

Approved Minutes

Approved January 14, 2015

Faculty Senate Meeting

December 10, 2014

Science Annex Building, Room 329 - New Mexico Highlands University, 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order: 3:01 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); Jenkins, Kathy (Exercise & Sport Sciences); Karaba, Robert (School of Education); Kempner, Brandon (English & Philosophy); Loewen, Kerry (School of Business, Media & Technology); Main, Douglas (School of Education/Counseling & Guidance); Ratzlaff, Elizabeth (Staff Senate); Swim, Charles (School of Business, Business); Thompson, Wally (School of Education, Curriculum & Instruction); Walker, Diane (School of Education); Williams, Emily (School of Education); Zebrowski, Cheryl (Library)

Absent: Gorman, Jane (School of Social Work);

Excused: Dominguez, Joseph (Student Senate – Graduate); Manafy, Abbas (History/Political Science/Language & Culture); Martinez, Edward (Natural Resource Management); Romine, Maureen (Biology & Chemistry); Williams, Susan (Nursing);

3. Approval of Agenda: - approved

4. Approval of Minutes: –Minutes from November 12th were approved

5. Communication from the Administration

- a. There are eight tenure-track positions open, as well as several other positions.
- b. The Dean Search language was approved by Faculty Senate and the President, but still needs approval by the Board of Regents. Dr. Aguilar is meeting with the schools so that ads can go out before January. She will form hiring committees in January in accordance with the new procedures.
- c. Degree plans received, will be reviewed and then posted on website to assist with advising.
- d. Dr. Aguilar met with Forestry regarding their program review. English will be reviewed in the Spring. Based on these reviews, there will be some suggested changes to the process.

6. Communication from the Chair

- a. Special BOR meeting, Nov. 18, 2014
 - i. President's Report
 - 1) State revenues down because of lower oil and gas prices – will affect funding for higher Education
 - 2) Average student debt for HU \$14,083; for the state \$18,000
 - 3) Bonds B (Library funds) & C (project funding) passed in the election
 - 4) In response to rumors – There is no money for a new football field and no plans for building one from project funds.
 - ii. Strategic Planning - update from Dr. Aguilar – Most of the steering committee members have been determined and a proposed timeline has been set up.
 - iii. ACT requirement – no action taken
 - iv. Presidential Search Process – a motion was made to give Chairman Sanchez the power to start the search process. No timeline for the search was given.
- b. CTE Advisory Board Members – Margot Geagon (business), Mary Shaw (science), Michael Immerman (education), George Lyon (humanities), and Debra Rodda (social work).
- c. Faculty members on the committee, which is being set up by Max Baca to look at travel policies, are Margot Geagon, Kerry Loewen and Mike Petronis. Margot Geagon will also serve on the search and screen committee for Budget Director.
- d. A pilot program to test the Zoom software with the School of Business and the Nursing Department is being initiated in the spring. It was reviewed and approved by the Instructional Technology Committee. Zoom is a web-based product that provides simple meetings, cloud video conferences and group chat. It will improve our online and ITV instruction with desktop access and interaction. It would be integrated with D2L. It was noted at the Senate meeting, that this product is not compatible with D2L.
- e. The proposed Dean section for the Handbook was approved by the faculty with 51 faculty voting and 96% approving. It is now ready to go to the BOR for action. A special meeting of the BOR is scheduled for December 16th.
- f. Question and answer session with President Fries set up by the ad hoc Committee on Identity for Thursday Dec. 11th at 5:15pm in SH 100. It is open to the faculty, staff and administration. It will be broadcast to Rio Rancho and Albuquerque.

7. Communication from Academic Affairs

- a. Kerry wished to thank the student senate for their help in setting up a memorial service for Paige Martinez, a media arts student who passed away.
- b. Grades are now due Tuesday morning, rather than Monday morning.
- c. Learning Communities will be a required component for all freshmen. Each community will involve two linked core classes plus the one credit Freshmen Forum.
- d. There was discussion regarding how to handle programs which are flagged by the state.

8. Communication from the Student Senate

- a. No one present

9. Communication from the Staff Senate

- a. Kimberly Blea is now President and Doris Gallegos is Vice-President.
- b. Staff Senate is working with Human Resources to review the handbook.
- c. Members are also on the Strategic Planning Committee

10. Old Business

- a. ACT Requirement – Action item
 - i. The Survey Monkey vote from faculty was 38 in favor of keeping the requirement, and 33 opposed, not a clear mandate one way or the other.
 - ii. Motion made to recommend the elimination of the ACT requirement.
 - 1) Discussion comments included: We are an open enrollment institution. Don't place more roadblocks for students. Need to let students know that these tests are required by some scholarships, but that information should be provided in High School. Since there is not a strong consensus, should we be passing it? Individual Departments can make ACT a requirement. Need resources for retention if we want to retain it. Need more data.
 - 2) Motion passed unanimously.

11. New Business:

- a. Voting Faculty
 - i. Some departments have no tenure/tenure track faculty, i.e., nursing. Everyone should have a say on university policies.
 - ii. Right now Nursing is the only department with no voting representation
 - iii. Is there a way to apply for tenure track without the need for the research component?
 - iv. AAUP is moving towards participation in decision making by all full-time faculty.
 - v. Could we make an exception for those departments without any representation?
 - vi. Dr. Aguilar will provide data on the numbers of tenure/tenure track vs. non tenured positions.
 - vii. Please discuss this issue with your departments
- b. Use of release funds – charge to the Financial Planning Committee
 - i. Motion made to Charge the Financial Planning Committee to investigate how release funds are being allocated and implemented.
 - 1) Motion passed unanimously
 - ii. Dr. Aguilar would be willing to meet with the committee, as she has been looking into this issue.
- c. Ad hoc committee for showcasing NMHU research

- i. Students from student senate should be involved.
 - ii. Elizabeth reported that as part of a class under an NSF ARMAS grant, students will be organizing a Student Research Day next semester. It was suggested that one of those students be on this committee.
 - iii. Should also include creative works.
 - iv. Dr. Aguilar suggested that the Research Office coordinate these activities.
 - v. Invite high school students to attend.
 - vi. Discussion items also included the need for more than one day.
 - vii. We will begin soliciting members for this committee.
- d. Ad hoc committee on NMHU identity – concerns, solutions and next steps
- i. Discussion items included the need to work with the University Strategic Planning Committee, how to keep the momentum going, what should be the next steps.
 - ii. Dr. Aguilar has already invited the committee to speak at a Strategic Planning Committee
 - iii. The committee invited the administration to have a Q&A meeting tomorrow.
 - iv. Invite the committee to present at a Faculty Senate meeting and to determine next steps.

12. Committee Reports and Announcements

- a. Copier Contract Committee
 - i. The committee met to begin soliciting needs from campus community. An RFP will be written in January.

13. Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.