. Seconded.

Comment from a Senator that in light of the fact that it has been a challenge to get these committees populated, they would caution about looking for problems that are not there so as not to overwork faculty serving on those committees.

Comment from a Senator that it does seem like there is a need for more mentorship in Robert's Rules and ways to help faculty as they develop in service. Senator noted that some of the reasons why people do not want to participate in leadership on committees is because they do not know how it works.

Comment from a Senator that they do not have an answer for that and that they think of Robert's Rules similarly to faculty's academic freedom. Senator cautioned fellow faculty to not be too rigid but conceded it can be very confusing.

Comment from a Senator that maybe one way to mentor is to not be shy about weighing in on points of order. Senator noted that on careful reading of the handbook, some subcommittees are not tightly bound by Robert's Rules and that there is more leeway.

Comment from a Senator that reporting and minutes have been asked more of committees in the last year or so.

Comment from a Senator that it depends on what the Senate has going on and that committees are supposed to be reporting to the Senate, but they have not been following up on that.

Comment from a Senator that maybe we need to set up a Google Docs and some templates for minutes.

Comment from a Senator that there is no restricted way to do it.

Senator read the portion of the Faculty Handbook pertaining to Robert's Rules.

Comment from a Senator that a document in Google Docs would allow minutes to be updated in real time.

Comment from a Senator that using something like SharePoint or Brightspace would cause issues with who maintains the site and controls access.

Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION to charge the Technology Committee to come up with a records plan for the Senate and committees and advise on best practices and provide training materials for running committees and subcommittees.

Comment from a Senator that they are uncomfortable with that motion, as it does not seem like it is an issue for the Technology Committee and that they would want to review the summary of the handbook.

Senator read the description of the Technology Committee from the handbook, which includes distance education, the website, and use of instructional technology.

No second. Motion failed.

MOTION to charge the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate to come up with a shared document for submitting senate materials. Seconded.

Comment from a Senator that the issue is not a template; it is actually getting the minutes from the committees.

Comment from a Senator that one of our committees was dinged by HLC for not having a public record of the minutes. Comment from a Senator that the university did not get dinged by HLC for that.

Secretary Gray noted that the Faculty Handbook states that each committee will have a Chair and Secretary and that it is the responsibility of those officers to keep minutes and submit them to the Senate Secretary. It is not the responsibility of the Executive Committee.

Comment from a Senator that if we had a dedicated administrative assistant, they would be more supportive of this.

Comment from a Senator that they agree with the Secretary that it is the responsibility of the committee chair. Senator also noted that the website has been updated with recent committee minutes.

Comment from a Senator that they agree with the Secretary and that faculty need to be kind to ourselves and do their best.

Comment from a Senator that this has been an excellent discussion.

Senator called the question. Passed unanimously

0 ayes, 18 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion failed.

12. Executive Session.

13. Action and Statements as Necessary on Executive Session Discussion.

14. Adjournment.

MOTION to adjourn. Seconded. Meeting adjourned.

The New Mexico Highlands University faculty recognizes collegiality as a cornerstone of our academic community, characterized by a commitment to work together to support the academic enterprise. We value the diversity of people and perspectives; support open communication and constructive disagreement; and uphold the principles of academic freedom and shared governance. We expect all faculty members to maintain the highest standards of professional conduct, including mutual regard, collaborative engagement, and respectful debate.