NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY

General Faculty Meeting Minutes

February 26, 2025
Location: SUB 321 or Zoom
ZOOM https://nmhu.zoom.us/j/92104586512
Approved October 8, 2025

1. **Call to Order.**

2. **Approval of Agenda.**
   MOTION to approve. Seconded. 20 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion passed.

3. **Approval of Minutes of October 23, 2024.**
   MOTION to approve. Seconded. 21 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention. Motion passed.

4. **Communication from the Faculty Senate Chair (J. Lindline).**
   Chair reported the following:
   - G. Moreria will serve a dual role on the search and screen committee for the Dean of Social Work representing both the Senate and the School of Business.
   - The Executive Committee oversaw 10 chair elections; 8 were completed and 2 are in progress
   - Nominations are open for 2025 commencements marshals.
   - Chair provided an update on the work of the HR task force, including the issue of faculty serving as supervisors, 2025 commencement committee, and employee recognition committee.
   - Chair discussed Faculty Senate committees for next year.

5. **Old Business**

   a. **Update on Charges from previous meeting (J. Lindline).**
      Chair reported the following:
      - The Executive Committee met with Human Resources last fall and there were questions on both sides. Chair reported that a lot of the issues raised are being worked through in the HR task force.
      - The Executive Committee had their first meeting with President Woolf and discussed the RAVE system; Dr. Woolf promised to review university messaging and improve it.
      - The Executive Committee discussed the Legislative Leaders Fellowship with Dr. Woolf who shared at length that it was his decision to narrow the program and to decide who leads that program. Chair told the President that faculty do not appreciate how it went down.
      - Concerning the issue of administrators with teaching responsibilities, President Woolf stated that he spoke with the Provost, and she said all Chair contracts were the same. Senate Chair shared her contract with the President who was shocked when he saw it. President Woolf stated that

he was naïve, pledged not to do that again. The President says he wants deliverables and information about how it's assessed.

- Chair reported that she has heard that there was something on the books in fall of 2024 at HLC concerning a 90-credit bachelor's degree.

K. Jenkins stated that that Association reached a deal with the Administration to undo the Provost's email to Human Resources.

Comment from a faculty member that they are having some issues with Banner. Chair stated that they should reach out to HR.

Comment from a faculty member that S. Gonzales acknowledges that there is a big disconnect between Banner and Paycom and suggest that the faculty may want to bring it up to the VPAA's office.

Dr. Jenkins stated that there shouldn't be any more issues with faculty contracts and that, beginning in August, the HR task force was created to remedy the problems of the past but that the only thing we haven't figured out are supplementals.

b. Update on ad hoc committee for administrator evaluations (J. Lindline).
Chair stated that evaluation season is soon approaching and D. Chadborn will help the Senate with Qualtrex.

6. New Business

a. 365 Questionnaire initiative for University Relations (attachment) (M. Aragon).
Chair provided an update on the issue.

Question from a faculty member about why faculty should add more responsibilities to their workload. Faculty member noted that that is not their job. Faculty member also mentioned issues with the online directory. Faculty member stated that individuals should be able to fill out a form to tell University Relations what needs to be changed and ask them to update it.

Faculty member seconded those concerns. Faculty member noted that if someone in a department wants to update the website, that's fine, but otherwise it is not the job of faculty.

Faculty member mentioned archived pages that are still live that are full of misinformation and stated that it's not their job to clean it up; University Relations needs to clean up the website. Chair agreed and noted that she has gotten confirmation of changes only to find more mistakes and has also asked for old pages to be deleted.

Chair clarified that the questionnaire doesn't ask us to do the webpage; it's questions about our priorities.

Comment from a faculty member that there are so many problems.

Comment from a faculty member that problems go back years. Faculty member mentioned that they have some videos in production that are being edited by former student, and they will be self-promoting. Chair noted that she is happy for the programs that can do it but that the general faculty body needs support.

Faculty member asked to see the questions, and Chair stated that they were sent out.

Comment from a faculty member that it feels of little like intentional stonewalling, and that the people in University Relations are getting paid big salaries and are not doing what they're supposed to. Faculty members discussed strategies for eliciting a more effective response from University Relations.

Comment from a faculty member that there was a survey like this recently and that they emailed University Relations about events, and they did nothing. 0

Comment from a faculty member that they would not take the time to fill out another survey and that faculty need a more proactive approach from the office.

Comment from a faculty member that they recall that last year they surveyed faculty and that M. Aragon said he would go to departments, but none of that happened.

Comment from a faculty member that that they are worried, because the university is in the process of hiring a Provost, and if info isn't correct on the website, it could be problematic, as though the university is lying to the candidate.

Comment from a faculty member that every time the university gets a new President or Provost, they say things are going to change or improve and that they need to do the work.

MOTION for EC to summarize responses and respond to M. Aragon with faculty's input. Second. Upon examination of attendees, it was determined that there was no longer a quorum, so a vote was not taken. Chair noted that she would take this as a suggestion.

b. 2025 Legislative Priorities (attachment) (J. Lindline).
Chair provided an overview and stated that there is a budget meeting tomorrow.

Comment from a faculty member that we didn't have a budget process this year. Faculty member noted that the university is asking for 10 million dollars for a seed bank, but only 2 million dollars for infrastructure repairs and that if it had come to the faculty, they would have said we need to prioritize students and educational needs. Faculty member stated that the Provost was given the opportunity to allow faculty to submit budget requests and didn't follow through (only VP not to follow through).

Comment from a faculty member that even though this administration is brand new they have no right to claim naivete when they're in that position). Faculty member stated that the budget priorities tell them that the administration is looking at the university as if it is not a university. Faculty member stated that the university is there to teach and learn and that the idea that that is what we do is not what the administration has as its core value.

Comment from a faculty member that the priority is our students. Faculty member asked how each of these points addresses our students' needs. Faculty member noted that they are on the university's budget committee and that administrators are saying they want transparency, but wondered who the people are making the decisions.

Comment from a faculty member that the Writing Center is one of the only computer labs left on campus and that one of the university's four traits is technology, but how can they train students on technology without up-to-date equipment?

Comment from a faculty member that two of their requests are included in the priorities list, which they submitted to the President when he asked for requests. Faculty member asked what happened to the spreadsheet that faculty used to have to do.

Chair asked why there isn't money on here for chemical safety and why not more for hybrid teaching technology. Chair noted that when she asked about forestry endowed, she was told it was for 'seeds' and so that the university can have endowed forestry positions. Chair stressed the need for foundational instruction.

Comment from a Forestry faculty member that the President came to a department meeting and brought these proposals to them, and it was the first time the faculty had ever seen these materials about these requests.

Question from a faculty member about how you could have endowed professorships that are not from an endowment.

Comment from a faculty member that a person who is interested in donating to an endowment.

Comment from a faculty member that there are a lot of concerns about the lack of budget and that the Faculty Senate should ask President Woolf to come and explain his process.

Suggestion from a faculty member that faculty should have the chance to speak first and then have the President respond.

Comment from a faculty member that they are worried that tomorrow's presentation will be presented as a done deal.

7. Questions and Comments from Faculty.

8. Adjournment.
MOTION to adjourn. Seconded. Unanimous consent.