

Faculty Senate Minutes

Approved November 12, 2014

Faculty Senate Meeting

October 22, 2014

Sininger Hall, Room 100- New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: 3:09 p.m.

2. Roll Call:

Present: Aguilar, Teresita (VPAA); Christensen, Todd (Visual & Performing Arts); Gadsden, Gloria (Social & Behavioral Sciences); Harrington, Julius (School of Social Work); Izaguirre, Ariadna (Student Senate – Undergraduate); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Main, Douglas (School of Education/Counseling & Guidance); Manafy, Abbas (History/Political Science/Language & Culture); Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management); Ratzlaff, Elizabeth (Staff Senate); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business); Thompson, Wally (School of Education, Curriculum & Instruction); Walker, Diane (School of Education); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Williams, Susan (Nursing); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Excused: Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Karaba, Robert (School of Education);

Absent: Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work); Dominguez, Joseph (Student Senate – Graduate)

3. Approval of Agenda: - approved with 3 additions/modification under New Business

4. Approval of Minutes: – minutes from October 8th were approved with one correction.

5. Communication from the Administration

- a. Discussing Faculty Handbook changes with chair of Faculty Senate. Some issues to be discussed concern defining and adding different categories of faculty such as research, clinical, adjunct, etc.
- b. Plan on meeting with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to discuss the implementation phase of the proposal for the Center for Teaching Excellence.
- c. Raton will no longer be offering courses, and are working with students to help them finish their degree.
- d. There has been a good response for the call for volunteers for the HLC Committee.

6. Communication from the Chair

- a. Report on the Oct. 10th Board of Regents meeting from Faculty Senate was distributed. Other items discussed at the meeting included:
 - i. The Trolley Building construction plans are proceeding.
 - ii. ARMAS was recognized as a finalist in the Excellence in Education Award for Hispanic undergraduate program.
 - iii. The President proposed that Non-resident or international students who complete an undergrad degree at NMHU, pay in-state tuition for a graduate degree.
 - iv. Faculty concerns about shared governance were raised.
- b. No one from Social Work has volunteered for the CTE Advisory Board.
- c. Fractional grading (+/-) will be implemented in Fall 2015
- d. Honors calculation will be implemented this fall.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

- a. Degree plans are due to the Academic Affairs office by Nov. 15th
- b. Clarification from last meeting: 6% of incoming freshmen do graduate in 4 years and 18% in 6 years which is low in comparison to other institutions.
- c. Grad catalog should be online this week. Continue to check the undergrad catalog and let registrar know of any corrections.
- d. Ballen Scholar will be on campus, Nov. 3-15.
- e. Program Reviews deadlines are end of semester.

8. Communication from the Student Senate

- a. Student Senate approved cutting stipends in half for officers so that the Senate has a larger budget.

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

- a. Staff Senate is reviewing with HR, supplemental policies for personnel written in grant proposals. HR should review them to make sure the proposal meets our guidelines. Salaries paid by grants are an issue.

10. New Business:

- a. HLC Campus Committee Senate Representative
 - i. Dr. Aguilar would like faculty members on this committee.
- b. Michael Saavedra from the purchasing department reports that the campus wide copier service contract will be expiring this year. He is putting together a committee to review copier needs.
 - i. Cheryl Zebrowski was nominated to be on the committee, and approved unanimously.
- c. ACT requirement and enrollment issues
 - i. Retention rates haven't improved, but there is only one year's worth of data.
 - ii. There are problems with implementation of the requirement which is hurting enrollment

- iii. Discussion of several other issues followed.
- iv. Motion was made to create a faculty wide survey regarding options. Motion passed unanimously.
- d. Student Academic Integrity Policy –tabled to General Faculty Meeting
- e. Faculty Handbook revisions – tabled to General Faculty Meeting
 - i. Senate committees – meeting time and absences
 - ii. Absence of the Chair
- f. Charge to the Financial Planning Committee
 - i. Motion made to charge the Financial Planning Committee with developing a report template concerning the state of finances at NMHU. Motion passed unanimously.

11. Announcements

- a. Tonight in G-35 there will be a symposium on Political Problems in the Middle East
- b. Accepting applications for Pino Endowment Award

12. Meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.